

Office of the Child Advocate
Childhood Trauma Task Force Meeting Minutes
Monday June 5, 2023
1:00pm-3:00pm
Meeting held virtually

Task Force Members or Designees Present:

Rachel Gwaltney (CLM)
Maria Mossaides (OCA)
Stacy Cabral (DESE)
Laura Brody (DCF)
Janice LeBel (DMH)
Sana Fadel (CfJJ)
Katie Schifone (DYS)
Dawn Christie (PPAL)

OCA Staff:

Melissa Threadgill
Alix Rivière
Jessica Seabrook
Ari Fertig
Bekah Thomas
Karen Blake-Robinson

Other:

Amy Whitehead-Pleaux (EEC)
Samantha Matlin (Baker Center)
Katherine Hughes (Parent Child Trauma Resources)
Audrey Herrmann (Livingston)
Jennifer Hallisey (MassHealth)
Kathleen Bitetti (OSA)
Andrea Parker (FCSN)
Mary-Beth Landry (RTSC)
Carisa Pajak (MassHealth)
Carmel Craig (ABH)
Raquel Maldonado Navarro
Samantha Awada

Meeting Commenced: 1:05 pm

Welcome and Introductions:

Ms. Threadgill welcomed the attendees to the Childhood Trauma Task Force (CTTF) meeting. CTTF members and guests introduced themselves.

Review and Approval of Minutes from November 7, 2022 Meeting:

Ms. Threadgill held a formal vote on the approval of the November 7, 2022, meeting minutes. Janice LeBel, Stacy Cabral, Laura Brody, Maria Mossaides, Katie Schifone, Dawn Christie, and Rachel Gwaltney all voted in the affirmative. No one abstained or opposed.

The meeting minutes for November were approved.

Presentation of the CTTF Work Plan

Ms. Rivière presented the 2023 CTTF work plan, which includes a focus on parts of the Task Force legislative mandate as well as monitoring the activities of the Center on Child Wellbeing and Trauma.

Regarding the first part of the work plan on expanding 2022 recommendations on trauma supports, Ms. Rivière explained how the OCA would like to hear more from attendees. She introduced a series of questions to be discussed by members and regular attendees in breakout rooms.

The group came back together to talk about their breakout sessions.

Members mentioned trauma that has resulted from the pandemic. They also discussed immigration-related issues and how the Commonwealth needs to be thinking about the need for more culturally-sensitive services. The group also discussed services for LGBTQ youth and children impacted by inter-generational trauma. They highlighted how any recommendations developed by the CTTF would benefit from hearing from individuals who are impacted by trauma and have experience with trauma services.

To conclude on this part of the work plan, Ms. Threadgill encouraged people to reach out via email with any additional ideas or concerns.

Presentation on Dually Involved Youth Project

Ms. Threadgill then moved on to the second part of the suggested 2023 work plan, which focuses on the CTTF's mandate to understand the individual, family, and community pathways that lead MA DCF involved youth to the juvenile justice system. The goal of this Crossover Youth project will also be to broaden the Task Force's understanding of MA-specific systemic pathways, namely how state actors' policies and practices can increase or decrease the likelihood of

crossover. This project will be conducted as part of a broader Juvenile Justice Policy and Data (JJPAD) Board research project.

Members discussed how sometimes youth must be committed to receive needed services. Some of the families PPAL work with feel the parents need to get that child evaluated but they don't know what to do or how to get their children services.

Members raised the issue of student suspension and how students who are suspended are likely to be suspended again, especially those with a trauma background, and that schools are not sufficiently trauma-informed. Members suggested looking at the school-to-prison pipeline as part of this Crossover Youth project. Ms. Threadgill explained that the school-to-prison pipeline is an area they (JJPAD) will be looking at.

Members suggested the Massachusetts School Mental Health Consortium as a resource to look into. Members also noted that the CTTF should explore schools' implementation of the state's new laws for schools to reconsider alternative disciplinary measures.

Ms. Threadgill then presented an outline of what to expect for upcoming meetings.

Update on the Center on Child Wellbeing & Trauma

Ms. Threadgill then presented updates on the Center on Child Wellbeing & Trauma, which included achievements in terms of expanding its reach and engagement from both community members as well as providers and state agencies. Updates from the center also include the creation of Coaching Academy on Trauma and Resilience (CART) which was implemented to support community teams in addressing trauma, fostering healing, and building resilience. The goal of CART is to provide tools and strategies through training and coaching so community leaders can apply a strength-based, trauma-informed and responsive framework to community-based initiatives.

Members discussed the status for the center, what next steps for the CCWT report were, and what coaching model/framework was used for the center.

Members discussed program expansion and inquired how outcomes will be measured to ensure continued success and diverse leadership as the program expands. Ms. Threadgill described the ways in which racial equity and integrity underly the work of the center. **Closing Comments:**

Ms. Threadgill thanked the members and other attendees for their time and their continued efforts.

Adjournment: 2:33 pm