

CTTF MEETING MINUTES –APPROVED 6/16/26

Office of the Child Advocate
Childhood Trauma Task Force Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 16, 2026
1:00pm-2:30pm
Meeting held virtually

Task Force Members or Designees Present:

Andrea Goncalves-Oliveira (DMH)
Claudia Dunne (CPCS)
Dawn Christie (Parent Representative)
Elizabeth Schatzel-Murphy (DYS)
Heidi Gold (EOE)
Jimmy Quinn (Probation)
Jocelyn Ruelle-Kersker (DCF)
Kate Lowenstein (CfJJ)
Keesha LaTulippe (DPH)
Latoya Nicholas (Parent Representative)
Laura Brody (DCF)
Mia Alvarado (CLM)
Maria Mossaides (OCA)
Rachel Wallack (Juvenile Court)

OCA Staff:

Alix Rivière
Audrey Smolkin
Bessie Pierre

Other:

Alexus Garcia
Amy Whitehead-Pleaux (EEC)
Carisa Pajak (MassHealth)
Carmel Craig (ABH)
Danya Tribuna (EEC)
Janice LeBel (DMH)
Kathleen Bitetti (OSA)

Meeting Commenced: 1:04pm

Welcome and Introductions

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Ms. Rivière welcomed attendees to the meeting and asked members to introduce themselves. Ms. Rivière described that the meeting's purpose was to approve the December meeting minutes, review Open Meeting Law (OML) requirements, and to discuss the 2026 Workplan.

Ms. Rivière then invited Ms. Mossaides, the Child Advocate and Chair of the Childhood Trauma Task Force (CTTF), to say a few words. Ms. Mossaides said that this CTTF meeting is likely her last as the Child Advocate and that she expects the next Child Advocate to be present at the next meeting.

Review and Approval of Minutes from the December 15, 2025 Meeting

Ms. Rivière held a formal vote on the approval of the December 15, 2025 meeting minutes. Maria Mossaides, Jimmy Quinn, Rachel Wallack, Jocelyn Ruelle-Kersker, Latoya Nicholas, and Elizabeth Schatzel all voted in the affirmative. Kate Lowenstein and Mia Alvarado abstained. No one opposed.

The meeting minutes for December 15, 2025 were approved.

Reminder of Open Meeting Law Requirements

Ms. Rivière began presenting. She provided an overview of OML as it applies to the CTTF.

Ms. Rivière shared that members can expect to receive educational materials on OML and a certification form to sign, as is required every two years. She welcomed questions about the information presented.

One member raised that they may have difficulty accessing the certification form via DocuSign. Ms. Rivière said that a PDF will also be available to be printed, signed, and returned via email.

Discussion of the Childhood Trauma Task Force 2026 Workplan

Ms. Rivière then began presenting the proposed 2026 Workplan for the CTTF.

Ms. Rivière first provided an overview of recommendations made by the Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Human Trafficking. She thanked attendees for their discussion and feedback of these recommendations at the October meeting, which guided workplan development.

Next, Ms. Rivière shared two projects that will build on the CTTF's preexisting work. The projects included:

- Improving access to trauma-informed care (TIC) training for medical and behavioral health clinicians who work with youth and families
- Improving family and caregiver awareness of youth behavioral health resources that provide TIC to support children exposed to domestic violence

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Ms. Rivière noted that she has had discussions with the Behavioral Health Workforce Center, who also have ongoing work that align with the proposed projects. She added that the Governor’s Council is also focused on trauma-informed and responsive (TIR) training access, which could also be leveraged to move forward with the proposed projects.

Ms. Rivière invited questions, comments, and feedback on the proposed projects.

One member noted the prevalence of burnout and turnover among professionals at community health centers. Ms. Rivière acknowledged the importance of this issue and added that the creation of the Center on Child Wellbeing and Trauma continues to work towards addressing secondary traumatic stress and burnout of child-serving professionals. Ms. Smolkin added that there is new literature suggesting that increased access to professional wellbeing training has a greater positive impact on providers than increased funding. Ms. Rivière suggested that perhaps the CTTF could present on this literature in the future.

Then, Ms. Rivière shared reasoning as to how the TIC Training Project supports the CTTF’s goals of ensuring services for children are trauma-responsive and plans to engage in a Service Directory Project in the future.

Next, Ms. Rivière presented five research questions to guide the proposed projects. She invited questions, comments, and feedback.

One member emphasized the importance of researching the prevalence of cultural competence training and tracking the efficacy of culturally responsive services. Ms. Rivière noted that the CTTF’s guiding principle that includes equity and cultural affirmation will ensure that the research includes this topic. She added that the CTTF could assess literature and peer state models to identify evaluation methods and outcomes of interest in this area.

Regarding the CTTF’s definition of “medical and behavioral health clinicians,” members discussed:

- Including supervisors of direct service professionals into the definition’s scope
- Licensure types and their respective requirements related to TIR practice
- The role of non-licensed providers in a TIR workforce

Members also discussed existing TIC training resources available through the Behavioral Health Clearinghouse and EEC’s StrongStart online platform.

Ms. Rivière invited attendees to suggest additional research questions. None were raised.

Ms. Rivière asked attendees to voice any objections to the workplan. None were raised.

Finally, Ms. Rivière provided an overview of next steps that the OCA will engage in to support the projects outlined in the workplan. She invited attendees to provide suggestions as to additional perspectives, programs, or organizations that should be consulted in the upcoming phases.

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One member suggested that the CTTF reach out to the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth and engage in research pertaining to training needs of professionals working with immigrant communities since these populations could benefit from additional support.

Closing Comments

Ms. Rivière thanked attendees for their engagement. She noted that the next CTTF meeting will be on June 15, 2026.

Adjournment: 1:43pm