

Office of the Child Advocate
Childhood Trauma Task Force Meeting Minutes
Monday November 2, 2020
2:00pm-3:30pm

Task Force Members or Designees Present:

Maria Mossaides, Chair (OCA)
Laura Brody (DCF)
Tammy Mello (Children's League of MA)
Maggie Randall (Sen. Boncore's office)
Nicole Daley (DPH)
Stacy Cabral (DESE)
Yvonne Sparling (DYS)
Michelle Botus (DMH)
Claudia Dunne (CPCS)
Rachel Wallack (Juvenile Court)
Dawn Christie (Parent Representative)

OCA Staff:

Melissa Threadgill (OCA)
Alix Rivière (OCA)
Kristine Polizzano (OCA)

Other:

Members of the Public
Sarah Gottlieb (Suffolk County District Attorney's Office)
Grace Picariello
Matt Pecoraro
Rebecca Pries
Kathleen Bitetti

Meeting Commenced: 2:03pm

Welcome and Introductions:

Ms. Threadgill welcomed the attendees to the Childhood Trauma Task Force meeting. Ms. Threadgill introduced the individuals in the WebEx video conference and on the phone. She explained that the group will hold the vote for the October meeting minutes at the December meeting.

Review of Report

Ms. Threadgill began the review of the subcommittee's draft report and asked members if they had big-picture comments before beginning a page-by-page review of the document. One member suggested that the report could emphasize how training and services recommended in the last section could highlight training and services already undertaken by agencies and organizations in the state and state explicitly how the CTTF's recommendation could fit within ongoing work. Other members wished to provide positive feedback on the overall draft.

Next, the group began reviewing the document page by page. Regarding the point "lack of diversity," on page 11, members suggested the report highlight the inequities exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic and the urgency of adopting a trauma-informed and responsive approach. Ms. Threadgill suggested the report include a call-out box for the CTTF's previous report on Covid-19 and children's well-being. The group also discussed the need for this report to include a discussion of antiracism, discrimination, and the difference between inequity and inequality.

Next, members examined the section on Massachusetts initiatives. Members discussed adding programs such as the Boston Youth Sanctuary or creating a section in the website about successful programs throughout the state.

Next, members reviewed the section on training (page 16). They agreed that training is not always accessible because of financial constraints and that there is a lack of coordination to understand the quality of trainings as well as who is receiving it. The group discussed the need for the report to highlight existing training efforts. Ms. Threadgill suggested referencing the CTTF's 2019 report, which had discussed training efforts. Regarding the paragraph on "training and coaching based in the most up-to-date research," on page 17, one member asked if it would be possible to add a footnote stating that research on effectiveness of programs is usually conducted with a White, affluent population in mind.

Ms. Threadgill then asked members if they had any big-picture comments regarding the Recommendation section of the report, before delving in a page-by-page review. The group had no comments. Ms. Threadgill explained that Recommendation #1 was based on feedback from the last meeting. The group discussed the content of the recommendation. One member asked if the report could highlight that "policies and procedure" should include a discussion of structural racism. Regarding Recommendation #2, members discussed the need to incorporate more on family participation in organizational assessments. References were made to parent and child review committees as done by PPAL and JDAI.

Finally, members wished for the report to include a clear stance on antiracism. It was suggested key definitions on the topic be added to the report. One member suggested including antiracist scholar Ibram X. Kendi's discussion of twelve ways organizations can be antiracist. Ms. Threadgill added that at the December meeting the group will have to ensure every member agrees on the definitions that will be incorporated in the report.

Closing Comments:

Ms. Threadgill explained that members will be receiving the next draft of the report a week before the next meeting. The goal of the December meeting will be to vote on the report to be submitted to the legislature. The next meeting will take place on December 1, 2020 from 2-3.30pm.

Adjournment: 2:55pm