

CTTF MEETING MINUTES – APPROVED 12/15/2025

Office of the Child Advocate
Childhood Trauma Task Force Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

11:00am-1:00pm

Meeting at One Ashburton Place, 21st Floor

Task Force Members or Designees Present:

Mia Alvarado (Children's League of Massachusetts)

Elizabeth Schatzel-Murphy (DYS)

Laura Brody (DCF)

Heidi Gold (EOE)

Keesha LaTulippe (DPH)

Latoya Nicholas (Parent Representative)

Andrea Goncalves-Oliveira (DMH)

Kate Lowenstein (Citizens for Juvenile Justice)

OCA Staff:

Audrey Smolkin (CCWT)

Alix Rivière

Kerin Miller

Samantha Perry

Bessie Pierre

Other:

Kathleen Bitetti (State Auditor's Office)

Jennifer Hallisey (MassHealth)

Katherine Hughes (Parent Child Trauma Resources)

Carisa D. Pajak (MassHealth)

Vilma Uribe (Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Human Trafficking)

Amy Whitehead-Pleaux (EEC)

Josh Dankoff (CfJJ)

Sophia Davidson (CfJJ)

Xinyao Gnan (CfJJ)

Meeting Commenced: 11:05am

Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Smolkin welcomed attendees to the Childhood Trauma Task Force (CTTF) meeting and asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

She then introduced Ms. Perry, the Center on Child Wellbeing & Trauma's Training & Learning Collaborative Director to share information on the Training and Learning Collaborative (TLC). Ms. Perry shared that the TLC is new initiative led by the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) that brings together agencies across the Commonwealth to develop a framework of core competencies for child-serving agencies. Ms. Perry explained that the TLC will be a space for resource sharing, collaboration, and thinking about a uniform approach to training child-serving professionals in Massachusetts. Another member asked if the agencies included in the group's current research project are the same agencies participating in the TLC. OCA staff clarified that there is some overlap and that the CTTF's research provides the groundwork for the TLC's work.

Review and Approval of Minutes from June 9, 2025 Meeting

Ms. Rivière then held a formal vote on the approval of the June 9, 2025 meeting minutes. Elizabeth Schatzel-Murphy, Laura Brody, Keesha LaTulippe, Latoya Nicholas, and Mia Alvarado all voted in the affirmative. Heidi Gold, Andrea Goncalves-Oliveira, and Kate Lowenstein abstained. No one opposed. The meeting minutes for June were approved.

Update to State Agencies' Trauma Training Requirements and Opportunities Project

Ms. Rivière then welcomed Ms. Miller to present an update on the State Agencies' Trauma Training Requirements and Opportunities Project. Ms. Miller introduced herself and began presenting information about the project, including high level findings on training content and training implementation. Ms. Miller emphasized that more is needed to ensure that providers have access to trauma-informed and responsive training. She then welcomed questions and comments on the information presented.

One member shared that RFRs do not always include training-related contract conditions and looks forward to using this information in the development of future procurements.

Members then discussed findings related to training content, including common training topics (i.e., trauma, resilience, wellbeing) and potential overlap in trainings related to trauma and those

related to equity. Members inquired about the methodology behind the analysis presented. Ms. Miller noted that categorizing training topics was complicated by the intersectionality of training content.

Members also discussed the importance of monitoring contracts and the training requirements of contracted providers.

Review of CTTF Findings Overview

Ms. Rivière asked if anyone had questions about the two-page document summarizing the research findings of state agencies' trauma training requirements and opportunities. One member shared that they had no concerns or disagreements, and that the findings speak true to their experience.

Regarding training content, members discussed the need for trainings to:

- Discuss family engagement, particularly if a family denies services or support.
- Include instruction on identity-based violence.
- Promote common language on child development and childhood trauma
- Information on the court system and law enforcement, and their respective proceedings and procedures

Regarding state-level structures to promote trainings on trauma and trauma-responsive practices, members discussed the need for:

- A statewide structure to establish core topics/practices to overcome the siloes in training at the state level
- Identifying point people across state agencies who can create accountability (i.e., “champions”)
- Opportunities for post-training follow-up and Communities of Practice
- Increased access to a “one-stop shop” training platform where all trainings can be easily available
- Ways to leverage existing local and community infrastructure to disseminate trainings

Members briefly discussed the need for parent education opportunities in addition to professional trainings.

Ms. Rivière thanked everyone for their suggestions and participation. She shared that she will put together draft recommendations for their review.

Presentation and Discussion of the 2026 Workplan

Ms. Rivière summarized the work of the CTTF since 2019. She shared that the current focus of the Task Force is to develop a trauma-responsive workforce, specifically those who serve

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children in need of trauma services. She introduced Ms. Uribe to discuss the work of the Governor’s Council to Address Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Human Trafficking.

Ms. Uribe shared that the Council focuses on sexual violence prevention, particularly with a focus on early intervention and thinking beyond traditional prevention models. She noted that a core component of the Council’s work is to increase availability of trainings on trauma-informed care for healthcare providers as well as make families and caregivers aware of available trauma resources, which is point of overlap with the work of the CTTF.

Ms. Rivière thanked Ms. Uribe for sharing. Ms. Rivière welcomed attendees to have small group discussions on potential research questions and deliverables that could inform the 2026 Workplan. Ms. Rivière passed out worksheets to help guide the discussion. Members formed small groups and discussed the proposed Workplan.

Once groups finished convening, Ms. Rivière welcomed attendees to share out their thoughts from the discussion.

A member asked about the group’s ability to track trainings and follow up on staff after training. The member mentioned UMass’ LINK-KID program, which connects families to trauma services. Members discussed resources available in Massachusetts, including Family Resource Centers and HandHold.

One member highlighted the need to engage in a landscape analysis, to better understand who provides trainings on trauma-informed care to professionals in the medical field. The member also noted that the Task Force should determine how narrow the scope of developing trauma training will be. Members also shared possible research questions, including “What does pre/post training evaluation look like?” and “How does trauma training impact services for families?”

Members suggested federal budgetary constraints might impact services

Closing Comments

Ms. Smolkin thanked attendees for their engagement. She welcomed Ms. Perry to share further information about the TLC.

Ms. Perry listed the agencies who will be attending the inaugural TLC meeting and invited CTTF members to be in touch with questions.

Adjournment: 1:02pm