

Office of the Child Advocate  
Childhood Trauma Task Force Meeting Minutes  
Monday October 3, 2022  
1:00pm-3:00pm  
Meeting held virtually

**Task Force Members or Designees Present:**

Rachel Gwaltney (CLM)  
Janice Lebel (DMH)  
Andrea Oliveira (DMH)  
Brian Jenney (DPH)  
Shawna Boles (DYS)  
Dawn Christie (Parent Representative)  
Laura Brody (DCF)  
Claudia Dunne (CPSC)  
Rick St. Onge (Probation)

**OCA Staff:**

Melissa Threadgill  
Alix Rivière  
Jessica Seabrook  
Morgan Byrnes  
Emily Stein (OCA Intern)

**Other:**

Katherine Hughes (Parent Child Trauma Resources)  
Shaplaie Brooks (MA Commission on LGBTQ Youth)  
Brooke Arrigo (Suffolk DA)  
Erin Spencer (Cambridge Public Schools)  
Jillie Santos (CfJJ)  
Jennifer Hallisey (MassHealth)  
Courtney Chelo (MSPCC)  
Kathleen Bitetti (SAO)  
Jennifer Urff (MAMH)  
Rebecca Pries  
Carmel Craig  
Kathleen Bitetti (SAO)  
Andrea Parker (FCSN)  
Aditi Subramaniam  
Amy Whitehead-Pleaux (EEC)

Other Members of the Public

**Meeting Commenced:** 1:03 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 September 12, 2022 Meeting:**

Ms. Threadgill held a formal vote on the approval of the September 12, 2022, meeting minutes. Shawna Boles, Janice LeBel, Laura Brody, Rick St. Onge, Claudia Dunne, and Brian Jenney all voted in the affirmative. Andrea Oliveira abstained. No one was opposed.

The meeting minutes for September were approved.

**Update: Center on Childhood Wellbeing and Trauma (CCWT)**

Ms. Threadgill welcomed Audrey Smolkin, Executive Director of the CCWT, to give an update to members. Director Smolkin updated on the following:

- The purpose of the CCWT, the goal of promoting child wellbeing and racial equity by supporting child-serving organizations with assessments, coaching, training, and technical assistance with the goal of making them trauma-responsive.
- A review of year one, including organizational development, growth of resources and materials (e.g. the new website, the development of trauma-informed and responsive materials/toolkits), and an overview of the different assessments and coaching projects that were completed.
- The expansion of their assessment and coaching services, with a focus on redeveloping their Core Curriculum based on learnings from year one and continuing to work with Family Resource Centers (FRCs) and congregate care facilities.
- The continued growth of their Learning Communities initiative, with a focus on their partnerships with state agencies.
- The Massachusetts Coaching Academy on Resilience and Trauma (CART), which will launch a pilot program for 3-5 communities to receive training and coaching while they develop sector-specific projects to launch later this fall.

Director Smolkin welcomed suggestions from Task Force members on how to best market the CART applications to communities who wished to apply to be part of the pilot program. Members suggested various ways, including sharing on social media and listservs.

Members also discussed the application process, with one member asking about the length of the application. It was explained that the application would take no longer than an hour to finish.

### **Review and Discussion of Draft Report on Recommendations for Trauma Identification and Referral**

Ms. Threadgill explained that the remainder of the meeting will be dedicated to reviewing and discussing the draft report, with a focus on feedback from members. She explained that any feedback will be incorporated into a final report to be reviewed by the group at its November meeting. She then welcomed members to share any general feedback.

Members suggested that the FRC section of the draft could be embedded in the child welfare section. This will be reflected in the next draft of the full report.

Members also discussed some of the language used, with one member commenting that the language used to describe the effects of traumatic events on children could be more emphatic. Ms. Threadgill explained that the language was intentionally chosen to reflect what the research shows is clinically accurate regarding trauma in children: which is that not all children who experience an adverse event will necessarily experience trauma.

Ms. Threadgill thanked members for their feedback. She noted that a new draft updated with the agreed upon edits will be emailed out to members. She welcomed future edits via email, explaining that an updated version will be reviewed at the group's November meeting.

### **Closing Comments:**

Ms. Threadgill thanked the members and other attendees for their time and their continued efforts and set the next meeting date for November 7, 2022.

**Adjournment:** 1:51 pm