

Office of the Child Advocate
Childhood Trauma Task Force Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 6, 2020
1:00pm-2:30pm

Task Force Members or Designees Present:

Maria Mossaides, Chair (OCA)
Laura Brody (DCF)
Tammy Mello (Children's League of MA)
Andrea Goncalves-Olivera (DMH)
Maggie Randall (Sen. Boncore's office)
Nicole Daley (DPH)
Stacy Cabral (DESE)
Yvonne Sparling (DYS)
Michelle Botus (DMH)
John Millett (Probation)
Claudia Dunne (CPCS)

OCA Staff:

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

Other:

Members of the Public
Grace Picariello
Erica Taft
Sarah Austin
Matt Pecoraro

Meeting Commenced: 1:03pm

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.

Approval of Minutes from September Meeting:

Ms. Threadgill held a formal vote on the approval of the September Childhood Trauma Task Force meeting minutes.

The September 2020 meeting minutes were approved.

Final Review of Framework for TIR Organizations

Ms. Threadgill asked the group for any final discussions on the Framework document before a final vote. The group expressed gratitude for the document, and there were no additional comments.

Ms. Threadgill moved to the vote for the Framework for Trauma-Informed and Responsive Organizations. She explained members can vote for this framework separate from the final Legislative Report which will be voted on in December. Ms. Threadgill asked members of the CTTF to vote “yes,” “no,” or abstain on the final Framework for Trauma-Informed and Responsive Organizations.

Maria Mossaides (OCA)- Yes	Yvonne Sparling (DYS)- Yes
Tammy Mello (CLM) -Yes	Michelle Botus (DMH) - Yes
Nicole Daley (DPH)- Abstained	John Millet (Probation) - Yes
Laura Brody (DCF)- Yes	Maggie Randall (Sen. Boncore’s Office) -Yes
Stacy Cabral (DESE) -Abstained	

The Framework for Trauma Informed and Responsive Organizations was voted on favorably.

Review and Discussion of Framework Implementation Section of the 2020 Legislative Report

Ms. Threadgill reviewed the draft outline for the CTTF’s 2020 legislative report. The report will include an introduction defining the concept of “Trauma-Informed and Responsive” (TIR) and why Massachusetts needs a Framework; the timeline of the work of this Task Force; and the Framework included in the Appendix. The legislative report will also discuss supports needed for organizations to be able to implement the Framework. Additionally, the report will discuss challenges/barriers to implementation based on the OCA’s survey conducted over the summer and ongoing conversations with stakeholders in the child-serving community across

Massachusetts. Finally, the legislative report will include a recommendation for the state to establish a Center on Child Wellness and Trauma.

Next, Ms. Threadgill went over some of the supports needed for Massachusetts to become TIR across all agencies and child services:

1. Sector-Specific Implementation Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) that would include training and coaching base on the most up-to-date research, organizational assessments and implementation technical assistance, and support implementing evidence-based trauma practices. Of note, this was a need identified in the survey the OCA conducted over the summer.
2. Statewide TIR Practice Advancement Resource and Coordination Hub: The Hub would develop a statewide TIR Organization Network and Learning Communities; the Hub would collect, evaluate and disseminate ongoing promising practices; the Hub would host a practitioner resource website and online training platform. Of note, this was a need identified in the survey the OCA conducted over the summer.
3. Quality Assurance Support that would develop a “TIR” Certification process and assist TIR organizations in their efforts to establish ongoing quality assurance programs.

Ms. Threadgill then presented the report’s recommendation to support child-serving organizations in becoming trauma-informed and responsive by establishing a state Center on Child Wellness and Trauma. This center would:

- a. Provide (or coordinate the provision of) sector-specific implementation training and technical assistance.
- b. Ensure child-serving professionals keep abreast of best practices and innovations in the fast-advancing field of childhood trauma
- c. Establish a measurable baseline level of quality for what it means for an organization to be trauma-informed and responsive, and a mechanism for tracking child-serving organizations that have achieved that level of quality.

Ms. Threadgill opened the floor up to discussion and questions. She asked the group if they agreed with the recommendations, if there was anything missing or if they had any modifications to make. Ms. Mello mentioned that she agreed with the recommendations, but also stressed the importance of providing actionable recommendations in light of the negative outlook for FY22 budgets due to COVID-19. She suggested recommending that state agencies adopt the Framework’s definition of “trauma-informed and responsive” and advocating for them to use that definition in their own procurement processes. The group agreed that agencies and child-serving organizations need to agree on these definitions and use them moving forward. Ms. Threadgill mentioned that the OCA can reach out to state agencies and coordinate the use of a shared definition. Ms. Mossaides stressed the importance of common definitions for cross-agency collaboration. Members suggested reaching out to DTA, DDS, MassHealth and EEC.

The group also suggested reaching out to current JPAD members to make sure there is a commitment to this Framework.

The group discussed ensuring that the CTF's report define child-serving organizations broadly, so as to include any agency or organization that comes into contact with children. The group encouraged all child-serving agencies to use this document and expand to reach agencies/actors who might not necessarily be the traditional thought-of actors (e.g. juvenile court, lawyers, law enforcement). Ms. Mossaides mentioned that the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force set up a similar resource website hub that tailored results based on the organization visiting the page. She suggested something similar for this work. Ms. Threadgill mentioned the OCA will host the Framework document and additional resources/materials as a starter practitioner hub website. She added that the goal is to have the website ready to go at the same time as the 2020 legislative report, and move this to another organization eventually. Ms. Threadgill told the group they would have opportunities to review and provide feedback on the resource site, and asked members to send sector-specific materials they think are particular relevant to this topic.

Next steps:

Ms. Threadgill announced the next steps for this Task Force's work. Members will receive the full draft report by mid-October. During the November meeting members will be able to make edits and give feedback on the document and the report will be released in December 2020.

Closing Comments:

Ms. Threadgill closed the meeting reminding the group to look out for the draft implementation section and full report in their e-mail in the coming weeks. The next meeting will take place on November 2, 2020.

Adjournment: 1:42pm