



The Timothy Montoya Task Force: To Prevent Children From Running Away From Out-Of-Home Placement | Meeting 9

Meeting Minutes

August 9th, 2023, 8:00 am-10:00 am Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Facilitators: Keystone Policy Center (Trace Faust & Doris Tolliver)

Members: See Appendix A

<p>Welcome & Approval of Minutes</p>	<p>After member welcome, Task Force Vice-Chair Beth McNalley approved minutes from the previous meeting. The motion for approval was provided by Dennis Desparrois and seconded by Kevin Lash.</p>
<p>Breakout Groups</p>	<p>Trace Faust invites Task Force members to break out into smaller groups to discuss intervention-based recommendations based on prior conversations for the majority of the meeting. Task Force Members self-selected into breakout groups to further discuss each of the recommendation areas and inform what they would like to see included in the interim report. These recommendation areas included: absconder units, standardized policy and response manual, and temporary placements when youth are recovered.</p>
<p>Large Group Debrief</p>	<p>Task Force members participated in large group discussions to review and disseminate information shared during the breakout sessions regarding recommendation areas. Doris Tolliver invited the three break-out groups to share their findings: Task Force members entered their thoughts into a note catcher and verbally shared them with the larger group. Highlights shared from the breakout groups are as follows:</p> <p>The standardized policy and response manual group, represented by Sargent Brian Cotter shared they had discussed adaptation of the crisis team response model and to utilize the placement provider’s risk assessment, with additional protocol to check assessment, then move forward with addressing youth. The group highlighted that law enforcement has a legal time requirement for responses. Within 30 mins of a youth running from a facility: Law enforcement should be notified and a streamlined process can be created with file sharing, so Law Enforcement isn’t the only respondent. Additionally, parents or guardians should be notified immediately as well as facility providers should report the youth has run away to their internal team and organizational administration. Standardization will be difficult, but a standardized notification response is realistic and can be implemented. Lastly, consideration requires local law enforcement to enter into an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) around youth who run from placements with county child welfare to strengthen relationships and amplify communication.</p> <p>Absconder units group, represented by Vice-Chair Beth McNalley with additions from Dr. Renee Marquardt, highlights they believe more extensive measures should be administered for youth classified as high-risk. Utilizing Documented triggers and issues for each youth through an assessment tool to determine risk would be valuable. Law Enforcement Involvement may lead to traumatization, as it is typically seen as an aggressive approach. The process should lend itself to a tiered response when resources are scarce. There is a high priority for appropriate language and cultural responsiveness from responding teams.</p> <p>Temporary placements group, represented by Becky Miller Updike with additions from Dennis Desparrois, shared receiving homes have served as initial placements where children/youth could stay while a long-term placement search was concluded. Despite</p>



	<p>receiving homes being obsolete, having a placement specialized in stabilizing these youth would be a step in the right direction to help these youth get back into treatment and continue their progress. These may take the shape of individualized foster homes, meaning foster homes with specialized training and experience. Family resource pavilion is a shelter and it is different from a receiving home. Yet, behavior in the pavilion will impact where a child or youth can go next, including the placement they most recently left. For intervention, members believe they could use these services to access resources after a child/youth runs. Some youth do better at home and some youth do better out of the home. Programs like that can help with some of those running away behaviors, and help with stabilization and it's a broader category than what is just in the placement or the foster home. When you need a placement quickly for a child that has been on the run, we do not have the mechanism in place to do these assessments quickly.</p>
Reporting and Vote	<p>Trace Faust invites Timothy Montoya Task Force members to take a preliminary vote regarding the recommendation areas. This information will inform the group and report-writing process. Regarding absconder units, of the 12 present members, 10 voted to continue discussions regarding absconder units and 2 voted no, citing a need for more information. Regarding the standardized policy and response manual, of the 12 present members, 12 voted to continue discussions regarding standardized policy and response manual. Regarding temporary placements when youth are recovered, of the 12 present members, 11 voted to continue discussions on temporary placements with 1 abstention.</p>
Public Comment	<p>There was no public comment at this meeting.</p>
Next Steps and Adjourn	<p>Task Force Chair Beth McNalley shared her gratitude for the Task Force and adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.</p>



Appendix A:

Michelle Bradley Douglas County Department of Human Services
Anna Cole Colorado Human Services Directors Association
Jenna Coleman Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth (SAFY)
Brian Cotter Denver Police Department
Dennis Desparrois CDHS – Division of Child Welfare
Chelsea Hill Foster Parent with Lived Experience
Kevin Lash Parent with Lived Experience
David E. Lee Colorado Division of Youth Services
Dr. Renée Marquardt Colorado Department of Human Services
Beth McNalley Denver Department of Public Safety
Brandon Miller Southern Peaks Regional Treatment Center
Becky Miller Updike Colorado Association of Family & Children’s Agencies
Elizabeth Montoya Parent with Lived Experience
Lynette Overmeyer Mesa County Department of Human Services
Jana Zinser Foster Parent with Lived Experience

Appendix B:

Lauren Showers
Micheal W. Teague
Pam Treloar