



Timothy Montoya Task Force | Meeting Five

April 12, 2023, Meeting Minutes

[Recording](#)

April 12th, 2023, 8:00 am-10:00 am Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Facilitators: Trace Faust and Doris Tolliver

Members: See Appendix A

Welcome	Trace Faust and Chair Stephanie Villafuerte welcomed members to the meeting.
Introduction to Doris Tolliver	Trace Faust introduced Doris Tolliver to The Timothy Montoya Task Force as a co-facilitator who will be joining the team permanently. Doris Tolliver is a strategic thinker specializing in racial and ethnic equity, organizational effectiveness, change management and business strategy development. She has spent her career working to advance the interests of vulnerable populations, serving in programmatic and leadership roles in both the private and public sectors. Members may learn more about Doris Tolliver at this link .
Alternative Phrase For "Runaway"	<p>Trace Faust asked members to resume the discussion about using an alternative phrase for "runaway" or defining the term for use within Task Force discussions and reports. The initial discussion of alternative phrasing occurred during the March 1st, 2023, meeting and can be referenced through member materials.</p> <p>Trace Faust also highlighted previous presentations given to the Task Force by the University of Nebraska and underscored that children and youth are a vulnerable population. The alternative phrase, if the Task Force chooses, can include sub-definitions for clarity. Task Force Chair Stephanie Villafuerte spotlighted how language and stigmatization can affect care to youth and that youth who run are often additionally vulnerable due to abuse, neglect, substance abuse, mental health concerns and overall trauma accrued during their lifetime. (All comments are individual and not attributed to the Task Force.)</p> <p>Members were asked to share their individual thoughts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A member shared that, statistically, 1 in 3 youth on the run is approached by a trafficker within 48 hours. ● Some members stated that language is important and should define the choice of the youth. They elaborated that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kidnapped/Missing youth requires a different protocol by law enforcement and other responding parties, compared to the term



	<p>“runaway.” Youth that chooses to run should share some accountability for their decision in spite of external factors. Additional members agreed with this sentiment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A member highlights how terms have changed to reflect present social opinions like “ victim and survivor.” ○ Regardless of the language the Task Force selects, at the end of the day the response to elopement needs to reflect a high-risk behavior by the youth.. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Members shared that bias or stigmatization with “runaways” may be a common struggle amongst service providers as it lends to the thought process that a child or youth that runs is defiant. ● Other members stated that different kids leave for different reasons and the approach should be responsive to those individual situations. <p>Members took an informal “thumbs up, thumbs down” poll and broadly agreed to use person-first language moving forward with the example “a child who has run from care” instead of the term “runaway”</p>
<p>Sufficiency of Quantitative Data Directive:</p>	<p>Doris Tolliver asked members to discuss if current quantitative data is sufficient regarding the experiences of children who have run away from out-of-home placements. This was intended to be a breakout group discussion but due to technical difficulties, members were asked to share their thoughts to the full group. (All comments are individual and not attributed to the Task Force.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The HRV tool is going to be revamped. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ *Point of information: The Colorado High-Risk Victim (HRV) Youth Identification Tool is intended to be used as a supplement to comprehensive screenings, assessments, or intakes that explore a multitude of life domains. The HRV Youth Tool should be utilized to improve upon identification of potential victims of exploitative abuse, and not as a validated diagnostic tool.* ● A member asks a question regarding hearsay around a spike in runaway youth since the Family First Act passed and whether the Colorado Department of Human (CDHS) services is able to address that increase. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ * Point of information: The Family First Prevention Services Act (Family First) is a federal law that allows local child welfare agencies to use federal funding to pay for services that keep kids safe, growing up in their families. ● Members discussed whether data shows youth placed in facilities by family members, compared to child welfare departments. Such data would be very helpful however, it doesn’t fix the lack of placements to help these youth. ● Members discussed whether there is data available regarding environmental factors that impact youth the most and lean towards running. ● Members discussed whether data is kept within the narrative section of Trails would be beneficial for this Task Force, as it can detail a fuller picture of a youth’s running history and may inform why they run.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A possible recommendation is that the Trails system is extended to include youth, caseworker and provider point of views. ● Children and youth have the 'right' to be kept safe. Members discussed the need to empower providers to set and enforce boundaries ● As a Task Force, members discussed the need to understand the problem through data to know what extent of action is needed. <p>When asked if current quantitative data is sufficient regarding the experiences of children who have run away from out-of-home placements members present voted in the chat.</p> <p>Of the present members, all but one voted no. There was one abstention by Dennis Desparrois.</p> <p>Chair Stephanie Villafuerte thanks Timothy Montoya Task Force members for a robust and enriching discussion.</p>
Public Comment	There was no public comment give.
Next Steps and Adjourn	Trace Faust shared their gratitude to members. Chair Stephanie Villafuerte adjourned the meeting at 10:54 am

Appendix A:

- Kelly Abbott
- Norma Aguilar-Dave
- Ashley Chase
- Anna Cole
- Jenna Coleman
- Brian Cotter
- Dennis Desparrois
- Jenelle Goodrich
- Chelsea Hill
- Kevin Lash
- David E. Lee
- Dr. Renée Marquardt
- Beth McNalley
- Brandon Miller
- Becky Miller Updike
- Elizabeth Montoya
- Lynette Overmeyer
- Stephanie Villafuerte
- Jana Zinser