



Timothy Montoya Task Force | Meeting 5

Meeting Minutes

May 3rd, 2023, 8:00 am-11:00 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 chair Stephanie Villafuerte and co-chair Beth McNalley presented the March 1st and April 12th, 2023 meeting minutes for approval. The March 1st motion for approval was provided by Kevin Lash and was seconded by Jana Zinger. The April 12th motion for approval was provided by Elizabeth Montoya and was seconded by Brandon Miller. This motion was supported by 13 present Timothy Montoya Task Force members (members).</p>
<p>Re-Introduction to Doris Tolliver</p>	<p>Trace Faust re-introduces Doris Tolliver to the Task Force as a co-facilitator moving forward in the Task Force process and who was present at the April 12th meeting. 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 can learn more about her at this link.</p>
<p>Ground Rules, Charter, Mission, and, Media Relations</p>	<p>Trace Faust shares Ground Rules and Task Force Charter with members. Ground rules serve as guidelines that encourage productive and collaborative deliberation. It is expected in all future Task Force meetings, all members will agree to follow them and give Keystone Policy Center the authority to enforce them for the benefit of the Task Force. The charter highlights the minutes recorded will be non-attribution, roles of organizations and individuals within the Task Force, and media guidelines and expectations. Media concerns should be referred to Villafuerte and the Office of Colorado’s Child Protection Ombudsman. Trace Faust also shares with members that all materials can be accessed via Google Drive including the “Meeting Recaps” which provide a concise summary of each meeting.</p>
<p>Directive Review and Discussion</p>	<p>Tolliver outlines the overview of the directive and which portions have been actively addressed by the task force thus far. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Analyze the sufficiency of statewide quantitative data. (Addressed) ● Analyze the sufficiency of statewide qualitative data. (Ongoing) ● Analyze the root cause of why children and youth run from care. (Ongoing) ● Identify and analyze behaviors that constitute running from care. ● Analyze the correlation between running from care and being a victim of a crime. ● Analyze the current state laws, regulations, and facility protocols. ● Analyze state & national best practices for preventing youth from running from care. ● Analyze how entities responsible for the care of children can coordinate responses. ● Identify resources needed to improve communication & coordination among entities. <p>Doris Tolliver also presents members with a roadmap for the remaining meetings in 2023. Doris Tolliver invites members to offer their feedback on the overview of the directive and roadmap. All comments are individual and are not to be attributed to Task Force:</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● A member inquires if rather than the “why” the antecedent is more important to understanding the reasons youth run. (This is referenced within the 6th slide presented by the facilitation team under “completed”)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Tolliver shares the “why” includes all external and impacting factors to aid in youth who run and thanks the member for their feedback as this highlighted how valuable intentional language is. The section can be revised to add underlying causes/contributions to running more explicitly.● Multiple members share their gratitude for the roadmap, especially the time allotted to discuss prevention. <p>Trace Faust inquires if current statewide, qualitative data regarding the experiences of children who have run away from care is sufficient via a poll. This poll was completed by 15 present members, 10 voted “no” and there were 5 abstentions.</p>
Data Presentation	<p>Dr. Kristin Myers, Assistant Professor of Counselor Education and Supervision at the University of Northern Colorado, in association with the University of Denver’s Colorado Evaluation & Action Lab, presented the report “Strengthening Connections: Youth and Provider Perspectives on Youth Running from Out-of-Home Placements.” This report was commissioned to conduct focus groups with children and youth in out-of-home placements, as well as providers, to determine what conditions lead children to run away from out-of-home placement, the provider’s efforts to locate children who have run away, and the services provide to a runaway child upon the child’s return. The full report may be accessed by clicking HERE. Key takeaways shared by Dr. Myers included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Connectedness is run prevention, intervention, and aftercare.● Youth run from placements when they are dysregulated or trying to get their needs met.● Youth run to connectedness and familiarity.● Youth test boundaries and desire autonomy.● Programmatic and systemic barriers make it difficult to prevent running.● There is a need for state agencies and providers to define “imminent danger” concerning running prevention. <p>Tolliver invites members to give their feedback on the report presented by Dr. Kristin Myers. All comments are individual and are not to be attributed to the Task Force:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Multiple members shared a general appreciation for the report and found it to be a powerful primer for those unfamiliar with youth who run.● A member shares their surprise concerning a lack of mention to peer-pressure within the report.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Dr. Myers shared that peer pressure was loosely present, but not a main takeaway.● A member inquires to which types of out-of-home placements were used within the report<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Dr. Myers shared the out-of-home placement types range from high to low serving. Dr. Myers also highlights that participants in the Strengthening Connections: Youth and Provider Perspectives on Youth Running from



	<p>Out-of-Home Placements had experience in multiple placements and this would have influenced their responses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ A member inquires if it would be possible to follow up with licensing verification information. Trace Faust asserts they will follow up with Dr. Myers and the team to obtain this information. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● A member shares their appreciation for the report naming youth misbehaving inherently and how external barriers like substance use, sexual abuse, and mental health issues can be amplified.● A member inquires why Foster Care facilities were not included in the report.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Dr. Myers shares she agrees Foster Care Facilities should be included and this was a logistical issue rather than intentional exclusion.● A member inquires if gangs were mentioned as a theme in the report.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Dr. Myers shared that gang activity and affiliation would be information often shared to providers by family members or peers rather than youth themselves. They highlight the effectiveness of connectivity with staff and providers allowing for more honest conversations.<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ This was endorsed by a member who shared how important intentional touch points can be to discovering risk factors to youth through an anecdote● Doris Tolliver inquires if staffing has any effect on serving youth who run. Are there enough staff, or are youth who run is placed in the wrong placement for their needs● A member shares an anecdote relating to their child, as nearly every facility their child was placed in alleged that out-of-home placement facilities didn't have enough qualified staff as the reason out-of-home placement facilities could not meet the needs of their child.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A member shares their awareness of staff shortage and it as an issue is universal and can not be a reason to fail youth.
Break Out Groups and Debrief	<p>Members break into smaller groups to discuss the data presented by Dr. Myers. Questions discussed in breakout groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Reflections on information and content from the report● Would this type of process be beneficial for gathering qualitative data moving forward?● Would this kind of data/analysis be useful to gather more regularly? If yes, what systems might have to be in place for this to occur? Frequency, etc?● Additional thoughts/questions <p>Task Force members entered their thoughts into a note catcher and verbally shared their conversations back to the larger group. Highlights shared from the breakout groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● One group shared they felt the report was helpful and has room to be expanded upon to inform multiple solutions for youth.● Another group shared positive sentiment about the report as it adequately shares the youth's voice and would serve as a great primer for those uneducated on the topic. The group also shares that they feel TRAILS is not a system to rely on, the task force should consider all options for youth who run or have a history of running. Additional suggestions included a quarterly survey for youth, specifically those who have a history



	<p>of running, increase buy-in by youth to trust this process/service provider, deem appropriate sized treatment before age out, and quality assurances in all levels of care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Villafuerte highlights how quality control standards of care are the baseline in other states including Florida.● The third group shared that the report was a helpful introductory piece and that they think it's important not to place blame on parents or treatment centers. Physical boundaries may be a way to track youth who run and Group 3 shared their desire to discuss more solution-based results.
Public Comment	<p>Stephen Fisher Senior Civil Engineer, Tetra Tech</p> <p><i>Mr. Fisher shares that his interest in the Timothy Montoya Task Force stems from living across from the Tennyson Center since 1985. In this time, Mr. Fisher details the multiple runnings he has personally witnessed as well as the data collection, various studies, and prevention efforts that have already been employed in this time only to result in failure for the youth. Mr. Fisher shares his aspiration for the Timothy Montoya Task Force to remain focused on the immediate protection of youth. Mr. Fisher continues by highlighting the culpability of the youth running should be on the Out-of-Home placement facilities rather than the legal parent, as when the youth are in the care of the Out-of-Home placement facilities they are responsible until a youth runs. Mr. Fisher concludes by illuminating the hypocrisy of honoring agency and free will over the mental health barriers and other external factors impacting youth who run, as it is more likely these contributing and compounding factors lead to more running. Mr. Fisher shares his gratitude to the Timothy Montoya Task Force for the ability to submit comments.</i></p>
Adjourn	Villafuerte adjourned the meeting at 11:00 am



Appendix A:

Kelly Abbott
Jenna Coleman
Sargent Brian Cotter
Ashley Chase
Chelsea Hill
Dennis Desparrois
Kevin Lash
Dr. Renée Marquardt
Beth McNalley
Brandon Miller
Becky Miller Updike
Elizabeth Montoya
Lynette Overmeyer
Stephanie Villafuerte
Jana Zinser

Appendix B:

Pam Terloar
Dixie Gray
Lauren Showers
Laurie Burney
Jackson TL