

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

Meeting Minutes

October 11th, 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stephanie Villafuerte welcomed the task force and did roll call. Stephanie asked for any edits or additions to the meeting minutes. Dennis Desparrois motioned to approve the minutes and Kevin Lash seconded. Minutes approved. Minutes approved. Then, Stephanie asked for any edits or additions on the meeting recap. David Lee motioned to approve the recap and Dennis Desparrois seconded. Recap approved.
<p>Inventory of progress and plan for next step</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trace Faust thanked members for their input on the report Jordan Steffen introduced the subcommittees. She said that the group has already worked through qualitative and quantitative data; these are 2 of the directives. There are 7 ongoing directives. There is also an ongoing directive to identify resources. To continue to address the ongoing directives, Task Force members are falling into 2 very broad subcommittees; prevention and intervention. Each member can self select into the subcommittees and then get pen to paper. The subcommittee will transition out of the high level lens. Timeline is as follows; meetings will be during the same time but it will be subcommittee work. Every third meeting will be a large group meeting. Each group will stay connected and have materials to review. The July meeting might be a good transition period to go back to consistent, large group meetings. Jordan introduced Brian as a policy analyst for CPO. He will put together research packets for each subcommittee based on the previous discussions of the Task Force. Each packet includes different states' laws and regulations as well as different education practices from around the county and the use of restraints in runaway situations. Jordan also mentioned that there have been invitations to speakers to provide resources to the subcommittees. Trace asked for feedback on the plan. Becky Miller Updike said it sounds good. Brian Cotter also said it sounded good. Elizabeth Montoya said it also sounded good. Trace reminded folks that they can always provide feedback and there will be multiple methods to provide feedback. Jordan invited people to self select into breakout rooms. She outlined that the first 15 minutes in a breakout room will be used to identify, as a group, what they need for the November meeting. Jordan also said that admin support is going to continue in subcommittee work; Trace and Joran will support 1 break out room each.
<p>Intervention Subcommittee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jordan asked how the group wants to start Norma Aguilar Dave asked if the group is trying to figure out detailed steps on how to get things going. Jordan described that this is pen on paper on what are the recommendations of the Task Force. The Task Force can give a guide on how to implement the recommendations to the legislature to make the recommendation robust. Brain reminded the group of the definitions of 'high risk'. He also said that since every community is different, it's going to be hard to tell what resources they will have so he suggested giving more of a framework.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Norma asked Brian what he meant stating that every community is different. Brian elaborated on the differences between a rural police department versus Denver county so he said that the best use of the group’s talents is to make a framework so entities can make their own decisions on the recommendations based on their resources. Norma followed up and said that she would hope that the recommendations are more universal. ● Beth McNalley said that we have talked about the resource barrier for smaller communities and it makes sense to address that in this group. ● Lynette Overmeyer said that the smaller counties might not have as many resources but people tend to know everybody and there is an untapped strength there that we can tap into. ● Becky asked a clarifying question about the group topics ● Jordan recapped and said that there are many ways to write recommendations. She is happy to pull examples of recommendations to foster creativity. To get the subcommittee rolling, the first topic is standard response protocol, including getting definitions. Then using that to grow out the response unit. Jordan reminded of the guest speakers that are in the process of getting planned. ● Lynette said that we need research on if anyone else is doing this and how they define it. Additionally, she asked if there is any research on states that have implemented a process to work with kids who have run to help prevent them from running again. ● Jordan reminded folks of their ability to always reach out if something comes up.
Prevention Subcommittee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stephanie Villafuerte stated that it could be useful for the subcommittee to have clarity about what exactly Colorado laws and regulations say, rather than relying on assumptions around interpretations. For instance, what does it say about touching youth? How is it interpreted, even by the courts? And what are other states doing along the lines of prevention? exactly does colorado say? how is it interpreted (even by courts)? ● Kevin Lash voiced that the task force needs to know what's <i>allowed</i> to be done before learning what <i>can</i> be done. What are the rights of children? What are interpretations of use of restraint, and has that changed? ● Elizabeth Montoya mentioned that there is a residential treatment facility in San Marcos, Texas that uses physical restraint that could be worth looking into. ● Jenna Coleman recommended also looking into preventative intervention, like trauma-informed intervening with verbal de-escalation. Also raised the question of what the rights of youth are, as well as the rights of staff. ● Trace Faust raised the question of whether it is safe to assume that best practices around restraint in other states are trauma informed? Bryan Kelley mentioned that at least the state of Vermont specifically addresses “trauma-informed” restraint in policy. ● Renée Marquardt requested an examination of a range of options in the prevention category, such as education. ● Brandon Miller agreed with needing to know what Colorado policy actually says, to remove a sense of myth from practice. Do locked facilities refer to locking a fence around the perimeter, or the building itself? They also mentioned that even if best practices follow a trauma informed element,

	<p>standard practice in another state may not. A state may also have aspects that are <i>effective</i>, but that aren't best practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Lee agreed with the sentiment that it would be helpful to develop a better understanding of Colorado policy, and to understand that other state's examples are not necessarily better than Colorado's status quo. Dave cautioned that the use of restraint increases probability of injury to both youth and staff members, and raises questions of liability and lawsuits. Dave recommended looking at trauma informed youth centers, and that requiring certification in trauma-informed care would go a lot farther than simply requiring training. • Elizabeth Montoya expressed interest in looking at certification for trauma-informed care as well as ongoing education. Elizabeth cautioned that 12-foot fences are not necessarily effective. • Renée Marquardt stated that if a fence isn't designed for safety it won't just magically stop youth from running away; they need to be purpose-built. • Dennis Desparrois urged caution around the use of different types of restraint, and stated that interpretations about their use have never truly been changed. Rather, a facility had made that allegation after an injury occurred around the use of restraint. • Jenna Coleman expressed an interest in gathering research around how Colorado - and other states - approach training for staff. With that understanding, the task force would attempt to create best practices around preventative intervention. • Kevin Lash reiterated his desire to first understand what the law in Colorado says as well as how it is being interpreted. • David Lee also voiced support for developing an understanding of Colorado statute and regulations, then looking at other states' approaches. • Renée Marquardt reminded the group that although this conversation has been focused on physical means of preventing, the task force would also benefit from looking at the full spectrum of prevention including de-escalation and relationship-building.
Large Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jordan recapped what the prevention group went over; research on standard practice protocols and then build into a response unit. The group will be growing upon itself. No members had anything to add. • Bryan said that the intervention group talked about studying and having a capture of what Colorado law says and what people think it says. Then, looking to other states to see what other prevention opportunities are available. No members had anything to add. • Trace said that the groups are about 50/50 split so they will likely only change if need be. • Trace said there is no public comment and no one wanted to comment before adjournment.
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Next Steps and Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trace Faust adjourned the meeting at 9 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
Renee Marguardt
Beth McNalley
Brandon Miller
Becky Miller Updike
Elizabeth Montoya
Lynette Overmeyer
Stephanie Villafuerte

Appendix B: