



The Mandatory Reporting Task Force | Meeting 12

Meeting Minutes

February 7, 8:00 am-11:00 am Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Facilitators: Doris Tolliver and Trace Faust

Members: See Appendix A

Welcome & Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair Stephanie Villafuerte welcomed the task force, and took attendance. She then asked for any edits to the minutes. There were none. Michelle Dossey motioned to approve and Dawn Alexander seconded. The minutes were approved. Stephanie then moved to the meeting recap; there were no edits. Cris Menz motioned to approve and Zane Grant seconded. The recap was approved.
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trace Faust expressed excitement to wrap up the conversation on definitions today. They reminded the task force of the roadmap. 27 members completed the survey so today's meeting served to confirm these stances as well as hearing from members who did not complete the survey. Today was the last day for the conversation on the definition of abuse and neglect. The next meeting is 2/28; it will be about alternative reporting and warmlines. The task force will discuss recommendations to create alternative reporting mechanisms. The meeting will be a full task force discussion given the amount of interest in this topic. Then, there will be subcommittee work in subsequent meetings. The facilitators are working on mapping that out to address all of the directives. Today's meeting will wrap up one directive and then the task force will continue on to other topics required by the legislature. Trace asked for comments.
Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trace introduced the new recommendation that many people responded to via survey and have already read because it was emailed to the task force. Doris Tolliver led a conversation on the new recommendation to make sure that they capture people's stances. She provided the background of the new recommendation for people who were not present at the last meeting; Jordan Steffen and Bryan Kelley made revisions to the language given the conversation. They provided the new language and provided an opportunity to respond to it via the survey. Most of the task force members responded in support of the new language via the survey. There were some hesitations around specific language in the previous conversation so Doris let the task force know that this is not the only time to have an opportunity to weigh in on this language. The facilitators will bring the full language back at the end of the task force to have a final weight in. The recommendation language was shown on Zoom.• Doris explained the recommendation; it would be changing the language in 19-3-3-4 which regards persons required to report child abuse or neglect. The changes to the previous recommendation were presented in bolded text. This language reflected the task force's request to have all of the particular language in one place, statutorily. There was a double response but 27 members responded with 82% in support of the language and 18% opposed. At the end of the discussion, there was an opportunity for those who did not respond to the survey to voice over their support or opposition. She reminded them that, rather



than focusing on wordsmithing, she is asking for general support or opposition. They will note particular concerns in the final report. Doris highlighted the chat that Michelle accidentally responded twice.

- Doris asked for overall concerns, questions, or other things people want to lift up. Zane said that he supported the language and that he would have commented a small concern about an onus on the reporter to know about community resources. This felt a little unclear to him. Doris highlighted Jennifer Ely's chat that she felt the same way and this is why she voted in opposition. Doris said that some of these questions will come up and possibly be addressed in the conversation about warmlines.
- Doris asked for other concerns or questions. Jill Cohen said that she opposed and that her concerns are beyond wordsmithing. She said that she was looking at language in the OCR's foster youth bill of rights that explains how people and families can be free from discrimination. She said that she can send this language. She also thinks that, in part 4, the 'shall' should be a 'may' in the phrase about the department providing lists of community resources upon request to mandatory reporters; this is because she is hesitant around adding more mandatory obligations on people. She is going to put her thoughts in writing and provide it to the facilitators. Doris thanked her.
- Cris Menz said that she is for it but voted as opposed since she thought that the task force was going to focus on all civil rights, rather than just race, class or gender; she thinks there are not enough classes for folks like same sex marriages and religions. This is why she said no. Doris thanked her.
- Stephanie said that Jill and Cris are highlighting similar points and they can work together on the language that Jill is providing; these are very valid arguments and the facilitators can flesh these out. Doris thanked her.
- Leanna Gavin said that she was in favor of the language and thought that Jill and Cris had good points. She wanted to reiterate that if we change the language, there are many other parts in statute that would need to be changed because of, for example, the carve outs being in contradiction to parts of 19-3-102. These would need to be changed as well. Doris thanked her and said that the task force is focused on mandatory reporters and that, as the recommendations get fleshed out, we can include the potential challenges or inconsistencies with other statute sections. Doris responded to a chat that there will be an opportunity for public comment. She also asked for further comments to get on the record.
- Roshan Kalantar repeated the reasons that she opposed; she thinks that the reporting and resourcing have to be side by side. She said that if we separate them, the reporting will come first and the resourcing will come second. She also thinks that there was not enough protection and worries about missing people. Cris clarified that protected class people should not be exempt from any reports, just reports that are based only on the sexuality of the parents or their religion, etc. Reports should be based on the child. Roshan said that she agrees and apologizes if she came off another way. Cris said that she understands and that, for her, she lives in a conservative and rural environment and people make reports based on parental status rather than child welfare. Doris thanked them



and reiterated the point of rejecting status being the sole basis for a report if there are legitimate concerns about safety.

- Jennifer said that she wants to follow up to Roshan's comments and that she wants to put her comments back on the record again; it is hard to talk about this topic without a conversation about who mandatory reporters are. She mentioned services towards folks who service domestic violence and sexual violence survivors. Also, to the resourcing piece, there are people on the list that are very removed from this work, like veterinarians, and who might not be well trained. She knows we are going to talk about training but these things are on her mind. Doris thanked her.
- Gina Lopez seconded Jennifer's comment; if resources are equally important, then she feels a need to help folks understand the safe places for people to go to with their concerns about their children and families. This includes letting people know who is required to report so they can still trust resources. This is where her struggle is. She also supports the task force moving forward to find additional places to address concerns. Doris thanked her.
- Doris acknowledged that there is a desire to look at who is a mandated reporter; this is in the notes and there will be further conversations to decide how to work this topic in. Stephanie responded specifically to Jill's comments. They will be addressing all the issues that members are bringing up now. The next session will be a longer one to work on figuring these topics out. She brought up screening tools for mandated reporters to help them make decisions about what rises to the level of abuse or neglect. She also mentioned that the task force will hear from NY's warmline to hear how they tied that into their mandatory reporting statutes. This is coming in 2 weeks and it will be a large group discussion, rather than subcommittees as everyone seems very interested in this topic. She said that, to Jill's point, there will be upcoming conversations about the other directives including topics about different types of mandated reporters. She assured the task force she hears these comments and appreciated the task force's patience. She invited members to come to her with any ideas. She thanked the task force for their really smart comments. Doris thanked her.
- Doris moved the task force to officially capture their support or opposition.
- Trace said that they are going to go through the results and ask those who did not vote to vote. They read the results. Nate Hailpern said that he supports; Kelsey Wirtz said that she supports. Trace asked for any other members for their vote. Jade Woodard said that she supports with the caveats discussed today. Trace asked again for any more votes. There were none.
- The task force finished the first recommendation. Trace asked Stephanie for any more comments. Stephanie said there was none and encouraged people to come to the upcoming meetings since there will be a lot of conversations that the task force has been excited to get into. Trace also mentioned people coming in and out of the task force; the facilitators will make sure that the task force make up is what the legislators wanted. They said to expect outreach from them about attendance.



Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● CD (anonymous) said that she was excited about this task force due to her experience. She would have loved to be a part of the task force due to her experience during the last 4 years with South Denver CDHS. She had a conversation with Carry Ann Lucas and her team prior to the legislation. She believes that Carry Ann would be horrified by how the system failed her and her family. She cannot provide many details due to litigation. She and her child were involved in a couple of car accidents. This was all a result of trying to evaluate if her child sustained injuries as a part of personal injury law which is required by CO law because to not evaluate a minor child would be considered neglect. The car accident put her on disability and during the process of the treatment, doctors discovered a genetic condition. There were 2 collisions and both blamed her even though she was not at fault for either. She went to the pediatrician after the collisions for her son's sensory processing issues identified by a major hospital system in CO; the school pushed back and acted as if they had never heard of such a thing. She went to an advocacy group to get people on her side and to get people to take her seriously. For background, it took 7 years to diagnose her since these conditions are rare and invisible. During this time she is trying to figure out if her son is okay. She appeared fine; she did not use a wheelchair or a cane. But, the advocacy group had not heard of the genetic issue before and thought she was a threat to and neglecting her child; they fed bad information to the school who turned their back on her. When the pediatrician was consulted after the complaint went in, she also turned her back on her. This was a failure of the Carry Ann Lucas Act and ADA which was to avoid discrimination against classes. When her attorney and her brought up the Carry Ann Lucas Act and ADA, it was ignored. Due to COVID, there was no due process for 2-3 years. She had to work with providers who were not knowledgeable about disabilities. CDHS did not tell them that she was on SSDI. When she advocated for herself, she was rejected. There is already a power imbalance with parents and teachers and doctors and uneducated advocates. Comments from the school in discovery indicate a misunderstanding about disability; comments include, 'she is not in a wheelchair so she is not disabled'. People are very uneducated about the law when schools have to comply with ADA for students and parents. She went through the federal court of appeals who decided not to uphold ADA and the Colorado Supreme Court refused to hear her case. She is now facing bankruptcy. Everything she worked towards is about gone. She needs to undergo more surgeries due to the injuries and the genetic condition. No one has asked the question of 'was it really so bad that she took her child to OT and PT when he said his back was hurting?'. The system accused her of abusing her child due to her just following the law. Her child was never hospitalized, or in the emergency room and never needed stitches or had a broken bone. This is truly a case based on nothing but disability hate and not understanding disabilities. There are issues with power and control. She likes where the task force is going with this. She believes that she will never get her child back since the Supreme Court will not take her case. By being proactive, she was allegedly being an unfit parent. There
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	<p>needs to be more knowledge about disability for the people that make reports. They are not experts in personal injury law. School employees are not surgeons. She is a domestic violence survivor; her abuser now has her child and is using the courts to further abuse them. There are big gaps to consider. Her parents will probably never see their grandchild again. She wished she could be a part of this conversation more; she is trying everything she can to get her child back and no one is listening. There needs to be consequences for false allegations. She appreciates what the task force is doing. Trace thanked her and invited her to the upcoming meetings. There were no other comments.</p>
Next Steps and Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stephanie thanked the task force. The task force adjourned at 9 AM.

Appendix A:

Dawn Alexander
Yolanda Arredondo
Kevin Bishop
Sam Carwyn
Carlos Castillo
Jill Cohen
Michelle Dossey
Jessica Dotter
Tara Doxtater
Ida Drury
Jennifer Ely
Leanna Gavin
Zane Grant
Nate Hailpern
Gina Lopez
Cris Menz
Margaret Ochoa
Sara Pielsticker
Roshan Kalantar
Kaycee Headrick
Dr. Kathi Wells
Donna Wilson
Kelsey Wirtz
Jade Woodard
Shawna McGuckin