



The Mandatory Reporting Task Force | Meeting 9

Meeting Minutes

November 8th, 8:00 am-10:00 am Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Facilitators: Doris Tolliver and Trace Faust

Members: See Appendix A

Welcome & Approval of Minutes

- After member welcome, Task Force Chair Stephanie Villafuerte recorded Mandatory Reporting Task Force attendance and approved minutes from the previous meeting. The motion for approval was provided by Gina Lopez and seconded by Margaret Ochoa. Minutes approved. The Meeting Recap motion for approval was provided by Kelsey Wirtz and seconded by Shayna Koran. Recap approved.
- Jordan Steffen gave administrative updates. The interim report is already being started and is due 01/01/2024. The meeting recaps form the foundation of the interim report. The report will most likely be chronological. So far, there are no findings or recommendations. Once the report is drafted, it will be circulated early to late December. Members can provide amendments and other changes to the report. There will not be a meeting in December to have time to write the report. It will also be sent to the House Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services Committee, SEnate Health & Human Services Committee, Governor's Office and the Colorado Department of Human Services. There will also be a media push. She asked for questions and there were none.
- Jordan moved the group forward to talk about the definition of abuse and neglect. There will not be subcommittees for these conversations. Today's dialogue will be easing into conversation and it will continue until February 2024. There will also be two additional meetings to provide enough time to define abuse and neglect. Members are allowed to send proxies if they cannot attend these meetings. Once this directive is complete, the group will move to subcommittees to move toward the other directives.
- Jordan then moved to introduce the specifics of the topics of the day. She talked about the packets that Bryan Kelley pulled together. She said that he will talk about them more but that they are not to be used as materials that the Office of the Colorado Child Protection Ombudsman (CPO) has endorsed but as a starting point to the conversation on abuse and neglect. She also said that CPO is here to support the Task Force and is open to providing any more resources. She asked for questions. Jade Woodard asked about possible new legislation that could change the definition of domestic violence in Colorado's Children's Code; she is nervous about this and is wondering if this is something for the Task Force to discuss. Jordan said she appreciates her raising this; the legislation is not introduced yet but the language can be provided as a resource for the next meeting for the group to consider. Trace Faust thanked her for her question and being mindful of an ongoing environment.
- Trace also introduced Kaycee Headrick as a new Task Force member representing the Boys and Girls Club in Colorado.
- Trace introduced that there will be two breakout groups to have conversations about Bryan's packets; the groups will be facilitated heavily. This conversation is to prepare members for the conversation in January. Trace also outlined the



	<p>schedule for the rest of the day; after the breakout groups, the large group will return. Then, there will be public comment and finally adjournment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bryan introduced himself. He said that he is sharing statutory definitions from other states as a way to understand what is happening in other states and to see what it looks like in practice. It can either be positive things and things the group wants to bring to Colorado. It can also be things to steer away from. The CPO is not beholden to these policies and he reiterated that the CPO is not endorsing any particular language. He also noted that no state has the perfect definition so it is important to keep that expectation in mind; no state has a perfect system for Colorado to copy. He introduced a document about how other states define child abuse and neglect. He has distilled some of the information into recaps but he wants the members to know that this information is available to them to use. He explained his findings in the recaps. The recaps are shared with the group. He ended by welcoming input from the group, both suggestions for future materials that would be helpful and feedback if the current resources are not helpful. • Trace outlined the next steps for the day. There will be two breakout rooms for 45 minutes. They also outlined to members of the public that these documents are for Task Force members and that there will be time to make public comments. • Members then divided into two breakout rooms to discuss the research provided and where the Task Force will begin its discussion about the definition of abuse and neglect. Each breakout group placed their thoughts into a note catcher.
<p>Large Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trace welcomed the group back and asked Doris what the other group talked about. • Doris asked Margaret Ochoa to share. Margaret said that the group talked about statutory guidance on differentiating socioeconomic status with neglect. The group also liked the overlay of cultural differences in child rearing practices. She noted some gaps. It is very subjective. The group liked the focus on the capacity of a caregiver, like a caregiver with a disability. This brought the conversation to supporting families where reporters can bring community resources. She also mentioned an exception to failure to report cases when a reporter was trying to provide resources. Doris asked if there was additional information the group wanted. Michelle Dossey said that she wonders what relationship states are seeing between reports and substantiated child abuse cases and what those laws look like. She also is wondering about universal states as opposed to states that have occupational differences on who is a reporter. She also would like domestic violence to be clarified in statutes as it related to child abuse and neglect. She wonders about a safety plan time period before a report is required. Doris also said that the group talked about disproportionality and states that take action on a county level rather than a state level. • Trace also invited Ashley Chase to share about the second group's discussion. Ashley said that the group had similar thoughts. The group talked about the word reasonable. She recounted Donna L. Wilson's comment about 'reasonable' meaning for different things to different communities. She also noted the difficulty



	<p>in identifying the appropriate criminal charges along with the definitions in order to say what a mandatory reporter has not done what they are required to do under statute.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bryan said that he is excited about these questions and is already working on a lot of these future conversations. He asked people to let him know if they need anything specific. ● Trace asked Stephanie about her thoughts. She said that her reflection is at the 100,000 foot level about how to administer social services to people in a way that is relational and voluntary while overlaying that over a court system which is not used to service people but to enforce people. She also said that it is a human situation overlaid over complex legal context that would take even good lawyers hours to understand. She clarified that she loves law, as a lawyer, but has these concerns. ● Jade said that she echoes what Stephanie talked about. She said she is thinking about how everything is interacting so the solution will be complex. She also said she is feeling overwhelmed about not knowing where to start. Doris said that the charge is very comprehensive so that can help make sure that the solution meets 'bold reform'. She said that the group has an opportunity to look at the component parts of the charge to make it a little easier to approach a solution. ● Crystal Ward Allen said that it is key to think about how to empower reporters to provide resources. She referenced training materials that explain what abuse is and how to provide resources. She mentioned a warmline. She asked if this is a part of the charge of the Task Force. She said that many places are trying to both narrow the door and provide services. ● Jill Cohen said that it would be helpful to have language about how poverty and disability do not mean neglect. She said that the statute is a good way to approach this. ● Trace said that they love the specificity of the conversation. They also thanked the group and turned it to Jessica. ● Jessica Dotter provided answers to the questions from the last meeting.
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No public comment
Next Steps and Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trace and Stephanie thanked all members for their participation. ● Next meeting is scheduled for January 10th, from 8 AM to 10 AM. ● The Mandatory Reporting Task Force was adjourned at 10:00 am.

Appendix A:

Dawn Alexander
 Yolanda Arredondo
 Kevin Bishop
 Carlos Castillo
 Ashley Chase
 Jill Cohen
 Jessica Dotter



Jill Cohen
Jessica Dotter
Michelle Dossey
Leanna Gavin
Zane Grant
Adriana Hartly
Shayna Koran
Gina Lopez
Margaret Ochoa
Sara Pielsticker
Nicci Surad
Crystal Ward Allen
Donna Wilson
Jade Woodard
Kelsey Wirtz
Stephanie Villafuerte
Kaycee Headrick