



**The Timothy Montoya Task Force To Prevent Children From Running Away From Out-Of-Home Placement | Meeting 20**

July 31st, 2024, 8:00 am-11:00 am Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Facilitators: Keystone Policy Center (Trace Faust)

Members: See Appendix A

<p>Welcome &amp; Approval of Minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Task Force Chair Stephanie Villafuerte welcomed the task force. She then turned to approval of the previous meeting’s materials. She started with the full task force minutes. She asked for corrections; there were none. Beth McNalley motioned; Ashley Chase seconded. There was no opposition. The minutes were approved. Stephanie turned to the intervention subcommittee recap. She asked for corrections; there were none. Anna Cole motioned; Beth seconded. There was no opposition. The recap was approved. Next, Stephanie turned to the prevention subcommittee minutes. She asked for corrections; there were none. Elizabeth Montoya motioned; Brandon Miller seconded. There was no opposition. The minutes were approved.</li> </ul>
<p>Procedure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trace Faust welcomed the task force and thanked them for their hard work thus far. They explained the topics for the remaining three meetings. Today and the next meeting, there will be discussions about the recommendations. Then, there will be a survey for task force members to vote on the recommendations. They explained that those who wish to abstain from voting should provide a written request to abstain on their organization’s letterhead; the letters will be included in the final report. Finally, the last meeting will be a celebration. They asked if there were any questions; there were none.</li> <li>Jordan Steffen noted that the survey for final voting will include each recommendation and a vote for yes or no. She continued that the votes will include each task force member’s name; those who vote no should provide a written explanation of why they are voting no as to include that in the report. She will provide the results of the survey in the September meeting. She thanked the task force for all their thoughtful conversations. She also said that there was a strong indication of needing more data on specific topics. She also mentioned standardized systems that include trauma informed practices and easy data gathering. She said that the recommendations address bringing in experts to build systems thoughtfully as well as funding. She asked for any questions; there were none.</li> </ul>
<p>Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trace electronically shared <a href="#">recommendation one</a> and provided time for the task force members to review the document.</li> <li>Jordan explained the recommendation and asked for questions and comments.</li> <li>Brian Cotter said that the HRV framework is a great starting spot but they should not use the acronym in the report as to make it clear to the legislature. He also said that they should be more clear about what the recommendation is, such as including a specific timeline for data collection. He also mentioned that the income level of youth who run is relevant but they should clarify who’s income they are measuring, for example a child who is a ward of the state. He</li> </ul>



also said that he is concerned about creating a perpetual group at the state level without more clarity about what the group is supposed to do; the recommendation should include authorizations of the group as well as responsibilities of the group. Trace thanked him.

- Brandon said that the recommendation is provider focused rather than focused on the state or the county; he would not want to put the data tracking responsibility only on the providers. Jordan asked about adding further language; Brandon said that the change sounds good. Trace thanked them.
- Dr Renee Marguardt commented that youths' reasons for running might not always be thought through so it might be helpful to ask those on the care team to further understand the reasons for running. She also said that youth might not know their reasons for running. Jordan thanked her.
- Anna Cole said that a definition of run could be referenced here or in another area of the recommendations. Trace said that the definition of a run is in the narrative of the report. Jordan asked if the third party should help define a run. Anna said that the task force should make the definition. Trace thanked her.
- Lynette Overmeyer said that her comment was also around defining a run. She also asked about kinship and foster homes providing data; she suggested a case worker can provide it in conjunction with the provider to make the practice and the information more consistent and to prevent losing key data. She also suggested tracking how many times a child changes placement since it can be a confounding variable and it can have negative impacts on a child. Jordan asked if a third party should investigate this. Lynette said that the case workers should enter the data. Jordan asked for more comments from the task force around this question; 'who should enter the data?'. Michelle Bradley said that if the provider is entering the data then they might miss some children. Trace thanked her. Anna said that where the data is entered also matters; most providers have access to TRAILS but some do not. Jordan thanked her.
- Stephanie said that these questions are important. She said that the recommendation should be clear as a statewide database; TRAILS would be optimal but there is limited access. She asked if the third party should help find the system best utilized for this intent or if the third party should help provide the framework. She said that her mainpoint is that there is opportunity to be more specific but she also hesitates to be too specific on certain aspects. Trace thanked her and suggested capturing these comments via survey and email. Jordan said that there is a limited time to determine what the third party should address. Stephanie said that she appreciates the sensitive timeline; she suggested, taskforce members could highlight areas of the recommendations that need further definition and this can inform future discussions.
- Jordan electronically displayed the recommendation as to highlight the areas for further definition.
  - Defining 'Running away from care'
  - Defining 'Location of database framework, where it is held, who maintains it, who enters it'
  - Defining 'Timelines, if at the time of run or at the time of return'



- Defining 'Income'
  - Defining 'Youth's reasons'
  - Adding 'Change of placement'
- Stephanie suggested that the state maintains the database.
- Brian said that the income measurement should be clarified to specify who's income they are tracking.
- Stephanie asked what the specific demographic variables were based on. Bryan said it was a recent legislation. Stephanie suggested adding that statute citation to this recommendation.
- Stephanie asked for more terms for further definition.
- Lynette suggested entering data when a child runs to track who is on the run. Stephanie said that those considerations might be better captured in the statewide response protocol which will be detailed in recommendations to come.
- Stephanie also asked about the extent to which the task force is involved in these conversations going forward. Trace thanked her. Jordan said that the recommendation about the third party consultant can include items such as consulting with the members of the task force or notifying members of the task force. Stephanie suggested leaving access open to the taskforce. Trace mentioned utilizing the expertise of the task force.
- Trace said that the survey will provide another opportunity to add feedback. Jordan said that the survey can also include developing the definition of the highlighted terms. Trace asked for any last comments on this recommendation; there were none.
- Trace moved the task force on to [recommendation two](#); they shared it electronically. Jordan provided the context of the recommendation. Trace provided time for the taskforce to review the recommendation.
- Trace asked for comments about the recommendation; there were none.
- Trace moved the task force to [recommendation three](#); they shared it electronically. Jordan provided the context of the recommendation. Trace provided time for the task force to review the recommendation.
- Trace provided the task force with a break.
- Trace brought the task force back from a break and asked for comments around recommendation three.
- Trace highlighted Ashley Chase's electronic chats explaining concerns around designating children as high risk when they run to family members or for a short time. Jordan provided the context for this recommendation; the context was to establish a baseline for a continuum of responses when children run from care. She returned to the question about the definition around running from care. She said that the task force has done the work on the definition in past conversations, such as outlining the characteristics of a situation that requires a response. Lynette said that it's not that some children don't deserve a response but that some children require an advanced response due to high risk factors. Trace thanked her.
- Kevin Lash said that, as a parent, when a child is gone without permission, then it is a crisis no matter what. He suggested discussing the initial response. He also said that the definition of a runaway child should include something about permission. Trace thanked him.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brandon said that he agrees with Lynette. He suggested caution around the word permission; he suggested a refocus around safety and if a child is making safe choices. He mentioned this to make the conversation a safety issue rather than a control issue. Trace thanked him.</li> <li>• Beth said that a reevaluation of risk assessment should happen after every run. Trace thanked her. Beth elaborated that risk factors might have changed after each run. Trace thanked her and asked what providers and foster parents think about reevaluating a child after every run. Beth said that this is already happening since it is mandated; the HRV tool is used. She suggested assessing risk level after a run.</li> <li>• Michelle said that it's a lot to call law enforcement and NICMIC as well as do the HRV after each run; it's important to do but it's a lot. She suggested helping workers complete everything as their supervisor. Trace thanked her and recapped that it is a lot and it is important.</li> <li>• Brandon said that he agrees that it is a lot but it is important as well as worth it. He said that doing things that help should be prioritized and that runaways are a big deal so there should be a lot of information when it happens. Trace thanked him and asked for more comments. Jordan said that considerations such as placement and scope from the recommendation one can be carried into this recommendation. Trace thanked her.</li> <li>• Michelle said that protective factors can also be included in assessing a run. Stephanie suggested expanding the directive and any such tool to expand as to consider protective factors. She also said that this directive captures the difficulty of addressing run risk; she commends the task force's conversations. She said that the recommendation is not punting the definition down but rather acknowledging that every run is different. She again commended the task force's deep work on this directive. Trace agreed and asked for more comments.</li> <li>• Elizabeth said that she is impressed by the criteria and the logistical points. Trace thanked her and asked for more comments; there were none.</li> <li>• Trace electronically provided <a href="#">recommendation 4</a>. Jordan provided context. Trace thanked her and asked for comments and questions.</li> <li>• Stephenie said that there is no data to connect runaway behavior and crime so it will be important to track this data to answer that question. Trace thanked her and asked for any other comments; there were none.</li> </ul>
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No public comment.</li> </ul>
Next Steps and Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trace thanked the task force for their time. Lynette said that she might have to be at jury duty for the next meeting. Brandon also said that he will not be able to attend. Trace said that there will be opportunity to provide feedback on the rest of the recommendations via survey. Jordan said that she will incorporate the changes to the recommendations and send them back out. She also reintroduced the next recommendations for next week's discussion to trigger thoughts. Trace thanked her.</li> <li>• Trace dismissed the task force and directed task force members to look out for the email with the survey.</li> <li>• Stephanie thanked the task force.</li> </ul>



- Task force adjourned at 10:08 AM; the next meeting is August 6th at 1 PM.

**Appendix A:**

Beth McNalley  
Pam Treloar  
David Lee  
Anna Cole  
Ashley Chase  
Brian Cotter  
Elizabeth Montoya  
Michelle Bradley  
Ashley Prow  
Renee Marguardt  
Brandon Miller  
Kevin Lash  
Lynette Overmeyer  
Becky Miller Updike  
Jana Zinser  
Michelle Bradley