



Timothy Montoya Task Force

August 6, 2024, Meeting Recap

Overview

The Timothy Montoya Task Force to Prevent Children from Running Away from Out-of-home Placement is legislatively charged with analyzing the root causes of why children and youth run from out-of-home care to help develop a consistent, prompt and effective response for when children and youth do run. It is also charged with assessing how to address the safety and well-being of children and youth upon their return to care.

Continuing Review of Draft Recommendations

This task force meeting continued the review of recommendations begun in the previous week. The meeting opened with Chair Stephanie Villafuerte calling for the approval of meeting minutes. Trace Faust described the process for abstaining from votes on the recommendations of the task force, which would require a written note on company letterhead explaining the abstention. The task force then began discussing and providing feedback for draft recommendations. A recording of this meeting can be found [here](#).

The draft recommendations being considered were responsive to the following directives:

1. Directive Five: (C.R.S. 19-3.3-111(5)(e)): "Analyze the comprehensiveness and effectiveness of existing state laws and regulations, and placement facility protocols, to respond to a child's threat to run away from out-of-home placement and for promptly reporting, locating, evaluating, and treating children who have run away."
2. Directive Six: (C.R.S. 19-3.3-111(5)(f)): "Analyze best practices statewide and nationally for preventing and addressing runaway behavior, including identifying methods to deter children from running away from out-of-home placement."

As the task force worked through reviewing each draft recommendation, Jordan Steffen explained their context, origin, and other important factors behind their creation. The task force was then allotted time to read and reflect on each directive, and then had time to discuss each directive and provide feedback. After substantive and constructive conversations, the task force was concluded with reminders that the next meeting would be on August 14.