



**The Timothy Montoya Task Force To Prevent Children From Running Away From Out-Of-Home Placement | Meeting 16**

April 10th, 2024, 8:00 am-10:00 am Virtual Meeting (Zoom)  
Facilitators: Keystone Policy Center (Trace Faust & Doris Tolliver)  
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 and did a roll call. She asked if everyone had time to review the documents. She asked for corrections. There was none. She asked for a motion and a second. Jenna Coleman motioned and Dennis Desparrois seconded. Stephanie asked if anyone was opposed; no one was opposed. The minutes were approved. Stephanie moved to the meeting recap. She asked for edits. There were none. She asked for a motion and a second. Norma Agilar-Dave motioned and Kevin Lash seconded. Stephanie asked if anyone was opposed; no one was opposed. The recap was approved.</li> </ul>
<p>Introduction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trace Faust explained the process for the day in subcommittees. They also explained the roadmap for the subsequent meetings. They reminded the task force that there will be two additional meetings. One of them is about the survey of the residential facilities; Jordan Steffen will explain in further detail.</li> <li>Jordan said that the survey is being worked on and will be sent to facilities around the state. Their goal is to send it by the end of the week. The additional meetings will be to review the results of the survey and consider how to incorporate it into the discussion. The second additional meeting will be about foster homes since the conversation thus far has focused heavily on residential facilities. These meetings will probably be 3 hours and they might not be on a Wednesday morning. There is also a rescheduled meeting in July to accommodate the holiday. Trace asked for questions. There were none.</li> <li>Trace broke the task force out into subcommittees. Jordan said that members of the public are welcome to join either subcommittee. Trace reiterated this and invited public comment at the end of the meeting</li> </ul>
<p>Intervention Subcommittee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Intervention Subcommittee Minutes</a></li> </ul>
<p>Prevention Subcommittee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Prevention Subcommittee Minutes</a></li> </ul>
<p>Public Comment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trace welcomed the large task force back and invited Steve to provide public comment.</li> <li>Steve Fisher introduced himself. He is a civil engineer and a board member for Federation for Families and Mental Health Colorado Chapter. He is interested in this task force since he has lived across the street from the Tennyson Center since 1995 and has seen hundreds of runs and rescues. He appreciates the opportunity to speak to the task force. Over the past 18 months, the task force has discussed many aspects of child welfare in out of home placements. When reading the first year report, he noticed that responsibility is a topic that needs some attention which was also discussed in subcommittees today. He asked the task force to consider that these are</li> </ul>



	<p>not new issues. The question for him is how to expect a different outcome by responding and mitigating in the same way as others have in the past. In the shoes of a parent, there is an expectation of keeping children safe in a licensed institution, perhaps safer than at home, but for him this is not the case. He argues that laws in volume 7 do not give enough responsibility and therefore liability to residential institutions. They do not act in loco parentis. According to Steve, they do not have enough skin in the game to prevent acts of omission as the laws put it, even if there are background checks and educational recruitments. This is compared to professionals that do have state licenses, are held individually responsible and their employer mitigates their risk with policies and procedures. Steve does not believe this is so with the staff entrusted with children at residential facilities. There are lots of ways to keep children safer in facilities but few ways to compel facilities to do it. When things go wrong due to acts of omission, like the case of Timothy Montoya, the only tools the state has is to inspect, fine or shut down a facility. He was told many times by the administration of a facility that, to justify an act of omission, “we are not responsible”. He thanked people for their time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Trace thanked him and asked for more public comments. There were no other public comments.</li> </ul>
<p>Next Steps and Adjourn</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Trace and Stephanie thanked the task force. The meeting adjourned at 9:56. The next meeting is May 1st from 8 AM to 11 AM.</li> </ul>

**Appendix A:**

- Becky Miller Updike
- Chelsea Hill
- David Lee
- Jenna Coleman
- Kelly Abbott
- Kevin Lash
- Lynette Overmeyer
- Dr. Renee Marguardt
- Stephanie Villafuerte
- Trace Faust
- Norma Agilar-Dave
- Anna Cole
- Brian Cotter
- Dennis Desparrois
- Jenelle Goodrich
- Beth McNalley
- Elizabeth Montoya
- Jana Zinzer
- Doris Tolliver
- Jordan Steffen