



**The Timothy Montoya Task Force To Prevent Children From
Running Away From Out-Of-Home Placement | Meeting 14**

Meeting Minutes -- Intervention Subcommittee Discussion

February 14th, 2024, 8:00 am-10:00 am Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Facilitators: Keystone Policy Center (Doris Tolliver)

Members: See Appendix A

<p>Intervention Subcommittee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doris Tolliver welcomed the group. She provided the link to the notecatcher and invited members to include their thoughts. There were 7 responses to the survey and the responses indicated an overwhelming support of both creating different categories and standardized responses based on youth characteristics. The conversation will be about the elements of both pieces. • Jenelle Goodrich asked about AZ’s protocol about locating at-risk children. She did not have access to the form. She is interested in seeing this to compare it to CO’s HRV tool. She is working on updating the HRV on the governor’s council. Doris said that she will ask about this. • Doris asked for any other questions. Elizabeth Montoya said that she felt overwhelmed by the materials; she said she supported the ideas but the details are over her head. She is going to be more in a listening role today. Doris thanked her and invited any comments that she has, even aside from the technical details like any ideas she has about what she would want to see regarding the other state’s examples. Elizabeth responded that she would want to see more immediate response times for high risk kids and to avoid the red tape. Doris highlighted her point about quick response times and the response being active. She thanked her for her comments. • Doris invited them to include their thoughts in the notecatchers. • Doris brought the group back and started with the benefits of risk assessments for at risk youth. Dennis Deparrios said that one of the benefits would help determine if the child’s absence requires a police report because they are high risk or if their absence is less of a cause of alarm. Doris thanked him and asked what would need to be present in CO for this to be possible. Dennis said it’s very possible and the state would need to write rules to make sure that counties would all be doing the same thing. Doris thanked him and asked for more comments. • Bryan said that he would be interested to hear Dennis’s thoughts on how this could be meaningfully implemented in CO. Dennis said that, to him, someone who is highly susceptible to sex trafficking would need to be identified. This would be included in the report to law enforcement so they would respond immediately and look in relevant locations for the child. He also mentioned highly suicidal children who would also require an immediate response and also inform them on where to look. He is not sure on how to identify children who frequently run since they might be less of a risk but he is sure they could do it. • Jenelle said that in Beth McNalley’s office, there was high risk youth for sex trafficking and there was protocol around this. There already are some pre-existing models. She is suggesting to build off these. She asked Beth to talk more about this.
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- Beth said that they have a tried response that identifies low, moderate or high risk. This is fluid. They get calls from facilities for children who are likely to come back within an hour. But it is crucial that the information being gathered is the same across the board since these cases are very fluid. The organization usually notifies the parent or guardian. They partner with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) to follow the reporting mandate. This has also allowed them to get posters out quickly. There is also a partnership with the Denver Police Department (DPD) and transit partners to get missing youth material out. Doris asked about components related to a youth's characteristics that contribute to the risk level. Beth said that some of the examples are provided in Bryan's materials with other states. She named sex trafficking, substance abuse concerns (and the type of substance), DPD's resources, and gang affiliation to name a few. Doris asked if these are used to determine risk. Beth said yes and that their screening process is the same; this is to ensure that, when reporting to law enforcement, the reports are not bare bones and include relevant information. She also said that it's important to notify and have a partnership with schools. This is because sometimes children will still attend school or have a safe trusted adult there. She also mentioned DC's safety planning mechanisms that inform who the youth turn to on the run. Doris thanked her and Bryan also thanked her. He asked about specific elements of policy about the high risk classifications like requiring or suggesting that facilities use these designations at the intake process or provide a model. Doris thanked him.
- Doris said that there is wide agreement on the tiering of characteristics of the youth. In addition to the characteristics of the youth are the associated responses. This includes more specific responses that are consistently applied and spell out what it means to respond versus administrative functions.
- Jenelle asked about what would make it rise to the level of immediate reporting as opposed to 24 hours. The people who the child is placed with will know the answer to this. She has seen it where people think it should be an immediate report when DHS disagrees. She also brought up reporting to another entity like Beth's team. Doris said that this is about the reporting aspect and also about actually doing something to locate the youth which should also have some tiering and additional levels.
- Beth said that when her group takes over runs, the response goes straight to patrol. 11 years or under, a danger to themselves or others, medical attention, etc go to law enforcement first. This partnership is important and so is the training so they know about trauma informed practices. The partnership with DHS is also important. De-escalation areas and meeting basic needs is also important. They can use an High Risk Victim (HRV) tool for this. Doris asked about pieces used in Denver that could be used state-wide. Beth said that they are unique since they are volunteers only. Most times the youth is not willing to talk about anything when recovered. There needs to be a secondary check in after a week or 2 to get more information. Beth asked if this answered the question; Doris said yes.
- Elizabeth said that it is important to have a checklist for standardized responses. Timmy's runs were at most a few hours. He was continually



suicidal at home. When he was in someone else's care, she would have wanted them to know that he runs and is suicidal since she would have wanted them to take that seriously. New environments or medicine can make situations intense and this information is needed.

- Norma said that she cautions subjectivity about whether or not a child is at high risk. She asked if this made sense; Doris said yes and this brings the conversation back to the state models. She asked if there are parts of these examples that the subcommittee likes to make the decision more consistent and objective.
- Beth said that being subjective can also minimize what a youth is experiencing. Doris asked if a tool would be helpful and if there are examples that could be used in CO. Beth said that she is a part of a work group to change the HRV tool. The review process is better but the tool is still flawed. When a child is not willing to engage, then a tool is almost useless. Some of the questions asked are not coming from parents/guardians or youth. They come from TRAILS or law enforcement reports. No tool will give a perfect picture but something is better than nothing. Especially for something to review back to for chronic runners. Doris asked if HRV is used after a youth is recovered. Beth said that DHS mandates the use of the HRV tool when a youth is recovered. It is also used when a youth has been arrested. Doris asked if there is a tool to evaluate the risk a child might have. Beth said diversion will use a particular tool for mental health situations and the HRV is used for sexual or labor trafficking situations. Doris asked if this is completed before a youth is found. Beth said yes but going through the questions with a child not after a run could be really harmful. This is probably how it is being administered.
- Doris said that, when thinking of the risk levels, are there other levels worth noting and what is the framework that includes the response. Beth said that there needs to be consistent information gathering. High risk would entail immediate response of law enforcement and posters from NCMEC. She also mentioned trying to directly contact the youth and working this in on every case. Doris highlighted Beth nodding on the high, moderate, low tiers and the different responses based on the level. Doris asked for more comments.
- Norma said that the consistency of information gathering is important. Doris asked if there is a tool that exists today that she would want to build off of or if there are tools she liked from other states. Norma said that she did not know about a tool for information gathering; she thinks that every provider would probably be different. She asked Beth about this. Beth said that she thinks that it varies. She liked TN's model to tailor something after. Her only concern is that if there are sex trafficking concerns, they are mandated to take them to the hospital and wait for sometimes hours for a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) nurse. Jenelle agreed for a lot of reasons. At the same time, a hospital will not hold down a youth waiting for a SANE nurse. It traumatizes them and accomplishes nothing. Even though they are high risk youth, there might not be evidence that they need a SANE exam.
- Doris asked for any last thoughts; there were none. She asked for a volunteer to work with Bryan. Norma volunteered.
- The subcommittee returned to the main session.



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Appendix A:

Becky Miller Updike

Beth McNalley

Dennis Deparrios

Elizabeth Montoya

Jenelle Goodrich

Kelly Abbott

Norma Aguilar Dave