



CHILD PROTECTION
OMBUDSMAN
of COLORADO



KEYSTONE
POLICY CENTER

Timothy Montoya Task Force to Prevent Children from Running Away from Out-of-Home Placement

Meeting Five

May 3, 2023

May 3, 2023

Stephanie Villafuerte, Chair
Trace Faust and Doris Tolliver, Facilitators

Welcome

- Member Roll Call
- Meeting Minutes
- Welcome Doris
- Google Drive
- Shared Media





Timothy Montoya Task Force to Prevent Children from Running Away from Out-of-Home Placement Task Force Charter

Introduction

In the spring of 2021, the Office of Colorado's Child Protection Ombudsman (CPO) was contacted by a community member who learned about Timothy Montoya's death after he ran from an unlocked residential childcare facility and was struck by a car. The community member was concerned that the circumstances leading to his death would not be examined. The CPO reviewed Timothy's case and ultimately learned that Colorado lacks sufficient infrastructure to deter youth from running away from out-of-home placements and to ensure their well-being when they return.

In the fall of 2021, the Office of Colorado's Child Protection Ombudsman (CPO) started working with members of the Colorado's General Assembly, Colorado's residential treatment provider community and other stakeholders to draft legislation aimed at addressing youth who run away from their out-of-home placement. This work culminated in the creation of House Bill 22-1375, "Concerning Measures To Improve Outcomes For Those Placed in Out-of-Home Placement Facilities." This bill established the Timothy Montoya Task Force to Prevent Children from Running Away from Out-of-home Placement (Task Force).

This Charter outlines the mission, scope and objectives of the Task Force along with its guidelines, media protocols and task force roles.

Mission

This critical task force is established to analyze the root causes of why children and youth run away from out-of-home placement, develop a consistent, prompt and effective response for when children or youth run away from out-of-home placements and to recovering missing children and to address the safety and well-being of a child or youth upon their return to out-of-home placement.

Charge

Pursuant to HB 22-1375, the Task Force is required to analyze:

- The sufficiency of statewide data that measures the quantitative and qualitative experiences of children who have run away from out-of-home placements;
- The root causes of why children run away from out-of-home placements;
- The differences between runaway behavior and age-appropriate behaviors;
- The behaviors that should lead a person or facility to file a missing person report about a child;
- The relationship between children who have run away from out-of-home placement and the likelihood that the child will become a victim of crime;

Timothy Montoya Task Force Charter

- Mission
- Charge
- Outcomes
- Ground Rules
- Media Protocols





Timothy Montoya Task Force | Meeting Four

March 1, 2023, 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 placement to help develop a consistent, prompt and effective response to responding to children and youth who run from care. It is also charged with assessing how to address the safety and well-being of children and youth upon their return to care.

Summary of Marcy 1, 2023, Meeting

Directive Discussed: *Is current statewide, quantitative data regarding the experiences of children who have run away from care sufficient? (See C.R.S. 19-3.3-111(5)(a))*

Examining the Use of the Term "Runaway"

Members discussed the term "runaway" and its connotations. The group focused on understanding the reasons why youth leave care, but also acknowledges that youth may not always have a choice in leaving. They will do further exploration and engage in more discussions to find a more suitable term and agreed that this conversation is essential in defining and understanding the problem.

Overview of Federal and State Laws Regarding Youth Who Run Away

Stephanie Villafuert provided an overview of federal and state laws and regulations that determine reporting requirements and protocols when youth run from out of home placement. These requirements determine the data that is collected and reported about these incidents.

Stephanie discussed the importance of federal law in dictating state laws and regulations related to youth who run away and child welfare. The federal law requires states to develop and implement specific protocols for dealing with missing youth, such as immediately reporting and locating missing youth, as well as determining the factors that contributed to them running away and their experiences while absent from care.

Certain provisions of Title 19 of the Colorado Revised Statutes (Children's Code) and Volume 7 of the Colorado Code of Regulations (Social Services Rules Staff Manual Volume 7; Child

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Task Force Meeting Recaps

- **March 1 – Directive discussed:**
 - *Is current statewide, quantitative data regarding the experiences of children who have run away from care sufficient? (See C.R.S. 19-3.3-111(5)(a))*
- **April 12 – Directive/Issues discussed:**
 - *Is current statewide, quantitative data regarding the experiences of children who have run away from care sufficient? (See C.R.S. 19-3.3-111(5)(a))*
 - *Use of the term "runaway"*



Directive Overview

Total = 8 Ongoing = 1.5 Complete = .5



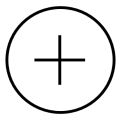
Analyze the sufficiency of statewide quantitative data.



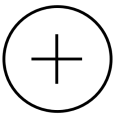
Analyze the sufficiency of statewide qualitative data.



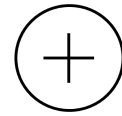
Analyze root cause of why children and youth run from care.



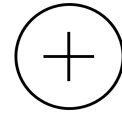
Identify and analyze behaviors that constitute running from care.



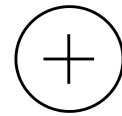
Analyze correlation between running from care and being a victim of a crime.



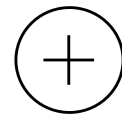
Analyze the current state laws, regulations and facility protocols.



Analyze state and national best practices for preventing youth from running from care.



Analyze how entities responsible for the care of children can coordinate responses.



Identify resources to needed to improve communication and coordination among entities.

Complete

Analyze the sufficiency of quantitative statewide data that measures the quantitative and qualitative experiences of children and youth who have run away from care. (See C.R.S. 19-3.3-111(5)(a))



- No, the majority of members do not find the current quantitative statewide data to be sufficient.
- There is a need for standard data entry and consistent extraction methods.
- Data should be able to consider the “why” behind when children and youth run from care.
- Data currently does not capture attempted or available interventions.

Ongoing

Analyze the sufficiency of qualitative statewide data that measures the quantitative and qualitative experiences of children and youth who have run away from care. (See C.R.S. 19-3.3-111(5)(a))



- Focus group report presentation on May 3, 2023.
- Member discussion and analysis



Ongoing

Analyze the root causes of why children and youth run from care.
(See C.R.S. 19-3.3-111(5)(b))

Roadmap 2023

- **June 14, 2023** – What constitutes running from care?
- **July 12, 2023** – What constitutes running from care?
- **August 9, 2023** – Reflection and discussion
- **September 6, 2023** – Interim Report Finalization
- **October 11, 2023; November 1, 2023; December 13, 2023**
Prevention: What abilities do we have to stop children and youth from running from care?



Directive for Discussion

Is current statewide, qualitative data regarding the experiences of children who have run away from care sufficient?

(See C.R.S. 19-3.3-111(5)(a))



Is current statewide,
qualitative data regarding
the experiences of children
who have run away from
care sufficient?
(See C.R.S. 19-3.3-111(5)(a))

Yes or No?