



Timothy Montoya Task Force: Legislative Charge

HB 22-1375; CRS §19-3.3-111

(5) The task force shall:

- (a) analyze the sufficiency of statewide data that measures the quantitative and qualitative experiences of children who have run away from out-of-home placement;
- (b) analyze the root causes of why children run away from out-of-home placement;
- (c) identify and analyze behaviors that constitute running away from out-of-home placement, analyze differences between runaway behavior and age-appropriate behaviors outside of the home or out-of-home placement, and identify behaviors that should lead to a person or facility filing a missing person report about a child;
- (d) analyze 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;
- (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;
- (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;
- (g) analyze how entities responsible for the care of children who run away from out-of-home placement can coordinate a thorough and consistent response to runaway behaviors;
- (h) identify resources necessary to improve or facilitate communication and coordinated efforts related to children who run away from out-of-home placement among out-of-home placement facilities, county departments of human or social services, and law enforcement agencies; and
- (i) at its discretion, develop recommendations to reduce the number of children who run away from out-of-home placement and include the recommendations in its reports described in subsection (7) of this section.



(6)(a) The institution of higher education shall conduct focus groups with children in out-of-home placement and young adults under twenty-two years of age who have aged out of the child protection system to assist the task force in fulfilling its duties. The institution shall conduct focus groups with out-of-home placement providers to determine what conditions lead children to run away from out-of-home placement, the provider's efforts to locate children who have run away, and the services provided to a runaway child upon the child's return.

(b) The institution of higher education shall ask each focus group to consider:

- (i) the reasons why children run away from out-of-home placement;
- (ii) opportunities and resources that could prevent children from running away from out-of-home placement; and
- (iii) resources that children need to ensure their safety and well-being after they return to out-of-home placement.

(c) the office shall reimburse each focus group participant who is a child or youth for the participant's reasonable expenses incurred for participating in a focus group.

(d) the institution of higher education shall make information learned from the focus groups publicly available and shall submit its findings to the task force on or before April 1, 2023. Personally identifiable information about the persons who participated in a focus group is confidential and the institution shall not make public any personally identifiable information.

(7)(a) On or before October 1, 2023, the task force shall submit a first-year status report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the House of Representatives Public and Behavioral Health and Human Services Committee and the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, or their successor committees. The first-year status report must include a summary of the task force's work and the task force's initial findings and recommendations, if available.

(b) On or before October 1, 2024, the task force shall submit a final report to the governor, the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the house of representatives public and behavioral health and human services committee and the senate health and human services committee, or their successor committees, that includes a summary of the task force's work and the task force's recommendations, if applicable.