

Whole Child Task Force

Monday, March 7, 2022

3-4 p.m.

<https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#/s/88655ced9e478c62207bfc5c173846f7b085a4f87eb9e2afdcab5391e0ac378d>

Whole Child Task Force members present:

- Karyn Aguirre, *Chicago Public Schools*
- Kristine Argue-Mason, *Partnership for Resilience*
- Sheila Ashby, *Kaskaskia Special Education 801*
- Dr. Terri Bresnahan, *Elk Grove School District 59*
- Chris Bridges, *Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights*
- Maryam Brotine, *Illinois Association of School Boards*
- Dr. Colleen Cicchetti, *Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago*
- Dr. Maria Del Carmen Robles Sinkule, *Illinois Association of School Social Workers*
- Dale Fowler, *State Senator, 59th District*
- America Gutierrez, *Student Advisory Council*
- Jaime Guzman, *Illinois State Board of Education*
- Dr. Colandra Hamilton, *Midlothian School District 143*
- Dr. Lori James-Gross, *Unity Point School District 140*
- Dr. Shaniqua Jones, *Thornton Chicago Public Township High School District 205*
- Dr. Jody Lack, *Southern Illinois University School of Medicine*
- Kimberly Lightford, *State Senator, 4th District (joined at 3:41 pm)*
- Hina Mahmoud, *Illinois Department of Human Services*
- Rita Mayfield, *State Representative, 60th District*
- Victoria Mikos, *Schaumburg Consolidated School District 54*
- Krish Mohip, *Illinois State Board of Education*
- Dr. Tiffany Nelson, *Illinois Association of School Social Workers*
- Barbara Outten, *East St. Louis School District 189 (joined at 3:11 pm)*
- Lauren Pett, *Chicago Public Schools*
- Courtney Pharms-Marks, *Bloomington School District 87 (joined at 3:20 pm)*
- Dr. Kennedi Strickland-Dixon, *Oak Park River Forest High School*
- Jocelyn Vega, *Illinois Collaboration on Youth*
- Darlene Waier, *Regional Office of Education #20*
- Ann Whalen, *Advance Illinois*

Whole Child Task Force members absent:

- Bessie Alcantara, *Alternatives Inc.*
- Avery Bourne, *State Representative, 95th District*
- Sandy De Leon, *City Colleges of Chicago*
- Maria Gandara, *Chicago Public Schools*
- Alisa Seo-Lee, *Chicago Public Schools*
- Amy Startin, *Regional Office of Education #20*
- Margarita Vasquez, *West Chicago School District 33*

ISBE staff present:

- Krish Mohip, *Deputy Operational Education Officer*
- Athanasia Albans, *Assistant to Deputy Operational Education Officer*

I. Welcome/Roll Call

Mr. Mohip welcomed all attendees and stated that this will be the last meeting -- as long as the report is approved. He expressed that he has really enjoyed working with all the members over the past nine months. He added that he was very proud of the work the members and he were able to complete in a short amount of time. He said that typically other task forces he served on have had more time. Even though the submission deadline was extended by a month, it did not take away from the quality of the report and the recommendations. He shared that he was humbled by the experts who came together regarding the question of "How do we make Illinois better for our children?"

II. Welcome New Member

Mr. Mohip welcomed Hina Mahmoud. Ms. Mahmoud introduced herself and provided professional and personal background experiences related to the task force.

III. Approval of Minutes

a. January 31, 2022

Ms. Whalen made the motion to approve the January 31, 2022, meeting minutes. Ms. Mikos seconded the motion. No members expressed any objections or proposed any amendments.

IV. Recap of Prior Meeting Discussion

Mr. Mohip stated that in late January and early February, the members had a solid understanding of the proposed recommendations. A two-hour meeting was dedicated to discussing and reviewing the recommendations. At a subsequent meeting, the members reviewed and discussed the recommendations proposed by Subcommittee 1 because we didn't get to those at the initial meeting. He shared that the members engaged in lengthy conversations about where the different subcommittees were headed and how they were drafting their recommendations; that gave the full committee a good opportunity to hear all the conversations that were occurring and provided opportunities for feedback.

Mr. Mohip stated that he was prefacing all this because initially he wanted the members to vote individually on each recommendation, but with the struggle to meet a quorum, the committee was unable to do that. He added that he was confident that time was made available during whole task force meetings to receive feedback from members and to solicit feedback from outside community organizations via online and emails. He added that the feedback received from outside organizations was limited.

Mr. Mohip stated that he was most encouraged that within the last two meetings, he asked for feedback on the recommendations and had not received any; therefore, knows that the committee was moving into this stage of asking for a final vote on the recommendations. He added, even though we did not go through each recommendation one by one, he was confident that there was opportunities for people to voice their opinions, make sure that their valued opinions were heard, and that we shape recommendations in the future.

Mr. Mohip shared that he met with the subcommittee leads often to discuss feedback they received. Together, they worked that feedback into the recommendations and shared it with the task force members in full task force meeting or via email. He added that most recently the draft final report was sent to all members prior to the weekend. There continues to be some editing needed, but the content is where this landed.

V. Approval of Final Task Force Report

Mr. Mohip asked the members if there was anything they wanted to discuss before voting for approval. He stated that the final vote will be dependent upon any grammatical changes. A copy editor has gone through this report once, and he will receive this report to make additional edits post-approval.

Mr. Mohip stated that he will then share the final report with the membership as it's being sent to the General Assembly. He asked if there were any questions about the report or the process.

Ms. Outten stated that throughout the report the word "vendor" and "provider" were used interchangeably. This caused confusion and asked if that could be changed.

Mr. Mohip stated that would be an easy change that would not affect the report; therefore, one term will be used throughout the report.

Dr. Cicchetti stated that it needs to be decided if references are needed and, if so, that members would need to provide those.

Mr. Mohip stated that we would need to provide text citations for any research embedded in the document. He asked that subcommittee leads look at their sections and ensure that research is cited appropriately in the document and/or the appendix.

Dr. Cicchetti suggested that language be added to the training subcommittee section to add more trauma training to the Mandated Reporter Training that is required by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). This is a training that almost every child-serving adult has to take anyway.

Mr. Mohip stated that he agreed and proposed language to the task force members. He asked if the following language should be added to the brief explanation of Recommendation No. 5, "While this process is critical, we recommend that adding information about the impact of trauma, recognizing signs and symptoms of trauma, and trauma-responsive practices be added to the DCFS Mandated Reporter Training that most child-serving professionals are required to complete."?

Dr. Cicchetti thanked Mr. Mohip. She asked if the Timeline Subcommittee members agree with placing that language under recommendation five?

Ms. Brotine stated that she believes that language should not go into the educator training section, but rather in the brief explanation of Recommendation No. 9.

Mr. Mohip asked the members if they felt comfortable with moving the suggested language under the brief explanation of Recommendation No. 9?

Dr. Cicchetti stated that now that she is looking at it again, everybody needs to complete the DCFS Reporting Training. The licensure requirement issue is specifically for community-based organizations and other providers. So, the facility might be licensed, but the individual may not have met license requirements.

Mr. Mohip asked if add the language at the end of Recommendation No. 9 would be appropriate?

Ms. Brotine stated to Dr. Cicchetti that it sounds like you're recommending that we change the statute under the Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act to specify that the Mandated Reporter Training provided by DCFS will include these concepts. That might be an overarching recommendation that may be tied into Recommendation No. 1 about the other statutory amendments to the School Code to incorporate into definitions that have been agreed upon by our task force.

Dr. Cicchetti stated that she was unsure what the statutory requirements are for the Mandated Reporter Training, but the DCFS course is one way to meet that. She added that she didn't believe it was required that providers complete that course, but by adding the language to the recommendation, it would be well-received by other groups that are concerned about trauma.

Mr. Mohip asked Ms. Brotine whether the added language would better serve as a stand-alone recommendation?

Ms. Brotine responded that yes. She added that it would probably require a change in the DCFS statute or the regulations, but she was unsure without investigating further.

Mr. Mohip stated that in the interest in time, we will add a recommendation under Subcommittee 1. The language would be similar, so we recommend adding information about the impact of trauma, recognizing signs and symptoms of trauma, and trauma-responsive practices to the DCFS Mandated Reporter Training that most child-serving professionals are required to complete.

Mr. Mohip stated that that would be a stand-alone recommendation and asked Ms. Brotine whether she would be willing to write the brief explanation, determine the stakeholders of importance, and explain the legislative changes.

Ms. Brotine agreed.

Mr. Mohip encouraged the members to ask questions because when he calls for a vote it will be with the caveat that the report gets approved with the understanding that this recommendation is added under Subcommittee 1.

There were no questions or comments from any task force members.

Mr. Mohip asked if there was anything else in this report that task force members wanted to discuss before moving to a final vote?

There were no questions or comments from any task force members.

Mr. Mohip asked for a motion to approve the Whole Child Task Force Report with the understanding that there will be grammatical changes and the references and recommendation previously discussed will be added.

Ms. Aguirre made the motion to approve the final report with the discussed changes. Ms. Argue-Mason seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken. All voted in favor.

Karyn Aguirre
Kristine Argue-Mason
Sheila Ashby
Dr. Terri Bresnahan
Chris Bridges
Maryam Brotine
Dr. Colleen Cicchetti
Dr. Maria Del Carmen Robles Sinkule
Dale Fowler
America Gutierrez
Jaime Guzman
Dr. Colandra Hamilton
Dr. Lori James-Gross

Dr. Shaniqua Jones
Dr. Jody Lack
Hina Mahmoud
Rita Mayfield
Victoria Mikos
Krish Mohip
Dr. Tiffany Nelson
Barbara Outten
Lauren Pett
Courtney Pharms-Marks
Dr. Kennedy Strickland-Dixon
Darlene Waier
Ann Whalen

The motion carried.

Mr. Mohip thanked everyone. He stated that it was a long road to get here. He added that he was excited that the report will be cleaned up and will go to the General Assembly by the March 15 deadline.

VI. Task Force Next Steps

Mr. Mohip explained that the report will be edited for any grammatical errors and the citations will be added along with the last recommendation. Once that is complete, it will go back to the copy editor, next to the State Superintendent of Education for a signature, and then to the General Assembly.

VII. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

VIII. New Business

Dr. Cicchetti asked if the task force members had any official role after the editing and references and recommendation were added?

Mr. Mohip stated that once the report is submitted by March 15, the task force will dissolve according to the statute. He added that, unfortunately, our road has come to an end here, but we've all made great relationships and contacts throughout this experience.

Ms. Whalen asked if ISBE plans to do any public release of the report?

Mr. Mohip stated that typically ISBE does. He added that there was a press release for the last task force he served on, but he would connect with the communications team to get a better answer as to what the plan is to get the report out widely. He explained that the State Superintendent will most likely send out a message through the *ISBE Weekly Message* to all the superintendents in the field, but he will speak with the external communications team to see how else this report will be dispersed to other areas of the state, not just superintendents.

Dr. Cicchetti asked that given that this was Senator Lightford's legislation initially, does she have a special role in taking these recommendations and moving them forward?

Mr. Mohip answered that he was unsure. He added that Mr. Rodriguez from the ISBE intergovernmental team is listening in to the call, so he will make sure to ask him about that.

Dr. Cicchetti stated that there are multiple legislators who are very interested in children's mental health right now.

Mr. Mohip agreed. He added that there is a lot of interest in the field and a lot of interest in the General Assembly about this, so he would not be surprised if there is talked about the work that the task force just finished.

Dr. Cicchetti stated that May 25 is the Annual Trauma-Informed Illinois Awareness Day. She suggested that if there is going to be a press release, that may be a good day to do that or perhaps adopt the definitions. She added that it would be great to make a plan that in the next year we move this work and report forward so that Illinois could be declared a trauma-informed state.

Mr. Mohip thanked Dr. Cicchetti for sharing.

Mr. Mohip asked if other members had any final words.

Ms. Mikos thanked Mr. Mohip for his leadership and for his flexibility at the start of the task force when the members decided to develop common definitions.

Mr. Mohip stated that he was glad the members did because it led to a much better product.

Ms. Mikos thanked him again.

Mr. Mohip welcomed Senator Lightford. He informed her that the members came to an agreement and approved the report with a few modifications.

Mr. Mohip asked Senator Lightford if she had any last words.

Senator Lightford thanked Mr. Mohip and all the members for their time and for their commitment to seeing the task force through. She stated that it took a long time initially to even define the terms, but the importance of the definitions pertaining to school and trauma will line up with the guiding principles.

Mr. Mohip thanked Senator Lightford for her vision and for her colleagues who made this possible.

IX. Adjourn

Mr. Mohip thanked the members for their hard work and adjourned the meeting at 3:42 p.m.

Dates, times, and locations are subject to change at the direction of the chair. Please check www.isbe.net/wholechild for official meeting postings.