

Connecticut Governor's Task Force Planning Retreat Recommendations

A subgroup of the Connecticut Governor's Task Force (GTF) held a full day retreat on June 13, 2017 to discuss and review priority focus areas for GTF including the partnership between the GTF and CCA. It was acknowledged that although CTs grant application has historically received a favorable review, there are areas that could potentially be bolstered (e.g., system gaps and barriers) and others that may need a fresh look with an eye toward sustainability.

RECOMMENDATION #1: Use the next six months to develop a framework and plans for the next federal grant application which is due May 2018. Four ad-hoc groups will be established to replace all the existing workgroups and committees as follows:

1. MDT/CAC Evaluation & Quality Assurance (volunteer lead: Paula Schaffer)

This ad-hoc group will develop a plan for how the CT and NCA standards and the MDT evaluation process can be aligned and potentially streamlined and how data is collected and utilized.

2. Training (volunteer lead: Margaret Doherty)

This ad-hoc group will assess what training is provided both GTF and CCA including Finding Words, Minimal Facts, MDT training; explore sustainability options, and identify training needs and gaps.

3. System Gaps & Barriers (volunteer lead: John Leventhal)

This ad-hoc group will look at system/service gaps and barriers as well practice fidelity issues (e.g., forensic interviewers, medical interviews, etc.) that have been previously brought to GTF; develop a systemic process for GTF to discuss and track system gaps/barriers on a regular basis and; identify strategies for GTF to develop a common policy platform or agenda.

4. Child Fatality Response (volunteer lead: Faith Vos Winkel)

This ad-hoc group will explore the potential of a developing a local pilot and a plan for implementation.

It was further agreed that the Victim Services ad-hoc workgroup would continue to meet given they have renewed traction, to discuss what if anything needs to be considered by the new ad-hoc groups and the new grant application.

The new ad-hoc groups would be convened in September and each group would present a plan to the full GTF by February so that priorities and a budget can be voted on in March.

RECOMMENDATION #2: Discuss possible restructuring of the GTF meeting schedule and agenda.

Retreat participants noted several issues: there never seems to be enough time on the agenda to have substantive discussion of issues; most of the substantive discussions occur at Executive Committee; the role of the Executive Committee; frequency of GTF meetings given that if a meeting gets cancelled GTF could go for six months without meeting; system barriers need to be a standing agenda item with action and accountability; meetings should include education on emerging issues and the membership and terms of membership need to be reviewed.