

Children's Code Reform Task Force (CCRTF)
October 1, 2024
4.00 - 5.30 p.m.

Members present

Cristen Conley, Chair
Brandie White
Leslie Jones
Alison Endicott-Quinones
Mary McQueeney
John Romero
Rosenda Chavez
Judge Alma Cristina Roberson
Beth Gillia
Bette Fleishman
Catherine Pavelski
Lorilynn Violanta

Introductions

Cristen Conley introduced herself. She is serving as the Task Force Chair. Ms. Conley is also the Executive Director of the Corinne Wolfe Center for Child and Family Justice, University of New Mexico School of Law. The task force members then introduced themselves and briefly described the work they perform in the child welfare system.

Task force processes

Cristen Conley noted that this iteration of the task force has a compressed meeting schedule. During the months of October and November, the three subcommittees (FINCOS, Juvenile Justice, and Revisions and Recommendations) will meet and the subcommittees will generate proposals for the consideration of the entire task force. The task force will publish a final report by the end of the 2024 calendar year.

Next, there was a brief discussion regarding whether the task force should add new members on an ad hoc basis. The consensus was that, given the compressed time frame, new members will be added on an ad hoc basis. Subsequently, a motion was offered to add NMCAN as a new task force member. That motion was adopted unanimously and NMCAN will be represented by Lorilynn Violanta and youth leaders in NMCAN's programs. Additionally, a motion was offered to add

Amanda Romero, Chief Children's Court Attorney for CYFD, as a new task force member. That motion was adopted unanimously.

Subcommittees: rosters and meeting schedules

Cristen Conley led a discussion regarding revised rosters for the subcommittees and meeting schedules for the subcommittees. Set forth below are the revised subcommittee rosters:

FINCOS Subcommittee

Leslie Jones, Co-Chair
Amanda Romero, Co-Chair
Mary McQueeney
Shelly Bucher
Catherine Pavelski
Alison Endicott-Quinones
Lorilynn Violanta
Catherine Pavelski
Alison Pauk

Juvenile Justice Subcommittee

Matt Cockman, Co-Chair
Judge Alma Roberson
John Romero
Shira Greenberg
Carolyn Casillas
Senator Linda Lopez
Justin Boyd

Revisions and Recommendations Subcommittee

Cristen Conley, Co-Chair
Catherine Pavelski, Co-Chair
Alison Endicott-Quinones
Beth Gillia
Shelly Bucher
Judge Alma Roberson
Brandie White
Mary McQueeney
Rosenda Chavez
Lorilynn Violanta

The FINCOS subcommittee will meet on October 9th and October 23rd. Both meetings will be held at 5.00 p.m.

The Revisions and Recommendations subcommittee will meet on October 3rd at 4.00 p.m., on October 10th at 9.00 a.m., and on October 25th at 12.30 p.m.

The Juvenile Justice subcommittee has not set a meeting schedule yet. John Romero will contact Matthew Cockman to schedule an initial meeting for that subcommittee.

Discussion of comments from legislators concerning task force legislative proposals

Task force members made presentations to the interim legislative Health and Human Services committee and the Courts, Corrections and Justice committee. The presentations included discussions with lawmakers regarding legislative proposals crafted by the task force and included in the final report published on June 30, 2024. In general, comments from legislators concerned the proposed amendments to the definition of “neglected child”, definitions used for “firearm” and “deadly weapon”, and revised judicial timelines set forth in a legislative proposal.

Public comment

There was no public comment.

Miscellaneous items

The judiciary will begin collecting data on the frequency and duration of continuances granted by the courts in child welfare cases.

Task force members discussed the value of publishing one-page fact sheets that summarize our legislative proposals. Kathleen Sabo will distribute the Crossover Youth fact sheet, which may be useful as an example.

The organization www.zerotothree.org was mentioned with an eye toward being aware that circumstances may be different for children in this age range and engender separate legislative proposals.

Next task force meeting

The next task force meeting will be held on November 7th, at 4.00 p.m.