

Children's Code Reform Task Force (CCRTF)
September 5, 2024
4.00 - 5.30 p.m.

Members present

Cristen Conley, Chair

Leslie Jones

Justin Boyd

Shelly Bucher

Carolyn Casillas

Beth Gillia

Matt Cockman

Senator Linda Lopez

Brandie White

Mary McQueeney

Alison Endicott-Quinones

Catherine Pavelski

Judge Alma Roberson

Others present related to the task force

Alison Pauk

Kathleen Sabo

Tony Ortiz

Lorilynn Violanta (NMCAN Rep.)

Introduction, Cristen Conley, Task Force Chair

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. She then asked Kathleen Sabo and Tony Ortiz to introduce themselves. Ms. Sabo is serving as the Task Force Coordinator and Mr. Ortiz is serving as Task Force Staff.

Ground rules

Ms. Conley asked task force members to keep their cameras on during the meeting. Members of the public will not appear on-screen. There is not time for oral "public comment" today, but members of the public can submit comments via the chat. Time for public comment will be available at future meetings.

Also, Ms. Conley reminded members that the task force will continue to operate pursuant to a resolution that was adopted by the task force when this effort began. The resolution has been posted to the chat and can also be found on the web site for the Corinne Wolfe Center for Child and Family Justice.

Brief description of pathway task force has been on

The task force published a report that detailed its work, including legislative proposals and recommendations for further consideration, on June 30, 2024. Recently, task force staff and members have discussed the report with two interim legislative committees: the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee and the Health and Human Services Committee. We may also be asked to testify before the Senate Memorial 5 (2024) task force in October.

This iteration of the task force is being supported financially by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Funding from the foundation may only be used for developing policy recommendations and lobbying is not permitted. However, if invited, we are permitted to testify before the legislature.

Self-introduction of task force members

The task force members introduced themselves and briefly described the work they perform in the child welfare system.

Identification of new subcommittees and scope of work

Ms. Conley explained that she and staff met last week with task force members John Romero and Shira Greenberg, as they were unable to attend the meeting today. Ms. Conley shared their thoughts regarding issues to focus on and possible subcommittee work going forward.

Next, there was a discussion among the members regarding issues and possible subcommittee work. Following that discussion, the task force agreed to create the following subcommittees:

- a subcommittee that will work on proposed amendments to the Families in Need of Court-Ordered Services (FINCOS) Act in the Children's Code. It was noted that the Children, Youth and Families Department is currently working on proposed amendments to FINCOS;
- a subcommittee that will focus on juvenile justice issues, including proposals that have been floated by Bernalillo County officials. Staff and some members have already collected research regarding brain development in adolescents and the effect of trauma on youth; and
- a subcommittee that will focus on potential revisions to the legislative proposals set forth in the June 30th task force report, and that will further develop recommendations set forth in that report.

Next, the task force members selected the subcommittees they want to serve on and determined co-chairs for the subcommittees. Currently, the subcommittee rosters are as follows:

FINCOS Subcommittee

Leslie Jones, Co-Chair
Mary McQueeney, Co-Chair
Shelly Bucher
Catherine Pavelski
Alison Endicott-Quinones

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

Alison Endicott-Quinones, Co-Chair
Beth Gillia
Shelly Bucher
Judge Alma Roberson
Brandie White
Mary McQueeney

Possible new task force members

Ms. Conley led a discussion concerning the possible addition of new members to the task force. Suggestions included the following:

- a prosecutor who is versed in Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiatives (JDAI);
- a foster parent or a resource parent;
- representatives from the diverse Native American population in New Mexico;
- line staff for the Children, Youth and Families Department;
- Judge Angie Schneider; and
- a Republican legislator.

Future meeting schedule

Future task force meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each succeeding month, except in October when we will meet on Tuesday, October 1st. All task force meetings are scheduled for 4.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Next meeting

The next task force meeting will be held on October 1, 2024, 4:00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.