



2015 Governor's Task Force on the Protection of Children Task Force Recommendations – Status Update

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2014-15 Governor's Task Force on the Protection of Children

- Established in 2014
- Met from October 2014 – March 2015
 - Final Report and Recommendations: <https://www.lrl.mn.gov/docs/2015/other/150620.pdf>
- Made 93 recommendations to the pre-court portion of Minnesota's child protection system in several areas:
 - Maltreatment report screening
 - Investigation and Family Assessment
 - Racial equity & disparities reduction
 - Training
 - Oversight of county performance
 - Transparency
 - Adequacy of resources

Maltreatment report screening

- Child Protection Intake, Screening and Response Path Guidelines
 - Compulsory requirements
 - Standardized child safety focused practice
 - The guidelines address recommendations (recs. 2 – 8, 13 – 14, 16, 18, 20, 26 – 27, 30, 36 – 38, 59)
- Additional guidance
 - Minnesota’s Best Practice Guide for the Co-occurrence of Child Maltreatment and Domestic Violence (see recs: 10 – 11, 17)
 - Minnesota’s Best Practices for Family Assessment and Family Investigation (recs 15, 19, 21 – 22, 30, 32 – 33, 36 – 37, 59)
 - Minnesota’s Best Practice Guide for Responding to Prenatal Exposure to Substance Use (rec 20)

Investigation and Family Assessment

Investigation and family assessment have been standardized as *involuntary child protection responses to alleged child maltreatment*.

- Improved interview protocols
- Fact finding required for both responses
- See: Minnesota's Best Practices for Family Assessment and Family Investigation – updated in December, 2020

Racial equity & disparities reduction

- Increased cultural competence and diversity among key staff (rec. 52)
- Established American Indian Wellbeing and Children and Families of African Heritage units (recs. 52, 56, 63)
- Tribal Child Welfare Training and Certification Partnership (recs. 55, 63, 65)
 - Certification in Indian Child Welfare Act competencies
- Expansion of the American Indian Child Welfare Initiative (rec. 60)
 - January 2021 – Red Lake Nation joined the Initiative
 - 2022 budget request – planning funds for Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe to join the Initiative

- **Minnesota Child Welfare Training Academy** (recs. 55, 65 – 66, 70, 71)
 - Established by the legislature during the 2019 session
 - Includes multiple sites, including Roseville, Detroit Lakes, Duluth, Marshall and Owatonna
 - Grand opening of the Roseville location on Thursday, September 22 at 9:00 am
- **Tribal Training and Certification Partnership** (recs. 55, 63, 65)

Current areas of system and practice improvement

- Federal Family First Preservation Services Act reducing reliance on congregate care and focus on family preservation
- Address inefficiencies and unreliability of SSIS
- Ongoing agency work with the national Capacity Building Center for States to develop child safety tools through a safety framework

Questions? Thank you!