

Governor's Task Force on the Protection of Children Preliminary Recommendations Adopted

The Governor's Task Force on the Protection of Children met last Friday to adopt its preliminary recommendations to Governor Dayton. The chairs of the subgroups presented recommendations from the Transparency and Screening, Family Assessment/Adequacy of Resources and Training and Supervision of Practice workgroups.

The Task Force considered 29 draft recommendations from the workgroups and adopted the majority of those with some changes. An official document incorporating the preliminary recommendations is not yet available, but will be shared with you when it is public.

At this time, the recommendations are best characterized as a framework and the sub-groups will continue to further develop the majority of them.

Here are some of the key aspects of the preliminary recommendations:

- Unanimous agreement that a repeal of the prohibition against use of past screened out reports be considered immediately when the Legislature convenes-rather than wait until the Task Force completes its work
- Removing reference to Family assessment as the preferred response in statute
- A requirement that county attorneys be consulted prior to case closure if a family refuses services and safety issues are identified, under both the Family Assessment and Family Investigation tracks
- Enhanced cooperation with law enforcement and county attorneys
- Enhanced training for child protection supervisors
- Extension of data retention in SSIS
- Amending statute to allow screeners to seek collateral information
- Broadening the definition of "substantial child endangerment"

Lastly, the recommendations include a discussion on the need to examine the amount of resources that are necessary to implement changes. The Task Force will be exploring that issue when it reconvenes in January.

Again, the full preliminary recommendations will be shared with you once an official document is available.

Please let me know if you have questions at this time.

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Director

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