

**Task Force on Strengthening the Child Welfare Workforce for Children and Families**  
WebEx/Conference Call

**April 8, 2020 – 10:00-11:00a.m.**  
**MINUTES**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT (in person)</b>	<b>MEMBERS PRESENT (via phone)</b>	<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>
N/A - WebEx	Mark Stutrud	Sen. Robert Peters
	Sen. Julie Morrison	Rep. Steven Reick
	Rep. Mary Edly Allen	Jan Stepto-Millett
	Sen. Steve McClure	Paola Baldo
	Rep. Mike Marron	
	Rep. Karina Villa	
	Sen. Craig Wilcox	
	Betsy Goulet	
	Royce Kirkpatrick	
	Anne Irving	
	Lisa Jones	
	Deb McCarrel	

**I. Welcome and Call to Order**

**II. Review and Approval of Minutes**

The March 4, 2020 minutes were approved pending addition of attendance info.

**III. Discussion/Vote: Postponement of Random Moment Time Study**

Dr. Tamara Fuller led discussion on the Random Moment Time Study (RMTS). She reminded the group of the three research components laid out in legislation – literature and policy review, employer survey, and time log analysis.

Dr. Fuller expressed that if the purpose of the RMTS is to get an accurate representation of the work, and if researchers collect data now while changes are taking place due to COVID-19, they will not get an accurate representation of business-as-usual child welfare practice. W

There was a recommendation to postpone the RMTS until we have a better sense of when things may go back to normal. CFRC is proceeding with the other two research components: the literature review and employer survey.

Royce Kirkpatrick shared that DCFS has suspended its federal RMTS for the same reason.

Deb McCarrel stated she had no objections to that, and the postponement makes sense. Rep.

Edly-Allen stated she would lean on professionals and their recommendations, and would support majority.

Rep. Villa asked if it would be beneficial to do a crisis comparison, and if it would be worth the group's time to consider a different option – one study now and one later.

Deb McCarrel asked what that would attempt to capture now from workforce perspective. Since we don't know what system will look like on the other side, this may bubble things to top that DCFS will be able to remediate, but she doubted things will go back to the way they were before.

Dr. Fuller stated that the RMTS is a huge undertaking, and if the federal is suspended, it would take weeks to get a second RMTS up and running. Dr. Fuller noted that categories have not yet been created to include in the new one, and she is not sure how quickly it could get up and running since CFRC needs input from DCFS/POS on those categories. Her recommendation is to wait, not indefinitely but at least until we get a sense that things changing rapidly.

Betsy Goulet said she agreed with Dr. Fuller on suspending the RMTS and wondered if there were alternative activities or exploration the task force could work on in the interim.

Sen. Morrison stated that she agreed as well and asked what the task force can be looking at besides that.

Dr. Fuller asked what can be collected right now that would be of use during time of transition and new ways of doing practice.

Royce suggested that since the RMTS tool itself and categories were not yet finalized, the task force could work on that. Dr. Fuller agreed. She reported that Birdell Fry had sent the federal categories already.

Deb reported that Michael from CFRC reached out to ICOY regarding categories of staff for the employer survey.

Sen. Morrison asked about what the task force can learn from this moment in time to apply to future efforts/call back rate etc. for example from hotline/call reduction.

Rep. Villa stated she was not surprised in the decrease in call volume and is concerned about what children are doing right now who don't have school social workers with them.

Royce reported that callbacks are down and calls overall are down. DCFS can give numbers and the group can compare to the summer timeframe.

Sen. Morrison requested info on the gap between school end and when summer camps typically starts – the first or second week of June, and then late August before school starts.

Sen. McClure made a motion to postpone the Random Moment Time Study due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Royce Kirkpatrick seconded. The motion passed.

**IV. Public Comment**  
None

**V. Adjournment**