

Minnesota Supreme Court Council on Child Protection and Maltreatment Prevention

Status Report

January 15, 2025

Council Purpose: To develop a comprehensive blueprint to improve Minnesota's child protection system that addresses all aspects of the system, including early intervention and prevention of unnecessary entry of children and families into the system.

Council and Executive Committee Members: The Council is comprised of the individuals and organizations specified in the authorizing legislation, [Minn. Laws Chapter 115, Article 12, Section 30](#), as well as others who have a deep understanding of Minnesota's various child protection systems' strengths, challenges, and ideas for improvement.

In addition, Justice McKeig has established an Executive Committee comprised of national and state experts who serve as advisors because of their deep knowledge of child welfare. We are also looking at other taskforce work commenced in other states, such as Colorado, undertaken for a like purpose. The Council is also gathering best practice information and data from across the country.



Council Members
(1-8-2025)

Presentations: The Council held its first meeting in August 2024. Since then, the Council has met twice monthly for a total of eight meetings during which it received presentations on and held discussions regarding the following topics:

- Primary focus of Council – ensuring child safety, permanency, and well-being
- Overview of final report and recommendations from the 2015 Governor's Task Force on the Protection of Children
- Overview of child protection processes and procedures for social services agencies and juvenile courts from maltreatment report to permanency
- National research on intended purpose of "family assessment"
- Minnesota "family assessment" – Intended purpose and application
- Overview of Child Advocacy Studies (CAST)
- Educational needs of children impacted by the child welfare system, including those in foster care or at risk of foster care

- Use of Title IV-E reimbursement funds to support professional education for child welfare practice
- Overview of Child Advocacy Centers (CACs)
- National Center for State Courts’ “Upstream” initiative
- Planning for Council’s town hall meetings and listening sessions

Initial Focus Areas: Based on the presentations received so far, the Council has identified the following initial, broad focus areas on which to concentrate its blueprint recommendations:

- Maltreatment prevention and intervention
- Social services practices and procedures
- Juvenile court practices and procedures
- Workforce development needs
- Federal, state, and local funding streams
- Public/private partnerships
- Child protection public health campaign
- Children’s mental health
- Educational stability

Focus Groups and Town Hall-Style Listening Sessions: The Council is in the process of planning facilitated focus groups and/or town hall-style listening sessions.

- The primary goal of these sessions will be to hear directly from stakeholders on (1) the role that community can play in preventing maltreatment and (2) perceived strengths and weaknesses of Minnesota’s current child welfare system.
- A second goal is to hear ideas of promising practices or potential solutions to issues with the various systems.

The Council will use this feedback to develop and refine its blueprint for improving the child welfare and maltreatment prevention systems.

Participants for these facilitated sessions will be engaged with attention toward geographic, racial, and gender diversity and will include both individuals and organizations. The following groups have been tentatively identified as participants:

- Those with lived experience
- Those in the community (including tribal communities, faith communities, and communities of color)
- Mandated reporters
- Professionals working in the child protection system