



**Summary of current implementation of recommendations from the  
Governor’s Task Force on the Protection of Children**

**Recommendations initiated or implemented as of Aug. 21, 2015:**

<b>#</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	Revise the public policy statement to identify child safety as the paramount consideration for decision making.
2	Repeal the statutory provision barring consideration of previously screened-out reports.
13	Send all reports of maltreatment (screened in and screened out) to law enforcement.
14	Amend statutes to allow screeners to seek collateral information from mandated reporters when making screening decisions.
15	Clarify statutory provisions regarding release of data to mandated reporters.
19	Amend the statutory definition of “physical abuse” to delete the language “that are done in anger or without regard to the safety of the child.”
23	Change the statutory definition of “report.”
31	Make child safety the focus of any child protection response, and amend the statute to remove identification of differential response as the preferred response method.
43	Require consultation with the county or tribal attorney to determine the appropriateness of filing a CHIPS petition prior to closing a child protection case when a family has not engaged in services, and child safety and/or risk issues have not been mitigated.
53	Support development of “cultural navigator” and parent mentor positions to act as liaisons with racial and ethnic communities.
54	Identify and link previous and current disparities work to future intervention strategies.
58	Include representation from the African-American community, tribes and other underrepresented groups in development of policy guidance, best practice strategies and protocols.
59	Provide clear guidance about including a tribal representative as part of a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) whenever a case involving a tribal child is reviewed.
62	Increase monitoring and evaluation.
67	Continue to support Title IV-E educational programs available through Minnesota colleges and universities.
77	Identify outcome measures for child safety and child well-being.
79	Continue statewide review of screened-out reports.
83	Restructure the annual statewide child welfare report.
87	Increase funding for county staffing to carry out additional casework responsibilities.
88	Provide additional funding for intervention services needed to support children and families.

90	Allocate competitive grants to identify, develop and adapt culturally affirming promising practices or programs that address disparities and disproportionality in the child welfare system.
91	Increase funding for state oversight, including monitoring, training, child fatality reviews, grant management, quality assurance, etc.
93	Prioritize all recommendations to develop a multi-year implementation plan.

**Recommendations currently being addressed by work groups:**

**Intake, Screening and Response Path Guidelines Work Group**

This work group is addressing the following recommendations on revisions to Minnesota’s Child Maltreatment Screening Guidelines, which will be released on or by Oct. 1, 2015. The guidelines will also address, as appropriate, recommendations listed in the “completed” section above that do not require statutory revision.

#	Description
3	Make intake/screening decisions in consultation with a MDT, or minimally with a supervisor.
4	Review, revise and establish clear child protection intake, screening and track assignment guidelines.
5	Provide additional guidance on screening.
6	Implement a MDT approach to screening; consult with the county attorney’s office when there is ambiguity regarding screening decision (partial recommendation).
7	Screen new reports in as duplicate reports when they include the same allegations that are currently receiving a child protection response.
8	Require local county and tribal agencies to take a report even if it is not responsible for screening of a particular report because of jurisdictional issues.
12	At the point of intake, complete a search of pertinent records.
16a	*Amend the definition of “substantial child endangerment” to include injury to the face, head, back or abdomen of children under age 6, and injury to the buttocks of children under age 3.
16b	Amend the definition of “substantial child endangerment” to include failure to thrive due to parental neglect.
16d	Amend the definition of “substantial child endangerment” to include abandonment occurring when a parent has no contact with their child on a regular basis, and has not demonstrated consistent interest in the child’s well-being.
17	Develop and provide guidance for responding to reports involving allegations of domestic violence.
26	Revise guidelines to provide explicit guidance on reports related to older children.
30	Differential Response and Traditional Response are both involuntary child protection responses to reports of child maltreatment. Both must provide assessment of child safety while identifying key family strengths.
33	Ensure fact-finding occurs in all child protection responses.

36	Retain dual pathways for responding to reports of maltreatment, and define explicit criteria for immediate assignment of high risk allegations of maltreatment.
37	Develop a required information standard for making pathway response decisions.

\*Legislation required

### **Child Protection Fatality and Near Fatality Review Work Group**

The work group will convene on Sept. 8, 2015. It will address the following recommendations, with plans to implement a revised fatality/near fatality process on Jan. 1, 2016.

<b>#</b>	<b>Description</b>
75	Redesign the current child mortality review process to include two separate processes: one for reviewing child fatalities and near fatalities due to maltreatment and/or suspected maltreatment, and the other to review fatalities and near fatalities not due to maltreatment.
85	Develop a public website for the purpose of posting information on child fatalities classified as public by the Child Abuse, Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA).

## **2016 plan for initiating or implementing recommendations from the Governor’s Task Force on the Protection of Children**

### **Recommendations to be addressed by currently established work groups:**

#### **Professional Development Work Group**

The work group will convene on Sept. 3, 2015 to address the following recommendations. No policy or other guidance will be issued in 2015. The DHS Minnesota Child Welfare Training System (MCWTS) will continue to provide existing and enhanced training to child welfare staff as the workgroup completes its charge and identifies changes to the framework of the training system.

<b>#</b>	<b>Description</b>
63	Research, identify, develop curriculum and provide training on culturally affirming approaches and practices when working with African-American and American Indian families.
65	Enhance the Minnesota Child Welfare Training System, including development and implementation of a Child Protection Training Academy.
66	*Establish requirements for initial training and continuing education for supervisors.
69	*Require local agencies to develop and submit a plan for attending to secondary traumatic stress in the workforce.
72	*Require child protection staff, supervisors and managers to participate annually in advanced training.
73	Develop curriculum that fosters a multi-disciplinary approach on responding to reports of child maltreatment.

\*Legislation required

### **Other 2016 recommendations:**

There are plans to address, initiate and/or implement the following recommendations in 2016, some of which will result in additional guidance and/or training to local agency staff.

<b>#</b>	<b>Description</b>
9	Make needed information technology (IT) changes to ensure accountability regarding reports of maltreatment.
10	Require reporting of Orders for Protection (OFP) and Harassment Restraining Orders (HRO) where a child was present as a maltreatment report.
11	Develop practice models related to closing cases when an OFP or HRO has been filed.
24	Examine possible development of a statewide child abuse and neglect reporting system.
25	Engage an independent reviewer with expertise in child protection services to review Minnesota’s child protection system.
32	Interview children individually first and prior to contact with parent/legal guardian whenever possible. Research and implement training on best practices on child interviewing protocols.
34	Encourage and support the use of MDT decision making.
35	Adopt stronger, more robust intake and screening tools.

38	Define clear and consistent pathway assignment criteria.
39	Monitor and evaluate initial pathway assignments and path changes.
40	Review, update and validate all decision-making tools.
41	Identify a validated safety assessment tool.
46	Complete trauma pre-screenings on children during a child protection response.
47	Engage an outside expert to work with statewide staff to advise, develop and implement Minnesota's child protection response continuum.
48	Convene a work group for further analysis and definition of threats to child safety and risk of maltreatment as the foundation for developing a comprehensive child protection response continuum.
50	Make referrals for clinical, mental health and functional assessments for children and their families when indicated.
52	Model and provide leadership to reduce disparities.
60	*Expand the number of Initiative tribes.
81	Update the Social Services Information System (SSIS) system to ensure accurate data and reports.
82	Enhance the "Child Welfare Data Dashboard."
84	Provide a report to the Legislature by January 2016 describing progress on implementation of recommendations, plans for longer-term child welfare reforms, and key drivers that result in children/families entering the child welfare system.
92	*Increase funding for intake and screening tools.

\*Legislation required