

**Legislative Task Force on Child Protection**

Senator Nicole Mitchell, Co-Chair of the Task Force on Child Protection, called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This meeting was held in person at the Minnesota Senate Building hearing room 1150, with hybrid options facilitated through Zoom and broadcast via Senate Information Services.

**Members present:**

MITCHELL, Nicole, Co-Chair  
PINTO, Dave, Co-Chair  
HASSAN, Hodan, Co-Vice Chair  
HANSON, Jessica  
HOFFMAN, John  
HOUSLEY, Karin  
KRESHA, Ron  
KREUN, Michael  
MATHEWS, Andrew  
MUELLER, Patricia  
WIKLUND, Melissa (visiting member not apart of Task Force)

**Members excused:**

CHAMPION, Bobby Joe, Co-Vice Chair  
DEMUTH, Lisa

Judy Randall and David Kirchner from the Office of the Legislative Auditor provided a presentation on the 2022 OLA Evaluation Report on Child Protection Removals and Reunifications. Members then held discussion and asked questions regarding the information provided. No official action was taken.

Jodi Harpstead, Commissioner of the Department of Human Services, provided brief remarks on the recent Star Tribute series “In Harm’s Way” and a statement on behalf of DHS. Members asked questions regarding the information provided. No official action was taken.

Bharti Wahi, Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Children and Family Services, and Rebecca Wilcox, Prevention and Safety Manager for the Child Safety and Permanency Division, provided a presentation on DHS’s October 2023 Minnesota Child Maltreatment Intake, Screening and Response Path Guidelines. Members then held discussion and asked questions regarding the information provided. No official action was taken.

Stacy Hennen, Director of Western Prairie and Traverse County Department of Human Services, provided a presentation on the county-level overview of Family Assessment and Family Investigation, along with areas for improvement within child protection services. Members then held discussion and asked questions regarding the information provided. No official action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:14 PM.

1:02 – Gavel in  
1:13 – Member introductions  
1:28 – Presentation by OLA  
2:23 – Remarks from Comm. Harpstead  
2:31 – Presentation by DHS  
3:19 – Presentation by counties  
4:08 – closing remarks  
4:14 – adjournment