

**Serving the Upper Midwest
for over seventy-five years!**



118 Central Avenue
Nashwauk, MN 55769
Phone: 218.885.3242
Toll Free: 888.474.3242
Fax: 218.885.3245
www.afscmecouncil65.or

101 South Fairfax Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57103
Phone: 605.251.5898

After reading the information regarding why the Child Protection Taskforce was created, recalling my own experience as a Child Protection Investigator, observing the taskforce in action, and talking to frontline workers some things became clear to me.

- The tragic circumstances that brought about this taskforce are concerning to everyone.
- Child Protection Investigators & Case Managers are frustrated that they are not being asked to be a part of this & do not get a voice in this process.
- Social Work Training includes work in Systems Theory.
 - o If you visualize touching a Child's Mobile, one small movement makes the whole Mobile move.
 - o Workers are hoping that the Taskforce looks at this process the same way so there are not unintended consequences.
- The Workers are concerned that they will spend even more time behind computers recording data that is supposed to measure child safety and less time helping families make meaningful changes to protect these children.
- Workers want changes made in St. Paul to be helpful in the rural counties of Minnesota as well, where resources are limited and budgets are inadequate.
- It is time to invest in the protection of Children with Dollars, not just rhetoric & administration.
- County Workers know their communities & resources, they are concerned that DHS doesn't, and are extremely fearful of DHS making sweeping changes/rules that are not practical in their areas.
- It is not the Child Protection Service Providers alone in providing these services to keep children Safe in MN. It also means the Attorneys, Law Enforcement, Judges, Guardian ad Litem, and service providers need to be trained to respond appropriately

Jo Musel Parr
Staff Representative
AFSCME Council 65