

**New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect
Staffing and Oversight Review Subcommittee
Ceil Zalkind, Esq, Chair
Rita Gulden, Vice-Chair
January 10, 2012
10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
Minutes**

In Attendance

Marygrace Billek	Mercer County Human Services
James Chester	FAFS
Amy Fischer	Administrative Office of the Courts
Rita Gulden	CASA of New Jersey
Debra Jennings	Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, Inc.
Laurie McCabe	NJ Senate
Patricia Myers	Legal Services of New Jersey
Nancy Parello	Advocates for Children of New Jersey
John Ramos	DCF/DYFS - Director's Office
Barbara Rusen	DCF – Office of the Chief of Staff
Clarence Whittaker	DCF-DCBHS
Cecilia Zalkind	Advocates for Children of New Jersey

Staff

Jessica Trombetta	DCF-OAS
Adrienne E. Jackson	DCF-NJTFCAN

Introduction and Review of Minutes

Introductions were made and November meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

Old Business

It was confirmed that the Special Report: Measuring the Strengths and Needs of DYFS Workforce was distributed to the Governor, NJ Legislature, Task Force and DCF on Friday, December 2, 2012. Relative to the special report, Adrienne relayed to the group that a foster parent offered detailed feedback and expressed an interest in joining SORS. To that end, an application to join the subcommittee was provided to the foster parent.

Discussion continued around subcommittee recruitment. Specific individuals/agencies representatives were identified as potential members of the subcommittee. Members agreed to reach out to Adrienne with recommendations for membership.

Debrief Child Welfare Training Academy

A PowerPoint presentation was provided by Robert Ring, LSW, Director of DCF Child Welfare Training Academy in November 2011. Members reflected on this presentation commenting that the information was helpful. Discussion continued around the experience of the Academy Trainers, course array specific to identified area noted in the DYFS survey, course evaluation and recommendations. The subcommittee suggested that formal feedback be given to Commissioner Blake to acknowledge and compliment the Academy on what has been done well,

the implementation plan, and to request a follow up presentation so that SORS can have better insight and understanding of the Child Welfare Training Academy. The discussion transitioned to recommendations. Towards that end, SORS agreed to the following:

- Thank you letter to Commissioner Blake - with copy to Robert Ring – together with a request for follow up on specific issues resulting from the DYFS survey.
- Continue follow up to the survey and presentation on training
- Look at specifics of the monitor’s report – subcommittee interested in exploring DCF/DYFS plan around improving outcomes specific to visitation, case plans, customer service and engagement.

Retreat Report Review

NJ Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect approved to reestablish the Communication Committee. Subcommittee members were invited and encouraged to join. A copy of NJTFCAN retreat report was distributed to the group.

Adrienne provided an update on the status of service mapping. It was reported that progress has been made by DCF to develop a resource directory to capture all providers that offer services across the state. DCF expects to launch this project mid/late summer 2012.

Review of SORS Strategic Plan

NJ Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect requested that Committees and Subcommittee develop goals and objectives - similar to that of Prevention Committee. Towards that end, Ceil agreed to work on the document and follow up with members.

Presentation on Office of Adolescent Services – Jessica Trombetta, LCSW, Director

Jessica began by giving an overview of the scope and work of the Office of Adolescent Services (OAS). A copy of the Team Directory and Strategic Plan: “Striving for Success in Transitions to Adulthood – New Jersey – DCF Adolescent Services Strategic Plan” was distributed. The eight (8) domains of the Plan were discussed: Housing, Education and Employment, Physical and Mental Health, General Transition Support, Youth Engagement, Permanence and Familial Support, Criminal Justice/Legal Services and General – Cross Systems. Conversation continued around the goals, objectives, activities, timeline and status of each of the domains. Additional details identified in the presentation were provided to the group.

Additionally, the group was informed that a video is being created to address the benefits of youth keeping their DYFS case open. Jessica agreed to share the video with SORS when it becomes available.

Next Meeting & Announcements

March 13, 2012 - SORS requested a presentation on the Office of Quality. Adrienne will coordinate and arrange the presentation. Moving forward, SORS would like to discuss issuing another survey, and presentations on Educational Stability and the Office of Advocacy.