

**New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect
Protection Committee
Mark Ali, Esq, Chair
Liza Kirschenbaum, Esq, Vice-Chair
October 24, 2013
9:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M
Minutes**

In Attendance:

Mark Ali	Essex County Prosecutor's
Suzanne Alvino	DCF-CP&P
Lorraine Augustini	OPD-OLG
Rhona Beadle	New Jersey Children's Alliance Chapter
Doug Behan	Rutgers
Susan Curcio	Montclair State University
John Esmerado	Union County Child Advocacy Center
Lacy Hoffman	NJCAC
Liza Kirschenbaum	CASA of NJ
Leslie Malkin	NJCBW
Clinton Page	DCF-Office of Legal, Regulatory and Legislative Affairs
Melaney Payne	AOC-Criminal Practice
Stephanie Petrillo	AOC
Silena R. Shula	HCPO/VW/MDT
Judy Spinney	Therapist

Staff:

Ifeanyi Pole	DCF-NJTFCAN
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Introduction and Welcome

Introductions were made. Susan Alvino, Assistant Director of Case Practice of Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P) introduced herself and apologized for not attending the previous meeting. In her new position, she is the lead person in Case Practice for domestic violence and human trafficking.

August minutes were reviewed and approved.

Human Trafficking-Liza Kirschenbaum

Liza distributed handouts for discussion and feedback. The human trafficking workgroup is divided into three groups: Red Flags Subgroup, Human Trafficking-Therapeutic Subgroup and Human Trafficking Multidisciplinary Team Guidelines (HTMDT) workgroup. The charge is to develop a way of ensuring appropriate services and treatment of youth who have been trafficked. The term youth includes any youth until 21 years of age. The HTMDT workgroup thought that the MDT model would be appropriate to replicate. Based on the statutory changes that were implemented along with the human trafficking criminal laws, it placed initial responsibilities on Family Crisis Intervention Units (FCIU) to provide services and placement for minors of human trafficking. FCIUs are now a part of the workgroup. The DAGs office is tasked with developing protocols and is looking at what the workgroup is developing as a blueprint

for their protocols. There will be one way of doing things and making sure each agency needs are met and mostly the needs of the youth.

One of the groups will be focusing on creating questions/red flags for non-law enforcement people who come in contact with youth who may or may not be victims of trafficking. The red flags can be used by child welfare agencies, shelters, the health care profession, schools and anyone who comes into contact with youth. Feedback was requested for the red flags document and should be sent to Ifeanyi at Ifeanyi.Pole@dcf.state.nj.us and Liza at liza@casaofnj.org. The list is geared towards identifying the red flags and contacting the appropriate professionals who work with youth of human trafficking. Discussion ensued around whether or not consent is needed to make the appropriate calls to the professionals.

The second group is charged with developing the Human Trafficking MDT (HTMDT) guidelines and identifying who needs to be at the table reviewing the guidelines and providing input. The entire document was reviewed with the following: comments/feedback:

- It was stated that there is a void in regard to undocumented victims. Many agencies may have different responses to documented versus undocumented victims.
- The history section should reference DYFS now called DCP&P.
- Discussed victim advocates in various stages and question should there be more specificity in addressing NJCASA, NJCBW, NJ Task Force on Human Trafficking and other groups that may fall under victim advocates. The concern is the workgroup's desire that each HTMDT has the flexibility of bringing in the agency that is best suited to work with the victim. Also, there was a suggestion to add language referencing other agencies.
- Full names and the acronyms need to be used for clarity and consistency.
- Page 9- The last sentence should read: "based on informed independent autonomous decision making communicated to other systems and partners but informed by shared information".
- The topic of immigration will be discussed at the human trafficking workgroup meeting for feedback and guidance. Clinton Page will find out what happens in DCF for children with Special J Status (i.e. undocumented and the refugee population).
- Human Trafficking-Therapeutic Subgroup- Ifeanyi will take a look at the membership and see who we have from a Regional Diagnostic Treatment Centers (RDTTC) to assist. Dr. McCormick is interested in working with the group.
- Liza requested the regulations under Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

- Page 21 – if anyone is with entities that are going to be signing Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) to be a part of the HTMDT process, please take a look and get any other input you have to Liza as a fundamental component of a MOU or interagency protocol. Members of the committee have been informed that federal law enforcement entities are not going to be permitted to enter into MOUs. So other opportunities and methods to bring them to the table without a specific MOUS and probably done on a case by case basis with individuals cases as needed or appropriate.
- John Esmerado will provide information regarding the “Confidentiality” section.
- Stephanie Petrillo will be identifying folks from the FCIUs to be involved.
- The committee needs to decide if a glossary is needed to define the terms as they are used in the document, define the terms as they are legally defined by statute, or both.

Mark thanked Liza for stepping up and taking on the task of developing the guidelines.

Data Project

Currently, the project is looking at data disparity between the PROMIS gravel, DCF system and working with AOC. Overall the number of prosecutions in child sexual abuse is very low.

Batterer’s Accountability Workgroup

The workgroup has been at a standstill and is getting back on track. A survey has been prepared in order to proceed with the primary goal of developing necessary guidelines for assistant prosecutors to use in investigating charging, and prosecuting batterers in cases that involved domestic violence with child exposure. Dr. McCormick is assisting with getting the applications though Montclair State University’s Internal Review Board. The final content for the application will be ready for approval by the beginning of next semester. The goal is to have it rolled out and completed by the end of the semester. Sue Curcio and Doug Behan have been appointed the task of being trained to analyze the data. The articles and scholarly materials have been in the research bank to ensure that they are still current to develop the guidelines. Once the survey is complete, a workgroup will be formed to help with the substance of guidelines in the next couple of months. Any current research should be emailed to Sue at shcurico@usa.net.

John Esmerado will email the AOC report on “Prevention of Domestic Violence”. The report lists the data by county.

Gina Pfund, Chief Assistant Prosecutor of Passaic County is interested in participating in developing the guidelines. If anyone wants to work on the workgroup, they should contact Sue.

Old Business

At the last meeting, there was a discussion regarding members of the Task Force, committees and workgroups and ethics. The DCF Ethics Liaison Officer has been invited to attend the November 21st meeting. A request will be sent out to current and

old members to formulate questions or concerns. An invitation will be sent to Commissioner Blake to attend the meeting to provide some comments on this topic. One of the protection committee members suggested that this issue should be addressed at the Task Force level. As a reminder it was also restated that a recommendation to the Task Force was to adopt a confidentiality policy and to define what constitutes a conflict of interest.

The committee is always recruiting and if members know of anyone that is interested, please reach out them to join.

New Business

Three (3) Protection Committee members presented the MDT guidelines on Oct 3rd to fifteen counties. John Esmerado presented on the MDT guidelines to all the MDTs in the state. The presentation consisted of the guidelines, the roles and responsibilities of each of the different disciplines at the table and a mock case review. The goal was to incorporate this as an annual orientation for new MDTs. The entire process was recorded for future reference.

The question was asked whether the topic of child on child sexual abuse should be a topic that the committee can tackle in the future. It was stated that it has a lot to do on the research that Dr. Finkel is doing.

Next Meeting – November 21, 2013