

**New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect
Prevention Committee
Maura Somers Dughi, Esq, Chair
Diana Autin, Esq, Vice-Chair
July 16, 2013
9:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M
Minutes**

Christine Baker
Diane Dellanno
Jeanette Collins
Suzanne Conrad
Anthony DiFabio
Maura Somers Dughi
Gina Hernandez
Natasha Palmer
Maureen Braun Scalera

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Staff:

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Diane Dellanno Introduction and Review of Minutes

Diane Dellanno's membership will be voted on at the next Task Force meeting as a new member of the committee. Diane has done work in the field of prevention and is currently working on developing an infant/toddler policy agenda for the State.

The May 2013 minutes were reviewed and corrections were made. The minutes were approved with noted changes.

New Business

Protective Factors

At the last meeting, the committee discussed the six protective factors. The only challenge is that the Department uses the strengthening families' model, which has five protective factors. DCF have resolved how to move forward with incorporating the sixth factor.

Feedback on Prevention Plan

Due to the Super Bowl being held next year in NJ, the discussion regarding human trafficking has received more attention even though it has always existed. A lot of resources are being dedicated to this issue and the Protection Committee is looking at a protocol much like the MDT model. As this is a major initiative, the committee is looking at prevention strategies. The committee would like to use the Biennial Conference on September 20th in Atlantic City as an opportunity to get the word out about human trafficking. Maura will reach out to Adriana Agudelo to see what the Departmental efforts are and inform that the committee is interested in doing work around the prevention aspect.

Rutgers is beginning its statewide initiative on Sept 16th until the Super Bowl. In its initial one-day statewide mandatory training for all DCP&P staff, Rutgers will focus on:

target identification, awareness, and how to help the victims. The committee has expressed concern that there is nothing in the training about prevention.

The committee discussed the idea of taping a webinar which will be put on a CD for DCF staff. To encourage staff to view the CD, CEU credits would be given after staff completes the post quiz.

Anthony DiFabio will reach out to Kevin Ryan at Covenant House, after the August 20th meeting, to see if they have any programs in place on expanded services, and find out what is available in New Jersey. Maura will reach out to foundations contact, such as, Charlie Venti and Colleen McQuire to determine if funding is available to develop literature. Maura will also inquire with the Soroptimist Group, that focuses on girls and woman, to see internationally what kinds of efforts exist for prevention of human trafficking. The committee asked Gina Hernandez to check out Prevent Child Abuse America to see what they have in terms of training, awareness, and assessment tools, which are free.

Old Business

Standards Workgroup Update

The Workgroup met with Kerrie Ocasio on June 10, 2013 to continue their discussion from May 2, 2013 regarding updating the standards for prevention with the knowledge of what has been developed within the last ten years.

Prevention Planning Steering Committee

The Steering Committee meeting today has been canceled.

By statute, the plan expires on December 31, 2013 and the state is required to have a prevention plan. If the plan is not completed by December 31, 2013, the Prevention Committee will ask the Taskforce if it can be extended for a couple months until the new plan is ready. It will be noted in the next annual report, if necessary.

The Steering Committee consists of Diana Autin, Maura Somers Dughi, Rush Russell and various people throughout the state. Maura & Adrianna were point persons for the Department; however, Adriana's responsibilities have changed and she is now with Division on Women to help with the efforts of human trafficking. The new Deputy Director of DFCP has not been confirmed. A survey has been created which will go out in September. It has been drafted and piloted with a group of parents. The survey will also be available in Spanish and is in its final draft form. It has been determined that DCF will utilize a consultant from Casey Family Program to do the analysis of the content. A proposal has been submitted and we should hear back within the next week.

The committee discussed issues that need to be targeted in the prevention plan as far as "what don't we have in the prevention plan". The old plan was a summary of what existed and what was being done by Family and Community Partnership. This is an opportunity to get parents and community feedback though the survey. It was also mentioned that the Family Success Centers (FSC) staff are now being trained in the family development credentials and that more funding should be allocated to them.

The committee discussed that the State directories for each department needs to be updated. The committee was informed of DCF's resource directory which is listed on the website by county.

The Executive Coordinator sent an email to the Protection Committee, Human Trafficking Workgroup and the Task Force regarding the special Protection Committee meeting on August 20th in Trenton. The focus of the meeting is to recruit and revitalize the Protection Committee. All are welcome to attend.

The committee was informed of the NJ Small Business Administration meetings being held in Atlantic City, NJ on Oct 22, 23, & 24. The NJEA convention is being held on Nov 7-8. This would be a great opportunity to distribute information from the prevention prospective.

Next Meeting & Announcements

Workgroups Convened – next meeting September 17, 2013 – Trenton, NJ