

**New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect
Special Protection Committee Meeting
Mark Ali, Esq, Chair
Liza Kirschenbaum, Vice-Chair**

**Tuesday August 20, 2013
10:00 a.m.
20 West State Street, 2nd Floor (Conf. Room 218)**

Minutes

In Attendance:

Mark Ali	Essex County Prosecutor's Office
Greta Anderson	DCF-IAIU
Lorraine Augostini	OPD-OLG
Rhona Beadle	New Jersey Children's Alliance Chapter
Doug Behan	Rutgers University School of Social Work
John Esmerado	Union County Child Advocacy Center
Dr. Martin Finkel	Rowan University-School of Osteopathic Medicine
Liza Kirschenbaum	CASA of New Jersey
Leslie Malkin	NJCBW
Angela Melchionna	Department of Law
John Ramos	DCF-DCP&P
Judy Spinney	Therapist
Monique Higginbotham	CARES Institute
Stephanie Petrillo	AOC
Kelly Smith	JJC
Anthony D'Urso	AHCH-Hackensack Medical Center
Kim Maloney	DCF-Children's System of Care
Patrick Vance	DCF-Office of Adolescent Services
Kathy Friess	Division of Law & Public Safety
Ava Schelsinger	DVSACC-Warren County
Silena Shuta	HCPO/VW/MDT
Melaney Payne	AOC-Criminal Practice Judiciary
Sara Passaro	CASA
Maura Dughi Somers	Child & Family Advocate

Staff:

Ifeanyi D. Pole	DCF-NJTFCAN
Donna Younkin	DCF-Special Initiatives

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- **Introduction and Welcome - Mark Ali, Esq, Chair and Liza Kirschenbaum, Vice-Chair**
Introductions and brief overview of the purpose of the meeting were made.
- **Review Committee's Strategic Goals and Membership and Discussion of Disparity in NJ's Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT) - Open Discussion**
A reflection on the past challenges related to Committee membership, spirit and direction was discussed. Longstanding members offered that the Protection Committee has been a force of change of how children are protected in New Jersey. In an effort to return to this vitality, a future issue the Protection Committee may choose to address is child on child sexual abuse. It was also recommended to the Protection Committee to focus on achieving "bite-sized" goals and prioritize the issues the Committee has the ability of addressing. In addition, it was recommended that the members not limit what they can do. Finally, the consensus was that the Committee should partake in larger discussions on what is working and what is not working.
- **Old Business**
 - **Recap of Current Projects and Work Group Members**
 - **Human Trafficking:**
 - Currently, the Workgroup members are drafting the, "Guidelines of Practice for Human Trafficking Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs) in New Jersey and focusing work with "minors" and creating a uniform practice and reference the MDT model.
 - No where in the country is there a statewide approach to Human Trafficking.
 - It was suggested that the Committee invite a representative from Covenant House or another runaway support service organization to a future workgroup meeting.
 - The workgroup discussed the current availability of services for this population. The emergency room may be a primary place for initial and follow-up diagnostic treatment.
 - DCF is will be training staff and responding to addressing Human Trafficking services.
 - The August 28th Human Trafficking Workgroup meeting information was announced.
 - **Batterers' Accountability:**
 - The Committee requested a update on this workgroup's membership and a report presented at the November 21st meeting.
 - **Committee Membership**
 - The Committee members will like to develop some guidelines for participation in hopes of increasing the comfort level of members to engage in open conversations.

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- **Data Disparity Analysis on Child Abuse and Sexual Assault in New Jersey**
 - John Esmerado presented and discussed this work. After tabulating the data, he found a profound disparity in the data reflected in all of New Jersey's 21 counties. He found that the sexual assault data is low. John's hypothesis is that the data was not input correctly. For example, perhaps parentheses are being omitted from statutes. John and his interns will rerun the data and present his findings to the Committee in January 2014.
- **Next Meeting – October 24, 2013**
 - The members requested a 2014 NJTFCAN and Committees Meetings List.