

**New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect  
Prevention Committee  
Maura Somers Dughi, Esq, Chair  
Diana Autin, Esq, Vice-Chair  
September 17, 2013  
9:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M  
Minutes**

**In Attendance:**

Diana Autin	Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Christine Baker	Newark Beth Israel Medical Center
Suzanne Conrad	Consultant
Maura Somers Dughi	Child and Family Advocacy
Alice Hunnicutt	Department of Labor & Work Force Development
Natasha Palmer	NJ Department of Education
Rush Russell	Prevent Child Abuse-NJ
Gabriela Slomicz	Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Pat Stanislaski	Partnering for Prevention, LLC
Lisa von Pier	DCF-Family & Community Partnerships
Michelle Rupe	DCF-Family & Community Partnerships
Donna Younkin	DCF-Office of the Commissioner

**Introduction and Review of Minutes**

The committee was informed that the meeting would be recorded.

Introductions were made and the July 2013 minutes were reviewed and approved with noted changes.

**Comments:**

The discussion at the July's meeting was around the measurement and evaluation for Family Success Centers (FSC). Lisa discussed the Head Start Centers pilot project which focuses on developing relationships with families while children are very young, with the hopes that they would remain connected with the FSC when the children enter elementary school.

**Old Business**

Standards Workgroup Update

Ifeanyi will be emailing the committee the final draft of the Part Two: Standards of Prevention Programs and narratives which provide an explanation of changes to the standards, so that there is a more objective way of evaluating the standards. In addition, it was reported that Kerrie Ocasio from Rutgers University School of Social Work, who is assisting on this project, presented the standards at the meeting in May. In an effort to ensure that resources, citations and practice are current and reflected in the standards, Committee members were asked to review the documents thoroughly as previous standards were written 10 years ago. The Committee members were also asked if they have any resources that are used in their work to email them to Maura. There are many references in the original standards to Family Support Principles and Family Support America which no longer exist; however there are some things that are important which should be included in the standards. Therefore, the committee is looking for citations and references that are current and being actively used in practice. Please send them to

Maura at [msdchild@aol.com](mailto:msdchild@aol.com) and Kerrie at [kocasio@ssw.rutgers.edu](mailto:kocasio@ssw.rutgers.edu). Comments and feedback are due October 1, 2013.

### Prevention Planning Steering Committee

DCF has secured Clarus Consulting to collect and analyze data via surveys and focus groups to inform the State's Prevention Plan. The survey has been developed and is also available in Spanish. The targeted number of surveys has not yet been decided. It was discussed to request that agencies circulate the surveys to the families for their feedback and the agency would input the responses into the Survey Monkey to be analyzed.

The feedback workgroup looked at the review survey questions which include questions relating to the economic down turn, Superstorm Sandy and demographics. Two test pilots have been done with a group of African Americans, Latinos and White families in Essex County; and one with a group of Latino families in Northern and Central Jersey. The survey is complete. The distribution list and the consents are being finalized. Kickoff is expected in mid-October.

### Focus Group Updates

A handout of the proposed focus group meeting dates was distributed for discussion on the overall planning process. Focus group questions have been developed. The current step is to secure a couple of dates for the focus groups (5 parent/caregivers and 1 adolescent) as well as for individual interviews. The focus groups will be held in the evening. Dinner will be provided, child care, translation services and/or \$15 stipend to cover expenses. The interviews will be in person, in Trenton, and will last about sixty minutes. Phone interviews will be conducted for those who are unable to travel to Trenton. There are five slots for interviews coming up in mid-October. Once the Communications committee finalizes a few things, the formal invitation will be sent out. It was suggested that Anthony Welch, Governor's Office be invited to participate in the interviews on October 16<sup>th</sup>, Trenton, 7<sup>th</sup> floor. The question was asked whether or not each Department Commissioner would participate in the interviews. There was a concern about the information being received in terms of their understanding of prevention and mainly due to another staff preparing the briefing. It was also mentioned that the Committee utilize the limited number of slots to the best advantage to receive a wide sample. The Committee was encouraged to sign up for the interviews at the end of the meeting.

The prevention survey list a large number of prevention programs in New Jersey, which will allow for those agencies to receive the survey. The October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting with FSCs will focus on how to get the hard copies to the parents. Initially, it was indicated that the Committee wanted to do one thousand surveys, however another discussion with Clarus Consulting is necessary as their expectation is to analyze three hundred and fifty surveys. The conversation would be around understanding what they are planning to do in terms of the analysis of the survey. Also, Lisa and Michelle would like to have a conversation with the Committee and FCP staff to determine additional parent groups in which the hard copy should be made available to, who would be willing to hand out the surveys, get the surveys back and then input them into Survey Monkey. Further discussion ensued to determine if the Committee is interested in interviewing people who are interacting with the parents, because they are the ones that understand the dynamics and know what the real challenges are. A direct connection with the organization would have to be established in order to receive immediate follow-up. The committee members were asked to identify agencies (point person/committee member) in which they have connections that could help with the survey, and to relay the request to the committee members that are not present.

The goal is to get the electronic survey out the first week in October and quickly figure out how to get the hard copies distributed.

By statute, the current plan expires December 31, 2013. The Task Force has been informed about the current plan being extended for sixty days, in order to have a more informed plan with the additional analysis.

#### Policy workgroup

The workgroup is working on the policy to develop standards with a focus on the prevention of child sexual abuse that can be adopted by youth servicing organizations across the state. These standards will be part of the contracting process for DCF in 2014. The second policy initiative is the partnership efforts with the American Academy of Pediatrics to figure ways to strengthen the involvement of pediatricians in the conversation around child sexual abuse prevention. It was mentioned that a survey of pediatricians was conducted to better understand what they know about the child sexual abuse, their attitudes and willingness to talk about some of these issues. Other policy initiatives that the partnership have talked about are looking at the juvenile offenders, the Megan's law approach in New Jersey and understanding a more rehabilitating or therapeutic pathway for juveniles. The issue has been raised regarding children with disabilities and the increase risk around child sexual abuse. The planning process is still in the early stages in terms of putting together groups and figuring out what more needs to be done.

There will be an award given to Junius Scott at the 2013 Biennial New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect conference. Junius is scheduled to retire on October 3, 2013 bringing 42 years of Federal Service to a close. Junius spent the first three years with the U.S. Department of Labor and the last 39 with Health and Human Services.

In the future, there will be discussion around the prevention planning process, the family input focus groups, and understanding the data analysis and what data would be available through DCF's NJSPIRIT system (sub categories when abuse is reported, substantiated, and the risk factors recorded). This data will help the workgroup understand differences in trends.

#### Human Trafficking

Donna Younkin informed the Committee of DCF's efforts regarding human trafficking. The NJTFCAN Biennial Conference on September 20<sup>th</sup> will have representatives from Prevent Child Abuse-NJ, Polaris, FBI (discussing protection), Tracy Thompson from the Attorney General's office (discussing prosecution), and NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking to talk about partnership. In NJ, the Attorney General's office is taking the lead at the state level and New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking is targeting their efforts on public awareness and prevention. DCF is working on the four Ps: prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership. In regards to prevention, over 7,000 staff will be trained in October and bi-weekly newsletters are being sent out to staff and stakeholders to introduce the issue and bring them up to speed. Other departments have been contacting Donna, which have resulted in established partnerships.

The August trip to Connecticut was very informative. DCF and others were able to learn a lot from Connecticut regarding their efforts on human trafficking. Connecticut is one of the leading states in the country on this topic.

Donna has increased her knowledge about human trafficking through webinars and seminars. Because this is a national issue, she is informed about what is happening across the country. There are a lot of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that are

doing prevention and awareness work: Polaris, Shared Hope, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Coalition in NJ are doing a lot particularly related to the Super Bowl. The Attorney General's (AG) office is doing some training, which includes some nurses, health care providers and law enforcement. DCF senior management will have an all-day seminar on September 23, 2013. On September 24, 2013, Dr. Martin Finkel is having a physician speak at the War Memorial on human trafficking related to domestic and international trafficking. In terms of protection, DCF is working with the FBI to understand what they are doing in terms of helping DCF with victim's needs, figuring out what to do and developing services for victims. DCF is also focusing on getting some trauma informed services up and going quickly.

DCF is meeting with the AG's office on collaboration efforts. There is a statewide conference at the end of October, which will probably be opened to the public; however it has not been announced.

There is a lot of work underway in the protection phase, with the protocols, figuring out what type of services for minors under 18, 18-21, 21 and over, training and vocational services. The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) put out guidance to State child welfare agencies on handling human trafficking cases. A case was discussed with regards to three young girls being rescued and have not been in school since coming to United States. It was stated that a policy needs to be developed by the Department of Education as the school districts are need of additional guidance on how to move forward in this type of situation, especially when victims are not connected to the child welfare system. Additionally, the Protection Committee is currently working on MDT guidelines for human trafficking.

The work of human trafficking fits into the work of sexual violence providers. Unfortunately limited, and recently reduced, funding to sexual violence prevention and direct services has created a struggle to get the basic of the work done. A conversation needs to occur around the work that providers are doing on a daily basis and identifying resources to bring to the table.

Donna also mentioned the NJ Small Business Administration meetings are being held in Atlantic City, NJ on Oct 22, 23, & 24; and the NJEA convention being held on Nov 7-8. This would be a great opportunity to distribute information from the prevention prospective. This is the population that would need to receive our information. It was also mentioned that an outreach should be made to the school boards to list human trafficking as a hot topic. The Committee would like for Donna to reach out to the school boards to inform and schedule a presentation. However, Donna informed that she will need to check with the AG's office first to make sure they do not have anything scheduled in addition to checking with the Commissioner.

The human trafficking workgroup is working with NJ AAU. They are very big on human trafficking and have a lot of input.

#### Post Super Storm Sandy Updates– Lisa von Pier

The Committee was updated on the post Sandy work that is happening with DCF-Family and Community Partnerships (FCP) and Division on Woman (DOW). With the federal funding Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) that has come to NJ, FCP has been able to utilize the funds to add additional home visitation programs in each of the twenty one

counties and money has been given to the Family Success Center in the nine impacted counties plus Cumberland county to enhance services by extending hours (evening, Saturday, or Sunday), doing out post work in additional communities, offering trauma informed supportive activity events.

An RFP has gone out which will focus on developing resiliency and coping skills of children in school settings in all the impacted counties plus Cumberland

Support is being made available to all FCP domestic violence shelters. A staff person has been hired to focus on direct service counseling support and provide additional resources to the domestic violence shelters. MOUs with motels are being utilized in the event that there is an overflow capacity because of an emergency situation. Funds are provided through a special Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA) grant that New Jersey, New York and Connecticut have received. Agencies can pay for a monthly down payment rental for domestic violence victims for an extended period of time as they attempt to re-stabilize. The FVPSA grant expires October 1, 2015. DOW is doing something similar with the displaced homemakers programs, sexual violence direct service and prevention programs.

It was mentioned that NJ Spotlight featured an article on the forum that was held yesterday with Commissioner Blake and Commissioner O'Dowd. It discussed the \$10 million dollars received in federal SSBG to help assist families through community agencies, hospitals, etc. SPAN is a recipient of \$1.6 million dollars to hire additional family resource specialists for parents with children with special health care needs to provide intensive wrap around support in the impacted counties.

The work of youth suicide prevention is now under the FCP. The Traumatic Loss Coalition (under United Behavioral Care-Rutgers) contract function is to respond to disasters, problematic events, and tragedies in communities particularly through the school systems along with preschools. There is also support for suicide prevention through a federal grant called Garrett Lee Smith grant. The New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council meets monthly and is made up of advocates, experts in the field of youth suicide prevention and other pertinent stakeholders. They focus on policy and different practices within the state to address the issue of youth suicide. This requires working very closely with other Departments. There is suicide prevention work that is being done with DHS, which we are learning a great deal. A survey will be developed along with asking providers to do some thinking in order to get some type of base line data. There is no established bullying prevention group within the suicide prevention council and one or two working groups' needs to be established. It was mentioned that there is an increase number of suicide related to substance abuse in Ocean County; and train related deaths in Monmouth County. The current Suicide prevention plan expires on December 2014, which NJYSPAC and DCF are in the planning process to revise. Additionally, the Second Floor Hotline is under Family and Community Partnership.

### **Next Meeting & Announcements**

Sunday Gustin will be presenting the Home Visitation in November.

Workgroups Convened – next meeting November 7, 2013 – Trenton, NJ