



New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect
Allison Blake, Ph.D., L.S.W., Co-Chair
Martin A. Finkel, DO, FACOP, FAAP, Co-Chair

resignation letter to the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect (NJTF CAN) in her role as the Chair of the Staffing and Oversight Review Subcommittee (SORS). Commissioner Blake and Dr. Martin Finkel were prepared to present Rita with a certificate of appreciation. It was noted that Rita has been a long standing member of NJTF CAN and an advocate for the children throughout the State. Liza Kirschenbaum assured the support for the NJTF CAN will continue during the time it takes CASA of NJ to fill Rita's position. Task Force members were encouraged to think about chairing SORS and if they have any questions regarding the subcommittee to contact Ifeanyi Pole to obtain additional information.

Commissioner Blake discussed DCF's Advisory Committee on Child Fatalities generated from the legislative action called the "Commission to Eliminate Child Fatalities." A copy of the report is available on DCF's website as well as the Child Welfare of America website. The Task Force was informed that the US Department of Health and Human Services recommended that states implement a process to do a meta-analysis of all child fatalities. DCF's Advisory Committee meets once a week. The committee is conducting a short term study of child fatalities from 2010 through 2015 to look at the system to identify trends (to be completed by December 2016/January 2017) of about 150 cases. Once completed, a meeting will be scheduled with DCF's three mandated citizen review boards (which include NJTF CAN, Staffing and Oversight Subcommittee, and Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board), State department commissioners and/or designees to view the analysis, cases and trends that were identified to make recommendations to include in the final report. The Prevention Committee will receive the report in time to update the next prevention plan for the State. Commissioner Blake emphasized that members can excuse themselves from the meeting if they are not comfortable in participating in this difficult discussion. Commissioner Blake also noted that she and the Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board (CFNFRB) are hosting a kick-off event in early October 2016 to distribute safe sleep boxes.

DCF's Youth at Risk of Homelessness (YARH) Project Presentation – Jessica Trombetta, LCSW Executive Director, DCF – Office of Adolescent Services

The Executive Director of DCF's Office of Adolescent Services (OAS) Jessica Trombetta presented the Youth at Risk of Homelessness (YARH) Project called "Connecting YOUTH." Jessica provided some background information on OAS. The Office was created in 2010 by Commissioner Blake. OAS is a major office that was pulled out of the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P) to focus on permanency for youth transitioning out the system (included in the Strategic Plan). The following was presented to the Task Force:

- OAS is utilizing the YOUTHRIVE framework to resonate in the work of adolescent services.
- The Children's Bureau issued a funding announcement in 2013 for States to have an opportunity to have protective time for planning to look at data and develop a new intervention.



New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect
Allison Blake, Ph.D., L.S.W., Co-Chair
Martin A. Finkel, DO, FACOP, FAAP, Co-Chair

- Phase 1: There were eighteen grantees that covered 2013-2015. OAS began looking at their own data (2008-2014) and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to better understand the risk and protective factors contributing and/or preventing homelessness.
 - The highest rate of homelessness was discussed. The following was noted from the data set: female, non-Hispanic black, 18-21 years, psychotropic medication, complex behavioral health need, parent absent, multiple placements and discharged to majority/independent living are the ones that are being focused on for the project.
 - Youth that did not appear on the HMIS data include: male, non-Hispanic white/Hispanic, not entering into 1/-21, ever placed with relative, less than 3 placement and early stability pattern.
 - Other qualitative data findings include: mental health and unresolved trauma (two of the top barriers for youth), Importance of connections to family and siblings as support system, the youth voice in planning and setting goals, placement stability, housing options for high need youth and focusing on education early.
- Phase II: Six grantees were awarded during this competitive phase. This phase focused on ensuring that youth are better matched with support and services as early as possible in order to achieve successful outcomes to adulthood.
 - Phase II is being piloted in three counties (Burlington, Mercer and Union) within seven Division of Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P) Local Offices. The counties were selected based on the data and the Connecting YOUTH Intervention Framework (Youth driven, Youth Thrive framework lens, Permanency at the forefront, Trauma informed, Cultural humility/racial equity, Housing First and focus on needs not behaviors.
 - An early warning system is being used in prioritizing youth into a program. Child Trends is providing the data every month of the total risk scores to be sorted and case conferenced with the Local Offices for youth to be match with a program.
 - The three intervention strategies were discussed. The first intervention strategy is focused on youth in foster care ages 14-17 and permanency. Life skills, connecting family, in home services or independent living are also a part of the permanency efforts. The second strategy provides educational champions to assist with educational planning for youth to help them graduate from high school and/or post-secondary education and to expose youth



Allison Blake, Ph.D., L.S.W., Co-Chair
Martin A. Finkel, DO, FACOP, FAAP, Co-Chair

to different opportunities. The third strategy is the “connect to home” component where connections are made with Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and HMFA. DCA has provide DCF with 100 housing vouchers to support DCF’s work and each of the three counties were allotted 20 vouchers which will in include wrap around services, case management. This component is for the highest need youth that are hard to place. Each of the components has a youth worker position built in it.

OAS is currently in Phase II, implementing the intervention strategy and testing to see how it works. The important factors in this phase are the screening and referral process. Child Trend will be doing the evaluation; and OAS will be applying for Phase III in 2018 to complete a study of the project to determine evidence that supports other jurisdictions use.

OAS will be uploading documents to DCF website and additional websites were provided to the Task Force to reference.

NJTFCAN Business – Action Items

Legal Advice for NJTFCAN

Commissioner Blake and Martin Finkel have submitted an email to Assistant Attorney General Erin O’Leary requesting counsel on for legal advice. Erin has confirmed receipt of the Task Force request and her office is working on the request.

New Jersey Children’s Trust Fund Marketing Campaign Proposal Presentation Niurca Louis, Vice Chair, Prevention Committee

Niurca Louis presented the New Jersey Children’s Trust Fund (CTF) Marketing Campaign proposal. It was noted that over the years, the CTF dollars have decreased substantially (50%). The Prevention Committee and the Communication Committee has put together a three year plan to increase the CTF.

- Phase 1: The workgroup will design a logo, amend the NJ CTF website and link it to NJ DCF (add credit card donation), develop social media sites starting with Facebook, outreach to tax consultants for 2017 task write off, design a NJ CTF panel card (describing NJCTF and donation information), one page letter/email to DCF staff and submitting the New Jersey Employees Charitable Campaign application by February 28, 2017.
- Phase 2: Expand outreach to other forms of social media, continue outreach of tax consultants for 2017 tax write off and hold at least two regional events to celebrate the



New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

Allison Blake, Ph.D., L.S.W., Co-Chair
Martin A. Finkel, DO, FACOP, FAAP, Co-Chair

programs that have been awarded funds.

- Phase 3: Create a public service announce for radio and cable.

Niurca will provide the Task Force with information at a later date regarding the 50% decrease in the CTF dollars over the years.

Commissioner Blake advised the Task Force that the State Office of Information and Technology will have to be consulted when the time comes to add the credit card/pay pal feature on the website.

**NJTFCAN Business – Action Items:
Subcommittee/Committee Election**

- Discuss and vote on NJ Children’s Trust Fund Marketing Campaign Proposal – The Task Force voted and approved the NJ Children’s Trust Fund Marketing Campaign Proposal.
- Review and approve NJTFCAN and SORS report content
 - The Task Force voted and approved the 6th Annual Task Force Report.
 - The Task Force voted and approved the 10th annual SORS report.
- NJTFCAN Conferences
 - 2016 Skill Building Conference Debrief – The Task Force discussed the successful outcome of the 2016 Skilled Building Conference that was held on September 9, 2016. This topic (The Digital Realm of Child Abuse”) resonated and increased attendees knowledge on the risk associated with the online digital community. The keynote speak was Sharon Cooper and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the National Center for Exploited and Missing Children (NCMEC) were present as well. The conference was filled to capacity.
 - 2017 Biennial NJTFCAN Conference – Commissioner Blake proposed to the Task Force the 2017 Biennial Conference theme: Implementation of Evidenced-Based Practices and Services for discussion. Commissioner Blake discussed the federal bill requirements around federal dollars used to fund evidenced based/evidenced practice programs in the future. The goal is to provide support to the nonprofit community and service providers on the implementation of evidence based and supported programs. The conference will have a national expert as the keynote speaker and workshops on how to develop a logic model, the definition of scaling up, and what are the challenges. It will prepare providers that are currently receiving State funding to be able to qualify for



Allison Blake, Ph.D., L.S.W., Co-Chair
Martin A. Finkel, DO, FACOP, FAAP, Co-Chair

future funding.

- Discuss 2017 NJTF CAN Meeting Dates/Times/Locations – The 2017 Task Force meeting dates were made available to the members. The meetings will be held from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m as follows:
 - Friday, January 20, 2017 – Trenton
 - Friday, March 24, 2017 – New Brunswick
 - Friday, May 19, 2017 – Trenton
 - Friday, July 28, 2017 – New Brunswick
 - Friday, September 15, 2017 – Trenton
 - Friday, November 17, 2017 – New Brunswick

Subcommittee/Committee Updates

Communication Committee – Martin Finkel

Martin Finkel provided the Communication Committee updates on behalf of Seetha Holmes. The Committee reviewed and edited the 10th annual SORS report content and the 6th annual NJTF CAN report content. The Committee discussed drafting a Committee Activities Summary Template for future NJTF CAN reports so that the format submitted by each committee/subcommittee Chair is consistent. The Committee has partnered with the NJ CTF Marketing Campaign Workgroup to draft the NJ CTF Marketing Campaign Workgroup Proposal.

The Task Force wished Seetha well with regards to her health and a speedy recovery.

Prevention Committee – Maura Somers Dughi

The Task Force congratulated Maura Somers Dughi on becoming a new grandmother.

Maura thanked Niurca Louis for chairing the Prevention Committee meeting on September 1, 2016 in her absence.

The Prevention Committee continues to look at the Prevention Plan. And the Committee continues to partner with DCF and Rutgers University on the Standards for Prevention training through webinars and other presentations with community groups and providers. The Committee is currently working on the curriculum guide for higher education. The guide will have eight categories containing resources and references that can be utilized by different disciplines to create their own course work. Kerrie Ocasio is chairing the workgroup and the Committee is still waiting to hear from the Attorney General's office on whether or not they should move forward with the curriculum with hopes of having it completed by the of Spring of 2017.



New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

Allison Blake, Ph.D., L.S.W., Co-Chair
Martin A. Finkel, DO, FACOP, FAAP, Co-Chair

Commissioner Blake recommended that the Prevention Committee take a look at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) project regarding behavioral health. SAMSHA is providing specialized training and assistance around behavioral healthcare.

Protection Committee – Richard Stagliano

The Protection Committee will be meeting on September 28, 2016. The Committee will focus on working on their goals for the next 12 months.

Staffing and Oversight Review Subcommittee (SORS)

No updates provided

Announcements

No announcements were reported.

Next Meeting – November 18, 2016 in New Brunswick (Room 102)