

**New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect  
Prevention Committee  
Maura Somers Dughi, Esq, Chair  
Diana Autin, Esq, Vice-Chair  
April 10, 2014  
9:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.  
Minutes**

**In Attendance:**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Diana Autin        | Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN)        |
| Christine Baker    | Metro-RDTC at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center |
| Jeanette Collins   | Child Assault Prevention                        |
| Suzanne Conrad     | Consultant                                      |
| Maura Somers Dughi | Child and Family Advocate                       |
| Kathy Roe          | Parents Anonymous of NJ                         |
| Michelle Rupe      | DCF-Division of Family & Community Partnerships |
| Rush Russell       | Prevent Child Abuse-NJ                          |
| Charmaine Thomas   | DCF-Division of Family & Community Partnerships |

**Staff**

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| Ifeanyi Pole | DCF-NJTFCAN |
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**Introduction and Review of Minutes**

Introductions were made.

Charmaine Thomas, the new Director of the Division of Family and Community Partnerships (FCP) introduced herself and provided background information on her career thus far working with the State of New Jersey for 28 years. Charmaine started out with the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) in Atlantic county as a field worker; she spent a great deal of her career with Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit (IAIU) as a worker, supervisor, regional supervisor, and then as a statewide Administrator for IAIU for over 15 years. After that, Charmaine became the Area Director for Camden, Division of Child Protection and Permanency (CPP). Then she was asked to be the Director of FCP as of March 24, 2014.

The March 2014 minutes were approved.

**Old Business**

**Discuss and Vote on Supporting Strong Families and Community in New Jersey: Preventing Child Abuse & Neglect 2014-2017**

Maura provided feedback from the March 28, 2014 Task Force meeting in which she and Diana presented the plan and standards to the Task Force members. This allowed the Task Force to become familiar with the plan and standards and an opportunity to asked questions and provide feedback. The Task Force was impressed with the level of research that went into the plan and standards. The Prevention Committee needs to vote on the plan and then the Task Force will vote on the plan electronically.

Today's meeting is to discuss and vote on the plan. The Committee provided the following feedback:

- From the stakeholder engagements (focus groups, interviews and survey), bright spots were identified, which the Committee changed the wording to strengthen.
- Discussion around whether to use the phrase evidence based or evidenced informed.
- The effectiveness of the plan will be done by FCP, which data will be available next year.
- The glossary of terms can be access from the Standards; a footnote or sentence will be added to refer people back to the Standards for a detail description.
- Page 18 (Next Steps) add another bullet to include “Implement the “Standards for Prevention Programs: Building Success through Family Support” across the network of prevention programs in New Jersey.
- Page 11-the third bullet should be include information on Parents Anonymous and the Family Helpline 1-800-THE –KIDS.
- There was discussion around increasing the visibility and focus around child sexual abuse to include the risk factors language for physical, mental and sexual abuse.
- Page 29- Under Risk Factors for Child Maltreatment, Caregiver Mental Illness should be included.
- Contact will be made with Prevent Child Abuse America research department to see if they have any statistics on caregiver mental health, alcohol abuse and domestic violence. Rush Russell will provide the Committee with the research he has on this. Michele Rupe will be sent the original information regarding mental health, which was included in one of the previous version of the plan.
- There was a discussion regarding people who relapse; which nothing noted in the plan.
- Discussion around having the Communication Committee talk about some of the peer support networks for substance abuse, alcohol and other types of challenges that families are facing to provide ongoing support.
- Add the link to the US Department of Health and Human Services website to access the list of evidence based parenting programs instead of listing all of those.
- MOM2MOM should be capitalized; Diana will provide a sentence to include in the plan from their brochure.
- The home visitation programs will be added in the body of the plan
- Appendix E- the 2ndFloor Youth helpline should be listed under S
- The Committee voted on approving the plan with noted edits; Maura thanked everyone.
- Michele Rupe will email the updated version of the plan to the Committee.

If Clarus Consulting Group receives the plan by April 14, 2014, they will format the document, include pictures and have it ready for the April 28, 2014 kick off.

#### Discuss Statewide Prevention Plan Roll out Event-Maura Somers Dughi

Maura discuss the roll out of the Plan with the Committee to solicit their input. The keynote speaker will be James Hmurovich from Prevent Child Abuse America. The approved plan and the standards will be sent to Mr. Hmurovich for his comments. .DCF’s Commissioner Allison Blake and Dr. Martin Finkel will be in attendance. There will be an introduction, the roll out for the plan, standards, a panel and closing remarks by Charmaine Thomas. Three hundred people have been invited.

There was a lengthy discussion around how the panels should be conducted.

- It was suggested to have the different panels meet separately and talk about what they are going to do to implement the plan in their community. Each panel will provide the entire audience a summary of what happened in their group. The three panels will be divided by region (north, south central).
- Another suggestion was to organize the panels by the five strategic goals with each having a facilitator. Pick the panel that interest you and pose one or two questions for discussion and the designated spokesperson will report back to the entire group.
- It was also suggested to have a moving microphone for the audience to provide comments on each of the five strategies.
- It was discussed to have the people that were involved in the creation of the standards and plan talk about the five different strategies. Therefore, not just one person will be talking the entire time.
- The Chair and Co-chair will figure out how the panels will be conducted. It was also mentioned that the room would have to be set up the day before at the Professional Center.

Diana mentioned creating a Facebook page group around the plan. This would be a way for people to communicate and get ideas from one another. People would have to have permission to join. Someone will have to oversee the account to make sure people are not posting obscene things. This is something that the Committee can work on as part of their communication strategy.

The Committee briefly discussed whether or not there will be refreshments. Due to funding restrictions, there will be no refreshments.

The Committee was asked to invite people to the kick-off in hopes to get people to join the Prevention Committee.

### **Announcements**

The May 1, 2014 meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be held on June 5, 2014. The Committee voted to have the June 5, 2014 meeting at DCF Professional Center. An email will be sent out to Committee members.

### **New Business**

Item agenda for the next meeting - Children's Trust Fund Money

Workgroups Convened – next meeting June 5, 2014 – DCF Professional Center