

**New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect
Prevention Committee
Maura Somers Dughi, Esq, Chair
Diana Autin, Esq, Vice-Chair
January 8, 2015
10:00 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
Suzanne Conrad	Consultant
Diane Dellanno	Advocates for Children of NJ
Maura Somers Dughi	Child and Family Advocacy
Pat Stanislaski	Partnering for Prevention, LLC
Charmaine Thomas	DCF-Family and Community Partnerships

Staff

Ifeanyi Pole	DCF-NJTFCAN
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Introduction and Review of Minutes

Introductions were made.

The November 2014 minutes were approved with noted edits.

Business

Prevention Standards Workgroup – Update

Maura announced that Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) - New Jersey has been awarded the contract to develop the Standards for Prevention (Standards) webinar training. Pat Stanislaski informed the Committee that she has been asked to work on the training. The first part of the training will be proximately one hour and thirty minutes long and available to DCF staff and providers. The second part of the training will focus on how to use the Standards' assessment tool. Pat will be meeting with PCA-NJ later this month to finalize the PowerPoint. Graphics, polling, and videos will be included in this webinar training.

The Committee discussed exploring other funding opportunities for in-person training and possibly marketing the Standards for a fee to other states. Charmaine will consult with DCF Deputy Commissioner Joseph Ribsam to confirm if this marketing option would be feasible. The Committee was encouraged to share their ideas on generating funds. It was discussed that this training should also be made available to parents and the parent advisory councils.

Charmaine stated that Children's Trust Fund Request (CTF) for Proposal (RFP) is near completion. Charmaine discussed with the Committee that the Children's Trust Fund Request (CTF) funds will be used for funding the priorities in the Prevention Plan which includes the Standards for Prevention.

It was discussed that the Standards Workgroup will have a conference call scheduled before the next Prevention Committee meeting in March 2015.

Prevention Plan Workgroup - Prevention Plan Implementation Workgroup

Diana discussed a summary of the Prevention Plan (Plan) workgroup's December conference call which focused on developing an action plan for the Plan's noted priority areas (i.e. young children, children with disabilities, caregiver substance/ alcohol abuse, mental health issues, and domestic violence). A workgroup member has been designated for each noted priority area to help assess the status of child abuse prevention in New Jersey. Diana will lead the area of children with disabilities; Rush, Christine and Cheryl will partner on the area of child sexual abuse and Rush suggested partnering with PCA Project Director Jessica Nugent to address the area of caregivers dealing with substance abuse, mental health issues and domestic violence. Diane will work on the area of early childhood. The workgroup drafted interview questions to be available online via Survey Monkey or Constant Contact. Each designated workgroup member will contact the head of State agencies (i.e. Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, etc.) to investigate their familiarity with the Standards as well as inform them about DCF's dedicated prevention resources. At the initial meeting, the workgroup discussed sharing a summary of the Plan (pages 14-18) and the Task Force's web link to access the entire Prevention Plan and Standards.

Once the workgroup finalizes the question, Diana will send them to the Committee for feedback and approval. Diana will send Maura the list of the interview questions and Kerrie has agreed to assist with pulling all the information together.

It was also discussed that that Vincent Costanza should be invited to apply for membership to the Committee as he serves as the Executive Director of the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant and other related projects.

The Prevention Plan Implementation Workgroup will schedule a conference call before the next Prevention Committee meeting in March 2015.

Announcements

Diana announced that February is National Parent Leadership Month. Parents Anonymous and Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN) are hosting two parent leadership breakfasts scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2015 in Camden and Friday, February 20, 2015 in Newark.

On February 18, 2015, there will be a Parent Leadership Roundtable Discussion held at DCF-Professional Center from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm

The 2015 Statewide Parent Leadership & Advocacy Conference will be held at Montclair State University on April 18, 2015 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. It is being sponsored in collaboration with Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN), Parents Anonymous, the National Institute for Family Success and the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA). This conference is held every two years.

Charmaine informed the Committee that Family and Community Partnerships (FCP) will be looking at their contracts and making a connection with the CEOs of the agencies to ensure that they are utilizing the Standards and ensuring the agencies are executing the requirements of their contracts. These contract assessments will take place across the entire Department starting with FCP. Nancy Gagliano will be leading this initiative.

Diane informed the Committee that Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ) received funds from the Nicholson Foundation to conduct a survey of 400 business leaders within New Jersey to better engage them in early learning. ACNJ will be working with the Eagleton Institute on the

survey and two focus groups. Maura suggested that ACNJ look at the work Prevent Child Abuse-America did with the FrameWorks Institute.

Committee Convened - Next Meeting – March 5, 2015 - Trenton