

**New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect
Prevention Committee
Maura Somers Dughi, Esq, Chair
Diana Autin, Esq, Vice-Chair
November 6, 2014
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
Nancy Gagliano	DCF-Family and Community Partnerships
Natasha Johnson	Department of Human Services-Division of Family Development
Cheryl Mojta	NJ Child Assault Prevention
Michelle Rupe	DCF-Family & Community Partnerships
Rush Russell	Prevent Child Abuse-NJ
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 September 2014 minutes were approved.

Discussion-Partnership Opportunities

The Committee discussed engaging other State agencies to broaden their prevention efforts based on their goals and DCF's needs. The discussion was geared toward educating and collaborating with other state agencies to ensure that the Prevention Plan is implemented in alignment with the Prevention Standards.

Natasha Johnson stated that prevention work is often effective when it engages people in a way that they understand the prevention services offered within the different agencies. The Committee cited the Prevention Plan in discussing that young children and children with disabilities are more likely to become victims of child abuse and neglect. They further discussed that the Prevention Plan references that a caregiver's substance/alcohol abuse and domestic violence increases the odds of abuse and neglect. Given this information/discussion, the Committee agreed that collaborating with representatives from the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education (DOE), Medicaid, Children System of Care (CSOC) and the Department of Human Services (DHS)-Division of Disability Services and existing initiatives (e.g. Race to the Top and Let's Move, Early Childhood) could further strengthen children and families across many spectrums.

The Committee briefly discussed funding sources and agreed to continue to explore various funding opportunities.

Michelle Rupe informed the Committee that DCF held a meeting with the fifteen Family and Community Partnerships (FCP) program administrators and team leads to discuss the Prevention Plan and DCF strategic plan. FCP will focus on improving the quality of the existing programs, work on a system of integration at the county level (e.g. Race to the Top) and continue to work on FCP's twenty-two initiatives with developing logic models, tools and evaluation plans. FCP will engage in a meaningful, continuous quality improvement process to demonstrate results.

Business

Children's Trust Fund (CTF) Ad-Hoc Workgroup - Update

Maura informed the Committee that the CTF Ad-Hoc workgroup will no longer meet due to the Committee receiving the requested CTF information and advice from Taraun Tice, DCF's Ethics Liaison Officer during her ethics presentation. Natasha Johnson and Marygrace Billek have volunteered to review the CTF Request for Proposals (RFPs) and the Committee will ask Cecilia Zalkind if she would volunteer to also review the applications as the third Task Force member.

Prevention Standards Workgroup – Update

Michelle Rupe disseminated a handout and provided the Committee with an update on workgroup's conference call about the implementation of the Standards. An online training will be developed for all DCF funded prevention programs as well as others providers. It was discussed that imbedding the Standards in every DCF funded prevention program will require additional funding. There was further discussion on assembling an ad-hoc workgroup to assess similar initiatives (e.g. Race to the Top), gather all the components pieces, and determine the actual cost for implementation. The Committee discussed the incentive for agency participation in completing the online assessment now as this will become a requirement in future DCF prevention contracts. This topic will be discussed further by the Committee in the future.

There was a brief discussion on utilizing the online survey company, SurveyMonkey or ConstantContact, as a means of gathering input from providers on what would motivate them to go through the process to ensure that their work is consistent with the Standards. The Committee also discussed piloting the self-assessment process, and reaching out to the county councils and the Family Success Centers' (FSC) advisory groups to discuss the direction in which New Jersey is headed with the Standards and Prevention Plan.

At the next Standards workgroup meeting, the topic of credentials/eligibility for funding will be discussed.

Prevention Plan Workgroup

Diana mentioned that the first order of business for the workgroup will be to assign a point person for each of the strategic priorities and goals. The point person will be in charge of speaking to identified staff from other state agencies in charge of initiatives, gathering information about what they are doing, and assessing how to integrate the Prevention Plan and the Standards into their work to strengthen the existing programs moving forward. This will allow the Committee to advance the efforts of the Prevention Plan. The Committee agreed that going out and connecting strategically with other state agencies will make more of an impact than just bringing agency representatives to the Committee meetings. The Committee wants to ensure that agencies are aware of the all the prevention resources.

The Committee was informed that the Prevention Plan Workgroup will reconvene and develop a communication plan and strategy within the next two to three months to be implemented over the next year. Diana emailed the previous workgroup members to see if they were interested in working on the communication plan. The communication strategy must be completed within a short timeframe in order for the workgroup to develop and implement it. The information collected would allow for a more detailed work plan. The communication strategy should be completed within sixty to ninety days. It was noted that Kerrie Ocasio mentioned during the development stages of the Prevention Plan that she was interested in participating in the development of the communication strategy; and an invitation will be sent to Kerrie to see if she is still interested in participating on the workgroup.

Announcements

The Fatherhood Conference is being held on December 10, 2014 at DCF Professional Center. It was discussed that that this conference would be a great opportunity to give a presentation on the Prevention Plan.

The 2015 Parent Leadership 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 the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN), Parents Anonymous, NJEA and the National Institute for Family Success. This conference is held every two years.

Diana informed the Committee of the three new grants the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN) received from the US Department of Education. The grants are from the National Technical Assistance Center (NTAC) which focus on transition to adult life for youth and young adult with disabilities, the Regional Center for NTAC and the Regional Center 1-Northeast, and the Stakeholder and Parent Engagement Component of the US Department of Education new national center for systemic improvement.

Discuss Proposed 2015 Meeting Dates

The January 1, 2015 and July 2, 2015 dates were changed to January 8, 2015 and July 9, 2015, respectively.

The Committee agreed to have the all the 2015 meetings in Trenton with a start time of 10:00 am.

Workgroup Convened - Next Meeting – January 8, 2015 in Trenton