

**New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect
Prevention Committee
Maura Somers Dughi, Esq, Chair
Diana Autin, Esq, Vice-Chair
May 7, 2015
10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
Minutes**

In Attendance:

Diana Autin	Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN)
Andrea Breitwieser	Department of Human Services-DFD
Suzanne Conrad	Consultant
Diane Dellanno	Advocates for Children of NJ
Anthony DiFabio	Robins Nest, Inc.
Maura Somers Dughi	Child and Family Advocacy
Jessica Gregory	DCF-FCP/DOW
Gina Hernandez	Prevent Child Abuse – NJ
Alysha Riley	NJ Child Assault Prevention
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 March 2015 minutes were approved with noted edits.

Business

Prevention Standards Workgroup – Update

Gina Hernandez provided the Committee with an update on the Standards for Prevention webinar series. The first, live Standards for Prevention Programs, “Overview 101,” was held on March 30, 2015. 205 people participated from 71 different agencies. The “Overview 101” training will be offered again on May 18, 2015. The first, live “Advanced Standards for Prevention Programs: Practical Application for Administrators” webinar will be held on May 11, 2015 and with only ten slots remaining; the second advanced training is scheduled for June 1, 2015. The advanced webinar is designed for staff that will be completing the prevention assessment tool. Gina will notify Maura by email about any available registration slots for the May 11th “Advanced Standards for Prevention Programs” webinar. These webinar sessions can accommodate up to 200 participants. Gina will inform the Committee on the outcome of the advanced webinar trainings. Also, a quarterly report will be generated and sent to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) on which agencies/people accessed the training. Both webinar trainings will be posted on DCF’s website for future access.

The Committee was informed that an email blast about the Standards for Prevention webinar series went out to DCF’s service providers, specifically those providing services for Family and Community Partnership (FCP) and the Division on Women (DOW). Charmaine stated she would connect with Elizabeth Manley, Director of Children’s System of Care (CSOC), to make sure that the Care Management Organizations (CMOs) and the Family Support

Organizations (FSOs) received the dates for the upcoming webinar trainings. The Committee also discussed ways of reaching people that did not receive the original email blast and those individuals who received the webinar notification, but did not sign-up for the training. The Committee discussed agencies' accountability in taking the training and DCF's requirement of the training in future contracts. Charmaine referenced the language of FCP's current contracts with regard to the Standards for Prevention and will see if agencies would be eligible to receive bonus points on their future RFP for attending the training. The Committee discussed the possibility of agencies' having a Prevention Standards certificate for completion placed in their files to incorporate all the basic principles of prevention. This could allow FCP to have a more uniform system of evaluating and measuring the Prevention Standards into their programs models. The Committee emphasized the importance of agencies completing the self-assessment tool as a method to address their strengths and areas for improvement. Charmaine stated that implementing the Standards for Prevention is part of the contract; however, the training is not a part of the requirement. This topic, ensure utilization of the Standards for Prevention, will be added to the agenda for the July 2015 meeting.

Prevention Plan Workgroup – Update - Diana

Diana Autin informed that Committee that 21 people from state agencies have been identified to be interviewed. The final version of the interview questions have been approved and sent out. Diana has agreed to interview six of the agencies, in which two interviews have been completed with the Department of Health (DOH) and were very informative. The state agencies being interviewed are: three (3) participants from the Department of Children and Families (DCF); four (4) participants from the Department of Health (DOH); five (5) participants from the Department of Human Services (DHS) within different divisions; five (5) participants from the Department of Education (DOE), three (3) participants from the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and one (1) participant from the Department of Labor (DOL). Diana will verify if Michele Rupe agreed to be an interview participant. Diana requested that this topic be added to the July 2015 meeting agenda regarding the status update from the other workgroup members as to whom they have selected to interview along with the outcome of the interviews.

CTF Appropriation for Essex – Update

Charmaine Thomas informed the Committee that Michelle Rupe is now working with DCF-Child Protection and Permanency (CPP). Michelle is currently working on developing a plan for the Essex Collaborative (Charmaine provided the project update on page 3) project. DCF is interested in implementing this project throughout the state. However, Michelle will still continue to work with FCP as the collaboration is still there between the Office of Early Childhood Services to link the programs and services for some of the families from CPP. The Committee was informed that some work is being started in Camden County at a lower level than the Essex County project. The Camden project currently consists of gathering data together to assess needs. The Committee voiced their concerns regarding the Camden Project as the outcome for the Essex project has yet to be determined. Charmaine reported that positive feedback was received regarding the training from for the Essex County Project with incorporating the different agencies and CPP. Charmaine also noted that Michelle will still attend the Committee meetings as she will continue to report out on some of the work that is being done across the State with CPP with regard to prevention.

Charmaine reported on behalf of Sunday Gustin as she was unable to attend the meeting due to scheduled training. The Essex County Project is called "Proven Outcomes for

Families of Infants and Young Children in Newark”. It is geared towards integrating best practice in child protection and early childhood. Christina Colon has been hired with the CTF dollars and she will begin working on May 13, 2015 out of one of the local offices in Essex County. Christina will report directly to Sunday Gustin and Lenore Scott. Over 400 CPP staff, early childhood family and support providers were trained in March 2015 on the protective factors. Additional training will be provided in Newark with a greater participation of parent partners; the dates and locations for the trainings have yet to be announced. Charmaine reported that positive feedback was received regarding the training. Casey Family Programs will assist Rutgers Institute for Families, with the developing, implementing and evaluation of the Essex project. If approved by the Research Review Board, the evaluations will assess how the community engages and supports a targeted group of families of infants and young children referred to CPP. The various research methods include surveys, interviews, focus groups as well as records reviews. The evaluations will assess 75 randomly selected families for an experimental group and 75 families selected for a control group.

Charmaine stated that with support from DCF, Rutgers Institute for Families is developing a training for coaching group conferences which will be piloted in Newark. The first day of training is May 7, 2015. DCF will begin identifying targeted families for intensive assessment, planning and service access in late May 2015. It has yet to be determined how the families will be selected.

Charmaine informed the Committee that she is waiting to get approval to backfill Michelle’s position. Jessica Gregory reported that she will be working with Nancy Gagliano, who is now working in the Office of Quality. Nancy is beginning to look at integrating more of the implementation science work into the programs and initiatives on the local level through CPP, FCP, and DOW. A group of 30 people will be looking at implementation and active implementation and how to integrate the Standards for Preventions into the programs. The Committee was informed that Debra Lancaster has taken the lead on looking into and providing feedback on trauma informed care and how it is to be embedded across DCF. DCF has been hosting trauma informed conferences across the State. Charmaine stated that Commissioner Blake is focused on more evidence based programs across DCF. Jessica will provide a future update to the Committee on this work.

Announcements

Save the Date – New Jersey Statewide Network Cultural Competence Conference is being held on Monday, November 9, 2015 at the DCF Professional Center in New Brunswick. The focus is on trauma informed care.

Maura Somers Dughi will be honored this year at Prevent Child Abuse - New Jersey dinner on Thursday, May 28, 2015 at 6:00pm at The Heldrich in New Brunswick. Maura will look into how much the dinner will cost so that members of the Committee can attend. Maura asked Committee members to contact her if they were interested in attending the dinner.

Maura encouraged the members to invite outside people to the meetings that can influence the Committee’s work with their expertise as the Committee continues to roll out the Standards for Prevention.

Committee Convened - Next Meeting – July 9, 2015 - Trenton