

**New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect  
Prevention Committee Conference Call  
Maura Somers Dughi, Esq, Chair  
Diana Autin, Esq, Vice-Chair  
March 5, 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
Jessica Gregory	DCF-FCP/DOW
Sunday Gustin	DCF-FCP
Gina Hernandez	Prevent Child Abuse - NJ
Dr. Kerrie Ocasio	Institute for Families
Michelle Rupe	DCF-FCP
Rush Russell	Prevent Child Abuse - NJ
Charmaine Thomas	DCF-Family and Community Partnerships

**Staff**

Ifeanyi Pole	DCF-NJTFCAN
--------------	-------------

**Introduction and Review of Minutes**

Introductions were made.

The January 2015 minutes were approved with noted edits.

**Business**

**Prevention Standards Workgroup – Update**

The Committee was informed of the workgroup’s conference call on January 22, 2015. The workgroup discussed and agreed that they were going to move forward with the five action items, including the communication strategy. Prevent Child Abuse - New Jersey (PCA-NJ) will be launching the Standards for Prevention webinar. Pat Stanislaski has been a key participant in developing the webinar with PCA-NJ. Charmaine Thomas will be meeting with LaTasha Holmes to see whether or not the webinar and the Standards for Prevention document could be uploaded to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) webpage.

Gina Hernandez reported that the Standards webinar training is in the process of being complete. A trial run was run on March 4, 2015. In an effort to promote the webinar, DCF sent out a letter announcing the upcoming trainings. Another reminder will be sent out the week of March 9<sup>th</sup>, which will include the Task Force and its Committee/Subcommittees to disseminate to their networks. On March 30, 2015, there will be a live, “Standards for Prevention Programs: Overview 101” webinar in which eighty-nine (89) people have registered and thirty-nine (39) people registered for the “Advanced Standards for Prevention

Programs: Practical Application for Administrators” training on May 11, 2015. The webinar will be recorded and archived on PCA-NJ website for people to reference at a later date. The live webinars will accommodate approximately 200 participants. The Standards for Prevention Programs: Overview 101 will be held on March 30, 2015 and May 18, 2015; and the Advance Standards for Prevention Programs: Practical Application for Administrators will be held on May 11, 2015 and June 1, 2015.

The workgroup also discussed attaching the Standards self-assessment to a survey and disseminating it to programs that have completed the webinar so that they may gain knowledge on areas that need improving and to inform the next steps on training. The workgroup discussed that the cost associated with the survey which would be approximately \$10,000. They explored ideas on ways in which to increase the CTF and other possible funding opportunities. Dr. Kerrie Ocasio suggested that the Committee could apply for funding through the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, which supports the prevention of child abuse. This topic will be further discussed at a later date.

The Committee discussed the State’s copyright to the original Standards for Prevention as the workgroup. The State will share and not sell the Standards to other States. Charmaine will check with Deputy Commissioner, Joseph Ribsam to see if the Committee would be able to sell the training and technical assistance packages to other states.

#### Prevention Plan Workgroup – Update

Diana informed the Committee that the workgroup held a conference call to finalize the interview questions. An email went out to the Prevention Committee with the final versions of the questions instead of the scheduled conference call on March 5, 2015. Diana will email the workgroup the chart with the list of people they will be meeting with in the first round of interviews and who will be taking the responsibility for each of them.

#### Family and Community Partnership (FCP) & Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P) Essex Collaborative project

Michelle Rupe provided the Committee with an introduction and background information on the project in Essex County with the FCP and CP&P three Local Offices. The project builds on the DCF Data Fellows and Burlington County Capstone projects that occurred five or six years ago in which DCF became aware of a group of families with infants and young children who were coming to the attention of CP&P frequently (known as frequently encountered families). The families presented a lot of risk in the areas of substance abuse, domestic violence, and single parent status with the majority having young children. Many of the families declined voluntary services and those investigations were closed out without linking the families to services and support that would have reduced the risks of child abuse and neglect. These two projects were not evaluated at the time, due to lack of available resources. Now, FCP and CP&P will implement an initiative in Newark to improve the outcome of vulnerable families’ with infants and young children. One of the key partners in this project is Newark Central Intake as well as other system partners. Training will be provided on the protective factors for both the child welfare staff and the early childhood partners beginning the week of March 9, 2015.

Sunday elaborated on the initiative and stated that they will be working with families with infants, young children and pregnant women by strengthening system integration and service linkages that best meet the family’s needs. The initiative has received positive responses

from Area Director, David Sims and his staff from the area office and the three local offices. The project will be for twelve months and Sunday is requesting to use the CTF to secure a temporary position for a designated staff person that will report directly to Sunday's office but will be physically in Newark. The one year salary for the position would be about \$100,000 along with some fringe benefits and travel. Sunday stated that this will be a one-time funding to get the project up and going as soon as possible. Kerrie Ocasio and her colleagues at Rutgers along with support from Casey Family Programs will be working with Sunday and staff on the evaluations. Kerrie stated that one of their goals is to provide the information along the way that can help with implementation. Sunday stated that once the training is completed in March, the project will begin in April 2015.

Sunday will forward the project summary and logic model document to Ifeanyi to email out to the Prevention Committee and the two workgroups. Once received, the Committee agreed to vote electronically within seven days on whether or not to approve the CTF for the project. If approved, the Prevention Committee will request quarterly status reports on the project.

The Committee expressed their concerns with using the CTF for this project and wanted to know if there is a commitment from DCF that at the end 12 months to fund the project beyond the timeframe.

Charmaine Thomas informed the Committee that the CTF Request for Proposal (RFP) will be out within the next couple of weeks.

The Committee was informed of the Commissioner's press release on March 3, 2015. DCF and the Department of Health (DOH) received a grant for 11.5 million dollars to support the continuation and expansion of home visitation services to help at risk families in New Jersey. The grant will allow New Jersey to expand services through 2017 and add 500 additional service slots in high need communities. Maura stated that a lot of advocating is being done at the federal level from Senator Mendez. A letter will be sent out to the Task Force and the Committee/Subcommittees for members to sign in their individual capacity or organization so that Senator Mendez is aware of what is going on in New Jersey.

**Committees Convened - Next Meeting – May 7, 2015 - Trenton**