

**New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect  
Prevention Committee  
Maura Somers Dughi, Esq, Chair  
Diana Autin, Esq, Vice-Chair  
July 2, 2014  
9:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.  
Minutes**

**In Attendance:**

Christina Autin	Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN) – Legal Intern
Diana Autin	Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN)
Christine Baker	Metro-RDTC at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center
Jeanette Collins	Child Assault Prevention
Diane Dellanno	Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ)
Anthony DiFabio	Robins Nest, Inc.
Maura Somers Dughi	Child and Family Advocate
Gina Hernandez	Prevent Child Abuse-NJ
Nancy Gagliano	DCF-Family & Community Partnerships
Natasha Johnson	DHS-Division of Family Development
Kerrie Ocasio	Rutgers University
Michelle Rupe	DCF-Family & Community Partnerships
Rush Russell	Prevent Child Abuse –NJ
Charmaine Thomas	DCF-Family & Community Partnerships

**Staff**

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

Introductions were made.

The June 2014 minutes were approved.

**Business**

**Children’s Trust Fund (CTF) – Current and Future Allocations 15.21**

Charmaine Thomas, Michelle Rupe and Nancy Gagliano presented information to the Committee on the CTF’s current and future allocation. The Committee was informed that the priority for the current funding cycle that ends on June 30, 2014 was to implement an evidence-based model on positive parent attachment and to support mental health programs. The grants awarded were for a three-year cycle and were overseen by the Department of Children and Families (DCF). DCF-Family and Community Partnerships (FCP)-Office of Early Childhood Services (OECS) provided technical assistance to the grantees focusing on building the programs’ capacity and using evaluation for continuous quality improvement. FCP monitored the programs outputs and performance indicators. The aforementioned presenters distributed a CTF summary handout in which identified the grantee locations and programs. The following is a brief synopsis of that document:

- **Essex County:** Family Connections – the evidence-based home visiting model received training in all three components (Incredible Parents=Incredible Kids, parent

and child). The CTF program in Essex County was able to be developed into a sustainable project following the expiration of CTF funds.

- **Mercer County:** Jewish Family & Children's Serves of Greater Mercer County, Positive Parent Program – the positive parent program did well with serving families with the use of the protective factors survey which helped to market the program better. The agency mostly served immigrants and Spanish speaking families in underserved communities. The services provided through this program will not be continuing following the expiration of this funding.
- **Cumberland County:** Inspira Health Care - trained clients on the parenting model and trying to embed the model within the Family Success Centers (FSC) and other entities without funding. Recruitment was done within the organization and they met the needs of the communities by providing workshops. The services provided through this program will not be continuing following the expiration of this funding.

The Committee discussed FCP's plan to increase CTF funding, who will manage the CTF funds and how to move forward in the next grant cycle process with the expiration of the current grant. It was discussed that the CTF grant process should be aligned with the Task Force bylaws and the federal government. The Task Force bylaws were read at the meeting: *"The Task Force shall receive, evaluate and approve applications of public and private agencies and organizations for grants from moneys annually appropriated from the Children's Trust Fund established pursuant to N.J.S.A.54A:9-25.4. The Task Force shall award grants to public and private agencies for the purposes of planning and establishing or improving programs and services for the prevention of child abuse and neglect. These grants shall be awarded according to the established priorities as outlined in section 55 of P.L. 2006, c. 47'.* The Committee discussed setting up a process that includes FCP staff and making recommendations to the Task Force. The Committee also discussed referencing the Prevention Plan and Standards as a group to develop the CTF priorities. It was discussed that the Committee needs to be further informed on what prevention work is already being executed build upon that work and invest in capacity building within programs to effectively capture data to work across systems. The Director of FCP, Charmaine Thomas provided the Committee with a list of proposed CTF strategies for discussion:

- Evidence-based programming to support families of infants and young children in the Family Success Centers (FSC)
- Evidence-based programming to support fathers of infants and young children in school based youth service settings as a component of Promoting Success for Pregnant and Parenting Teens Federal grant
- Evaluation of FSCs - Making sure we are getting evidence based programs and being more consistent across the board. It was discussed that the Committee should start with the five priorities identified in the Strategic Plan and reference the statute that governs the use of the money. The Committee, with feedback from FCP, would like to present CTF recommendations to the Task Force by September 2014.

- There was a brief discussion around the RFP application process with regard to whether or not non-state employees are able to be a part of the review process. Additional clarification will be provided by DCF.
- The Committee agreed to create an Ad-Hoc CTF Workgroup at this meeting and requested the scheduling of two or three conference calls before the September meeting in order to present information on the best interest in the prevention child abuse and neglect. Maura Somers Dughi, Diane Dellanno, Rush Russell, Anthony DiFabio, Charmaine Thomas, Michelle Rupe & Nancy Gagliano have volunteered to participate in the workgroup. The conference call requests will be sent out via Meeting Wizard.
- Expanding and growing the Children’s Trust Fund (possible opportunity “Raising of American” community forums)

Standards for Prevention – Discussion of Training, Utilization and Dissemination

The Committee discussed the Prevention Plan and how to move the Standards forward. It was discussed that training for the Standards is part of the CBCAP budget and has been submitted to Commissioner Blake. The CBCAP budget designates \$25,000 to be allocated for the Standards for Prevention. There was further discussion on how people are going to be trained and how the Standards are currently utilized when applications are submitted. The Committee was informed by DCF that Commissioner Blake will be sending out the Standards to DCF stakeholders via an email blast. Also, DCF shared that FCP is working with Friends Training Technical Assistance Center on how to provide technical assistance and training to programs to enhance them overtime. The Committee also discussed using newer technology to reach a larger audience.

Natasha Johnson will be added to the September 4, 2014 meeting to speak about prevention efforts within the Department of Human Services (DHS). A reminder will be sent to Natasha before the September meeting.

The Committee also discussed that in order for the Prevention Plan to become a viable document, the community needs to be aware of it. Going beyond the members of the Committee, there was further discussion on engaging people that work in early childhood.

The Committee discussed scheduling a Standards Workgroup conference call before the end of July 2014 to discuss the ideal ways to utilize and disseminate the Standards. The request will be sent out via the Meeting Wizard.

Prevention Plan – Implementation and Engagement of Prevention Partners

Maura and Ifeanyi informed that the Committee that the Communication Committee is interested in assisting the Prevention Committee with the “communication goal” embedded in the plan. The Committee discussed the video, “The Raising of America.” The focus of this video is the importance of investments in early childhood health and development by hosting community forums discussion. The Committee discussed that this may be another project for the Communication Committee’s discussion which would align with the Standards and the Children’s Trust Fund.

Kathy Collins and the Communication Committee have been invited to the September 4, 2014 meeting.

The Committee also discussed contacting State agencies to ask if they would post the Prevention Plan on their websites. The Committee will further discuss and vote on the list of selected agencies for their Prevention Plan web posting partnerships.

The Committee discussed developing training for implementing the Standards. Once the training is developed, making it available to individuals not trained by DCF. The Committee proposed that this may be a project that could be executed in partnership with the Communication Committee.

### **Announcements**

The Committee discussed that funding has been included in the NJ State budget for primary physicians to have access to child psychiatrist to assist with the care of children with mental health issues. It was discussed that there is a shortage of child psychiatrists and a growing number of children with mental health issues.

The Committee discussed that they will alternate meeting locations between Trenton and New Brunswick; and future meetings will have a start time of 10:00 am. The New Brunswick location allows for conference call participation for members that are not able to physically be at the meetings. The Committee will revisit this topic in the fall.

**Workgroups Convened – next meeting September 4, 2014 @ 10:00 in New Brunswick**