

**New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect  
Prevention Committee  
Maura Somers Dughi, Esq., Chair  
Diana Autin, Esq., Vice-Chair  
January 7, 2016  
10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.  
Minutes**

**In Attendance:**

Antonio Lopez	DCF- Family and Community Partnerships, Office of Family Support Services
Jose Balderago	DCF- Family and Community Partnerships, Office of Family Support Services
Chante` Gunter	DCF- Family and Community Partnerships
Gina Hernandez	Prevent Child Abuse – NJ
Suzanne Conrad	Consultant
Andrea Breitwieser	DHS-Div. of Family Development
Christine Baker	Metro-RDTC at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center
Christina Colon	DCF-Family and Community Partnership
Diane Dellanno	Advocates for Children of NJ
Maura Somers Dughi	Child and Family Advocacy
Jessica Gregory	DCF-Family and Community Partnerships, Division on Women
Cheryl Mojta	Child Assault Prevention Program
Niurca Louis	Robin's Nest Inc.
Sunday Gustin	DCF-Family and Community Partnerships, Early Childhood Services
Charmaine Thomas	DCF-Family and Community Partnerships and Division on Women
Kristen Brady	Advocates for Children of NJ, Intern

**Staff**

Ifeanyi Pole                      DCF-Office of the Commissioner, NJTFCAN Acting Executive Coordinator

**Introduction and Review of September 3, 2015 Minutes**

Introductions were made and the September 3, 2015 Minutes were approved with the following edits:

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(paragraph 2; sentence 1):

Kerrie also provided the following update to the Committee on the Prevention ~~Plan~~ [Standards](#) trainings:

(paragraph 3; sentence 3):

Kerrie also stated the importance of creating training materials and tools to take the [prevention](#) programs to the next level.

(paragraph 6; sentences 5-7):

~~Program leads for the Standards must match with contracting thus this will be an ongoing process. It is important that each module must be completed before the trainee can move on to the next. Developing a logic model will be a preliminary requirement so that a path for this can be easily followed.~~ The Committee is aware of the requirement for the Standards and must be mindful of the timing of DCF's contracting process.

(paragraph 7; sentence 2):

Karen Campbell informed Cheryl that she would be interested receiving an application to serve on the Prevention Committee.

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(paragraph 6; sentence 2):

Kerrie also reminded the Committee that these ~~cases are with families that volunteer; their participation in the project is not required; their participation in the project is not required.~~ families' participation is voluntary.

### **National Children's Trust Fund Presentation – Jessica Gregory**

Jessica Gregory distributed copies of her PowerPoint presentation on The National Alliance of Children's Trust Funds (Alliance) Annual Membership Meeting. Jessica stated that she and Charmaine Thomas attended this meeting in Minnesota last year and provided the following Conference highlights:

- Children's Trust and Prevention Funds annually provide more than \$200 million for community-based child abuse and neglect prevention strategies.
- The Alliance's public policy committee is updated with information to disseminate throughout the organization. Parent leadership, parent engagement and neglect prevention are large parts of this organization.
- Other aspects of the Alliance's meeting included defining parent leadership, shared leadership roles for parents statewide.
- The Alliance meeting included a parent panel presentation entitled, "Minnesota Parents as Parents for Child Welfare." Minnesota's Department of Human Services partnered with Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota to recruit, train and support parent volunteers to actively participate in reforming Minnesota's child welfare system. These parent volunteers are compensated for their time, travel, and childcare. Minnesota was the first state to have a Children's Trust Fund in the country.
- The Alliance updated the meeting attendees that there are over 400 certified trainers for the Protective Factors Training. Also, they are in the process of developing a resiliency app for smartphones to engage more parents assist them in tracking their goals.
- Dr. Charlyn Harper Brown was the one of the meeting's keynote speakers. Dr. Brown spoke on parenting and childhood outcomes. She also discussed parenting is a cultural act (surface structure and deep structure), Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework as an approach, and Cultural Humility.

- Dr. Kristen Shook Slack was the meeting's second keynote speaker. Dr. Slack discussed the challenges of addressing child neglect, the child neglect and the poverty conundrum, the causal theory and the socio-economic framework, and a coordinated child maltreatment prevention infrastructure.
- Parent panels were able to act as mentors at this meeting and offered further reimbursement information for other parents. Parent advisory councils discussed what other council have to offer as well as other recruitment strategies.
- John Sciamanna, Director of the National Child Abuse Coalition, shared public policy information with the attendees. Mr. Sciamanna discussed CAPTA reauthorization, CECANF recommendations, child fatality prevention recommendations, the Wyden Bill (Title IV B), SSBG funding and the National Alliance's role.

The Committee discussed the New Jersey Children's Trust Fund (NJ CTF) and some initial ideas of creating a NJ CTF marketing campaign; this topic will be further discussed at a future Committee meeting.

## **Business:**

### **Prevention Standards Workgroup – Update**

#### **Prevention Course Development Workgroup – Update**

The Prevention Course Development Workgroup is working on a curriculum guide that will provide courses on topics such as: protective factors, policy, evidence based practices, etc.

#### **Prevention Plan Implementation Workgroup – Update**

There were no new Prevention Plan Implementation Workgroup updates shared with the Committee. Maura informed the Committee that Diana Autin will provide an update on this Workgroup at the March meeting.

#### **Prevention Standards Workgroup - Update**

Prevention Standards Workgroup informed the Committee that trainers have been identified and the Prevention Standards curriculum is in development. The Workgroup is discussing the use of webinars in this training prior to in-person presentations. The Workgroup anticipates that the self-assessment tool will aid in the further development of this curriculum.

#### **Improving Outcomes for Families of Infants and Young Children - Update**

Christina Colon and Sunday Gustin informed the Committee that about 75 families have agreed to participate in this project to date. They stated that trauma and risk factor assessments are used to help parents in this project. Christina and Sunday informed the Committee that the coordination of services has been the key denominator in helping the families to permanency. Also, workers in this project have been better at reflecting the agency and encouraging the families to use the services.

### **DCF Family Success Centers (FSC) Presentation – Antonio (Tony) Lopez**

Tony Lopez distributed copies of his PowerPoint presentation on DCF's Family Success Centers (FSCs) and provided the following FSC history and recent program highlights:

- Fifty-four Family Success Centers
- At least 1 in each County
- Created 20 new Family Success Centers in the past 5 years
- Served over 48,000 individuals in 2014
- FSC's are neighborhood gathering places where any community resident can go for support, information and services
- Parents are encouraged to come into the Family Success Center and tell share with the staff what they would like to see and experience at each FSC
- Niurca Louis informed the Committee about a recent successful job fair which was held in Gloucester County's Family Success Center.

### **New Business – Discuss 2016 Dates, Time and Location**

The Committee confirmed their 2016 meetings will be held on the following dates in Trenton from 10:00 a.m. through 12:30 p.m.:

- Thursday, March 3, 2016
- Thursday, May 5, 2016
- Thursday, July 7, 2016
- Thursday, September 1, 2016
- Thursday, November 3, 2016

### **Announcements**

Cheryl Mojta informed the Committee about the 2016 International Child Abuse Conference on April 16, 2016 and distributed Save the Date Conference booklets.

**Next Meeting** – March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 – Trenton