

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

In Attendance:

Diana Autin	Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Christine Baker	Newark Beth Israel Medical Center
Suzanne Conrad	Consultant
Diane Dellanno	Advocates for Children New Jersey
Anthony DiFabio	Robins Nest, Inc.
Maura Somers Dughi	Child and Family Advocacy
Kerrie Ocasio	Rutgers, School of Social Work
Kathy Roe	Parents Anonymous of NJ
Michelle Rupe	DCF-Division of Family & Community Partnerships
Rush Russell	Prevent Child Abuse-NJ
Pat Stanislaski	Partnering for Prevention, LLC
Lisa von Pier	DCF-Division of Family and Community Partnerships

Staff

Ifeanyi Pole	DCF-NJTFCAN
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Introduction and Review of Minutes

Introductions were made.

Lisa von Pier announced that she is now the Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P), beginning Monday, January 13, 2014. Michelle Rupe will be overseeing the work of the Division of Family and Community Partnership (DFCP); and Jackie Sanchez-Perez will oversee the Division on Women (DOW) until a replacement is appointed.

The November 2013 minutes were approved.

Old Business

Prevention Plan Steering Committee Update – Diana Autin

Diana informed the committee that an executive summary of the results has been received from the focus groups, interviews and survey feedback from parents, providers, state agencies, members of the Task Force and the Prevention Committee. Some of the data will be presented to the Committee to assist with targeting and prioritize activities.

The January 9th Prevention Planning subcommittee meeting will focus on planning the retreat scheduled for February 6, 2014 at DCF-Professional Center. The subcommittee would like to the kick-off of the Prevention Plan and the Standards in April for the Child Abuse Prevention month. The subcommittee is confirming Commissioner Allison Blake's availability and identifying a keynote speaker.

The Prevention Plan will be reviewed and hopefully approved by the Task Force at their March 28, 2014 meeting.

The Committee was informed that Clarus Consulting and Fred Simmens from Casey Family Programs will be at the January 9th 11:00 am meeting to assist with the planning. Amanda O'Reilly and Dawn DeLuca from the Office of Research, Evaluation and Reporting will be in attendance to present some data that may help inform the Prevention Plan.

Standards Workgroup – Presentation and Vote – Diana Autin

The Committee reviewed the nearly final draft of the new Standards content and the tool that will accompany the Standards. It was discussed that the Standards would include pictures, graphs, bullets, and a workbook that would be an effective tool to train staff as part of the monitoring process. Maura Somers Dughi will identify someone to do the layout of the Standards to make it less wordy. The Committee was pleased with the new Standards expressing it was a better document that reflected the “best practice” for folks working in the field of prevention; and now the Committee will be more informed by their own data. The Committee will be voting on the layout of the Standards.

There was a discussion on adding instructions to include the intent of the tool, who to engage in the process, a glossary of terms to help facilitate a better understanding for parents and staff and to include a few examples. It was stated that the tool can be utilized in a continuous quality improvement way to see if there is growth or change and identify what needs to be prioritized.

The Committee discussed creating a workbook to assist parents and community participants. The workbook would include exercises to complete and examples of what constitutes best practice. The Committee referenced Minnesota's “Early Childhood Guidelines for Birth to Age 3 Years Learning Standards” to get some ideas on what to include in the NJ Prevention Standards workbook.

There was a brief discussion around providers submitting grants for funding and whether or not they are using the Standards. It was stated that DCF has accepted the sixth protective factor. The committee will make recommendations to DCF and this discussion will be addressed at a later date.

Diana informed the Committee that the 2011 data will be updated with the 2012 data that was just approved. Amanda O'Reilly joined the meeting and provided the current data to include in the Standards. The cost for children placed in foster care information is not available.

Kerrie Ocasio informed the Committee that any revisions to the Standards will be shared with the committee prior to taking the final document to the Task Force in March. The committee voted and approved the “Standards for Prevention Programs: Building Success through Family Support” for the 2014 edition.

The Committee thanked Kerrie for her hard work in assisting with completing the Standards.

Diana will reach out to Dr. Finkel to be added to the Task Force agenda for the March 28th meeting.

New Business

There was a discussion on how the Standards will be rolled out and the training that will take place over the next two years. The training would be for every worker in the child welfare field, not just in prevention. The Committee talked about finding resources to thoroughly plan for the training. There was further discussion on a training evaluation and adding a training component to see if things are in order to move from training to practice. This training may be done in partnership with Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS) and various funders. The committee discussed the pros and cons of having some of the training presented through webinars.

Rush Russell discussed creating a workgroup to come up with a strategy approach for implementing the standards and work towards creating the workbook. The Committee is in agreement with creating a workgroup for this purpose.

Family Success Center (FSC)

The report on the FSC and the evaluations that are being done will be presented at the March 6th Prevention Committee meeting.

Next Meeting & Announcements

February is National Parent Leadership month. This is an opportunity for organizations to recognize and honor parent leaders who work with staff to improve their organization and to continue to encourage the building and support of parent leadership. There will be two statewide breakfasts held on February 8, 2014 in Camden and February 28, 2014 in Newark. Each parent will receive a certificate of parent leadership.

Workgroups Convened – next meeting March 6, 2014 – Trenton, NJ