

**New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect
Protection Committee
Mark Ali, Esq, Chair
Liza Kirschenbaum, Esq, Vice-Chair
March 20, 2014
10:00 A.M. Conference Call
Minutes**

In Attendance:

Mark Ali	Essex County Prosecutor's Office
Greta Anderson	DCF-Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit
Joyce Applegate	Catholic Charities
Rhona Beadle	New Jersey Children's Alliance Chapter
Doug Behan	Rutgers School of Social Work
Susan Curcio	Montclair State University
Felice Framo	DCF- Office of Legal Affairs
Liza Kirschenbaum	CASA of New Jersey
Leslie Malkin	New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women
Stephanie Petrillo	Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
Sue Rekedal	Monmouth County Child Advocacy Center
Judy Spinney	Therapist
Donna Younkin	DCF-Director of Special Initiatives

Staff:

Ifeanyi Pole	DCF-NJTFCAN
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Introduction and Welcome

Introductions were made.

January minutes were approved.

Workgroup Updates

Batterer's Accountability – Susan Curcio

Susan informed the Committee that the Batterer's Accountability workgroup is back on track. Dr. Nydia Monagas of the Center for Child Advocacy at Montclair State University is actively working on the IRB application. Also, the committee is in the process of developing the final literature review that will explain the importance of the project.

The Committee was informed that a graduate student has been identified to assist with the survey for the next two semesters. Approval is needed from the Acting Director for the potential appointment and for the IRB application.

Susan made a request to Mark Ali to access the new domestic violence online training to see what changes may have taken place from the previous training. This training is only being made available to law enforcement..

Data Project (John Esmerado) – Mark Ali

Mark informed the Committee that there was no update for the data project.

Felice Framo who was attending the meeting on behalf of Clinton Page, Director of Legal Affairs and Joseph Ribsam, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Legal, Regulatory and Legislative Affairs, informed the Committee that John Esmerado will be reaching out to Joseph Ribsam requesting from DCF data of substantiated and unsubstantiated cases from 2009 to 2012 to compare to Promis/Gavel information.

Human Trafficking – Liza Kirschenbaum

Liza informed the Committee that the human trafficking workgroup has not met due to a lack of information about how the cases were going to be rolled out from the victims' perspective, what entities were able to get involved, and what entities were required to get involved under statute. Donna Younkin informed that Department of Children and Families (DCF) is learning from the number of increased reports and the individual nature of each case. DCF is providing services, placements and learning about each victim's needs in order to evaluate the best assistance strategies. With DCF's involvement with trafficked youth, the workgroup decided to rethink their approach and wait to have the practice, experience, and information to guide the proposed Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) process rather than base it on what has been implemented for victims of sexual abuse.

Additionally, Donna informed the Committee that DCF engaged in a Request for Proposals competitive process in an effort to open a group home for youth who were trafficked. In February 2014, the facility was opened and DCF sees this as learning opportunity to gain insight on how to best serve this population over the next couple of months.

The Committee discussed some issues on the human trafficking cases with regard to who from law enforcement is responding, what is the quality of the response, and that more prosecutors office are starting to get involved. The Committee was informed that Annmarie Taggart, from the Office of the Attorney General (AG), is trying to find the best way for DCF to partner with her office, the investigators and the county prosecutors. DCF has developed a relationship with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Through this learning process, the question has been addressed with the Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) and the Regional Diagnostic Treatment Centers (RDTC) on whether or not they are asking parents if there is any suspicion of trafficking when the child arrives to the facility. DCF State Central Registry (SCR) is doing a great job of asking when they hear key words and information is received that would have otherwise been omitted. Also, the number of referrals received from SCR has been increasing. The Committee briefly discussed the role for the adolescent medical specialist to treat these youth who may have other issues associated with adolescence. Another concern discussed was regarding children that are in state custody who will need legal representation. This issue is being discussed with the AG's office and the public defender.

Liza informed the Committee that the next step for the human trafficking workgroup would be to change the lines of communication and schedule some time to have informational update from DCF and the Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU) who are being brought into these cases as per statute. This will allow for the workgroup to receive updates periodically on how things are working, what is happening with each of the stakeholders, and to learn what is needed. It was suggested to have the Committee do a follow-up case study with a few active cases and get some feedback from DCF, the AG's office, and the FCIU involved in the process. Stephanie Petrillo will reach out to the FCIU directors that came to the last meeting to see what cases they have been reviewing.

Old Business

Boston Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) – Sue Rekedal

Sue provided the Committee with the following up information from the January 16, 2014 meeting regarding the Boston CAC. The Boston CAC identified 35 leads of different agencies (FBI, homeland security, prosecutors' offices, etc.) and located a facility to train stakeholders. A mission statement, goals, objectives, and a coordinated response were developed through the completed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). A process was developed on how cases would be tracked from the first identification and staying involved in the team process until everyone felt that the case was resolved and the victim was receiving the services needed.

Sue will email the Committee the Boston CAC human trafficking MDT called the Support to End Exploitation Now (SEEN) program, which is a multidisciplinary response to commercial sexual exploitation of youth and other types of trafficking issues. Identified cases are reviewed on an as-needed basis in partnership with their Task Force, which meets periodically to review the shared guidelines and protocols. Joint trainings are conducted to allow for everyone to know the same basic information generated from the shared mission statewide. Their main principle is that no one agency can do this alone due to cases being complex with multiple jurisdictions. They note the need for case coordination from all the different agencies and professionals to become involved so that the child and/or family receive the appropriate support services. Massachusetts' statewide data is being collected from all the different agencies in order to capture a picture of what is going on in order to improve the process.

Mark asked about the statute that was passed almost a year ago called “Commission on Human Trafficking” for the State. Donna informed the Committee that they have not formed yet. Mark shared that he thought it would be ideal if the New Jersey Human Trafficking Commission implemented what the Boston CAC has currently established. The Task Force and the Committee would provide recommendations regarding directives in their trainings.

Donna mentioned the Urban Institute study – “The Economics of Commercial Sex”, which she will send to Ifeanyi to send out to the Committee. It was stated that the Communication Committee could possibly work on a campaign called “Did you Ask”. It was also mentioned that if the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect (NJTFCAN) is going to encourage people to inform the public about commercial sex, the correct type of language and resources should be provided.

The question was asked with regard to a list of red flag questions. Liza informed the Committee that the Human Trafficking workgroup created a list of red flags. Donna will email Ifeanyi the red flag information that she has to send out to the Committee members.

The Committee is interested in seeing the materials from the Boston CAC to get a better understanding of what to focus on and to make sure the right people are at the table. Court Appointed Special Advocates – NJ's (CASA NJ) GoTo Meeting webinar account was offered to use as a means of training. Sue will reach out to Susan Goldfarb in Boston to see if she would be able to do a consultation with the Committee and the fee involved.

Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey – Ifeanyi Pole

Ifeanyi provided the Committee with the follow-up information to the question from the January 16, 2014 conference call inquiring about DCF's partnership with Prevent Child Abuse-New Jersey regarding HT training. Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey is contracted with DCF to address what has been a predicted increase in human trafficking by reaching at-risk population to promote awareness and intervention and build capacity through expansion of training in order to prevent, assess, and intervene in human trafficking across various youth serving service providers and stakeholders. There are five components that makeup the training in how to prevent, assess and intervene in human trafficking:

1. Providing one-on-one group psycho-educational sessions regarding human trafficking prevention, awareness and intervention to youth ages 10-21.
2. Providing group psycho-educational sessions regarding human trafficking prevention and awareness to youth in foster homes and their resource (foster) parents.
3. Providing support and training to clinical staff regarding human trafficking prevention, awareness and intervention
4. Provide training to youth serving service providers and stakeholders regarding human trafficking prevention and awareness
5. Provide training to trainers to DCF Training Academy Staff, other DCF staff and providers to deliver human trafficking trainings annually to DCF staff, service providers and other critical youth serving stakeholders.

All questions, regarding this recovery contract following Superstorm Sandy, should be directed to Luther Owens at 609-888-7076 or via email: Luther.Owens@dcf.state.nj.us.

Donna Younkin and Ifeanyi Pole will follow up on Rhona's question regarding whether or not her agency would be able to contact Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey to provide training in her county or link her to the correct person to contact.

Donna informed the Committee that Commissioner Blake will be giving the keynote at the Child Advocacy Center conference in April at Montclair State University. The conference will be on human trafficking of minors and there will be workshops provided by Montclair State University.

The Committee was informed of the two-day Summit sponsored by Wynona's House scheduled for April 7-8, 2014, which will include workshops on human trafficking. The information will be sent to Ifeanyi to send to everyone through the Task Force email account.

Next Meeting – May 15, 2014 – DCF Professional Center

Attachments