

**New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect
Protection Committee
Mark Ali, Esq, Chair
Liza Kirschenbaum, Esq, Vice-Chair
October 2, 2014
10:00 A.M.
DCF Professional Center/Conference Call**

Minutes

In Attendance:

Mark Ali	Essex County Prosecutor's Office
Suzanne Alvino	DCF-Child Protection and Permanency
Greta Anderson	DCF-Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit (IAIU)
Joyce Applegate	Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen
Doug Behan	Rutgers School of Social Work
Liza Kirschenbaum	Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of New Jersey
Leslie Malkin	New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women (NJCBW)
Judy Spinney	Therapist
Tracy Thompson	New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice

Staff:

Ifeanyi Pole	DCF-NJTFCAN
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Introduction and Welcome

Introductions were made.

Mark Ali announced that October 2nd was his last meeting as Chairperson of the Protection Committee. Mark has submitted his resignation as a result of a professional opportunity. It was discussed that the Chair has to be a Task Force member. Mark also mentioned that Carolyn Murray, Acting Essex County Prosecutor, would like to get more involved with the Committee. Mark will reach out to Dr. Finkel by Friday, October 3, 2014 to speak with him about his resignation and ways to increase membership for the Task Force committees.

The July 2014 minutes were approved.

Workgroup Updates

Batterer's Accountability

There was no update for the Batterer's Accountability Workgroup. However, Mark gave a recap of the workgroup's project. It was discussed that a survey was created to assess how cases are being handled by prosecutors' offices, in particular the batterer's accountability with respect to children and whether or not emotional abuse is being addressed as child endangerment. The project was put on hold while the Workgroup Chair, Susan H. Curcio, researched if it was necessary to submit this survey through the Internal Review Board (IRB) approval process. Susan discovered that this survey does not require IRB approval.

Suzanne Alvino informed the Committee of the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P) efforts on batterers' accountability. There are four counties (Sussex, Morris, Middlesex and Atlantic) in collaboration with David Mandel Associates taking part in the Batterers' Intervention Enhancing Fatherhood pilot. There was a baseline survey of how the offices viewed and worked with batterers and a one day training introducing the Safe and Together Model. Also, a conference was held for approximately 200 people. Topics included holding the batterer accountable, getting to know what the behaviors are, and removing blame from the victims. An updated training is being developed by David Mandel Associates which should be finished around November or December 2014. The training will be made available to the entire state once feedback is gathered from the surveys. The model looks at the following: how victims can be safe with his/her children and ways to assess safety, holding the batterer's accountable for their behavior, reviewing the protective factors, and looking at the victims' ability to protect his/herself. The Committee was informed that there are domestic violence liaisons in all DCP&P offices and currently there is no batterer's risk assessment. However, part of the practice and policy includes identification of red flags (i.e. drinking, drug use, mental health, threats, choking, weapons, etc.). The model teaches a specific safety assessment that can be utilized to assess the batterer's risk. The Committee was informed of the future collaborating model of partnering with prosecutor's offices. The Committee will be invited to the upcoming training, once the dates are made available.

Ifeanyi Pole will send an email out to the Batterers Accountability Workgroup to see if members are still interested in serving on the workgroup.

Data Project – Mark Ali

Mark informed the Committee that he is hopeful that by the November 20, 2014 meeting; a draft version of the report should be available. The report will include data that has been collected from the Promis/Gavel system, which shows issues with the prosecutors' offices and court clerks not properly inputting the correct identifiers for certain crimes.

Human Trafficking Workgroup

Liza informed the Committee of the Human Trafficking Workgroup conference call. Tracy Thompson provided an update about what is going on with human trafficking throughout the State which includes identification, rescue, communication, outreach, and training. Tracy informed the participants on the call to inform Ifeanyi Pole of any upcoming human trafficking training so that this information can be sent to Kathleen Friess for posting on their website.

The Committee discussed the Community Treatment Solutions (CTS) programs. The programs are already seeing this population of victims in which some clinical work strategies are being utilized and more beds have opened up to accommodate some of the kids. Tracy Thompson emphasized the need to have a protocol at the State Level so that everyone is aware of the guidelines for placing calls to the Attorney General's hotline, the National hotline and the County Prosecutor's Office. There are two liaisons assigned to each county along with the county prosecutor's office and they have been authorized to establish county task forces.

The Committee was also updated on the Human Trafficking Workgroup's conference call with Susan Goldfarb of the Boston Child Advocacy Center (CAC). The Boston model has

been in place for years. It is a county based Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) process, which is run out of their CAC. There are county based protocols for how cases are handled as counties have different resources.

Mark informed the Committee of the FBI efforts in Essex County in which he believes is working out very well. The FBI has three different groups for human trafficking for victims: out of the country, in country, and labor and age. The FBI has provided resources such as twelve FBI agents and computers to Essex County.

The Committee was also informed of the upcoming conferences on Human Trafficking that are being held in Mercer and Somerset county.

The Committee voted unanimously to establish a set of guidelines (a checklist) for who should be included at the county level human trafficking task force, items for discussion (i.e. county resources, case conferences, etc.) and how the process will be launched. This will be used as a guidance tool for a local task force on trafficking of minors or youths. An email was sent to the Protection Committee and Human Trafficking workgroup asking the members to provide input into the drafting of the Human Trafficking Task Force guidelines document. Ifeanyi Pole will send out an email reminder with an October 17, 2014 deadline. Liza will go back and look at the MDT type document that was drafted to see if anything would be applicable to include in the guidelines. The goal is for the document to be two or three pages which will make it easier to digest. The goal is to have the guidelines drafted by November 20, 2014 in order to present it to the Task Force at their November 21, 2014 meeting.

Next Meeting – November 20, 2014 – New Brunswick