

**New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect
Protection Committee
Donna Younkin, Acting Chair
Liza Kirschenbaum, Esq, Vice-Chair
December 15, 2014
9:30 A.M.
Conference Call**

Minutes

In Attendance:

Greta Anderson	DCF-Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit (IAIU)
Lorraine Augustini	OPD-OLG
Doug Behan	Rutgers School of Social Work
John Esmerado	Union County Child Advocacy Center
Liza Kirschenbaum	Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of New Jersey
Clinton Page	DCF-Office of Legal Affairs
Donna Pincavage	Administrative Director at the RDTC
Susan 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.

The October 2014 minutes were approved with noted edits.

Workgroup Updates

Update on the "Data Project" – John Esmerado

John emailed the Committee a draft of the data report in advance of the call on December 12, 2014. The report includes data that was collected from the Promis/Gavel system from 2009 to 2012. The Administrative office of the Courts (AOC) report showed a low number of defendants convicted of sexual assault of minors. The significant difference is that the Department of Children and Families (DCF) data report is child based and the AOC data is perpetrator based. John believes that there is a screening issue in the way the data is collected on the AOC side. A reminder will be sent out to ensure that all relevant sub-sections are in the data and to inquire why data cannot be collected if there is more than one subsection due to multiple counties reporting higher aggravated sexual assault cases. John will also look at the New Jersey Children's Alliance TRAC to make a recommendation to the MDT in terms of sexual and physical abuse as there is still not a complete picture of the actual data.

Liza will email John Esmerado John Shutack's contact information in an effort to obtain AOC report which provides reason for court involvement which includes physical abuse. This will allow John to make recommendations and get a clear picture of what services are

being provided on the joint Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P) and prosecutor's cases. This data is important to capture now that there is a twenty-five year stipulation to post indictment. John stated that he has some concerns about Hudson County's data and he currently has interns reviewing that data again. Once completed, another draft will be sent out for review and discussion.

John asked Ifeanyi to inquire if someone can assist with organizing the data to have a county by county comparison (CP&P vs. the prosecutors) listed on a one page document.

Batterer's Accountability

Donna Younkin informed the Committee that Susan Curcio is unable to participate in today's conference call; and due to her schedule, she is unable to continue with leadership of the project; however she still wants to stay involved in the workgroup. If the Committee decided to move this project forward, new volunteers will be needed to assist with the work. The purpose of the project (a questionnaire) is to determine what the prosecutors' office and law enforcement are doing to address the issue of batterer's accountability for domestic violence when children are exposed. Donna stated that Susan recommended that the survey be updated as a lot of progress has been made since the original design. It was also discussed that CP&P and law enforcement have new training on batterer's accountability which needs to be brought into context of the questionnaire. The Committee discussed how to proceed with the survey in addition to learning more about the new law enforcement training in order to determine if the workgroup should continue with the project and identify any gaps or ongoing concerns. For the next meeting, Ifeanyi will provide the Committee with a copy of the survey questions from May 2012.

The Committee also discussed developing another survey on the different types of domestic violence programs administered by each county to get a sense of what kind of treatment is being delivered (model used, duration of the program, outcome data, etc.). Donna will contact the New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women and Attorney General's (AG) office lead person on this matter to obtain information to report back to the Committee.

The Committee also discussed having a presentation from law enforcement related to domestic violence and its impact on children and finding out how many counties are actually following the "Gold Standards for Batterer's Treatment." Doug Behan will reach out to Cynthia Lischick to see what her recommendations on the best course of action for the Gold Standards for Batterer's and check her availability on attending a future meeting.

Ifeanyi Pole will check with Robert Ring, Director of the Child Welfare Training Academy & Partnership to see when the CP&P training will be available and provide an update at the next meeting.

Human Trafficking Workgroup

Liza informed the Committee that she has not received much feedback from the Committee members or the human trafficking workgroup regarding their input for creating a human trafficking guideline document to serve as guidance for local, county-based task forces or coalitions on trafficking of minors/youth. This Human Trafficking Guidelines document would be a checklist of items that should be considered:

- Who should be included on such a task force or coalition and who should facilitate it?;
- What such a task force or coalition would be focused on (e.g., individual youth case conferencing, ensuring resources to meet trafficked youth's needs, addressing development of resources that are unavailable in the county); and
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- How the task force/coalition would operate, including where and when they would meet, how they would be facilitated, and how communication would flow?

It was discussed that Liza received feedback from Suzanne Brewen-Alvino and Ava Schlesinger.

Ifeanyi will send out another email requesting feedback for the guidelines document with a due date of January 9, 2015 and follow up with Tracy Thompson regarding her input for the guidelines. Susan Rekedal has volunteered to work with Liza on revising the document and also stated that the MDT coordinators are supportive of the project. Liza and Susan will work on pulling everything together on paper before it is shared with the Committee for feedback.

John E. will email the Committee the 2012 Attorney General's Directive on Human Trafficking Investigation for law enforcement. The directive serves as a source of what responsibilities are asked of the municipal and county levels.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Nurses – Donna Younkin

Donna stated that the Task Force Co-Chair, Dr. Martin Finkel, reached out to her regarding the SANE nurses as well as sending out an email to the Committee on December 11, 2014 regarding two issues that he believes are appropriate for the Protection Committee to address: 1) building capacity through strategic physician workforce development for the RDTC's and 2) the role of SANE nurses, their relationship to RDTC's and their oversight. Donna has met with the head of the SANE nurses and a representative will be at the next meeting with the hopes of adding them onto the Committee as members to work on some of the issues. It was discussed that Dr. Finkel would like to be present when the SANE nurse representative(s) attends. Donna Pincavage stated there are a few SANE nurses that work with children under the age of thirteen. This topic will be added to the January 2015 meeting agenda.

John stated that Connie Schwedes from the AG office should be invited to attending a meeting as she is the statewide SART/SANE Program Manager. John will also look for the AG policy on what a pediatric SANE program needs to look like and share it with the Committee.

Donna Pincavage will get the contact information regarding the SANE nurse program at Rutgers University-Newark Campus. Also, the Committee was informed that Eileen Allen conducts the SANE nurse pediatric training at Monmouth University School of Nursing.

Goals for 2015

This item will be added onto the January 28, 2015 agenda.

Proposed 2015 Protection Committee meeting time, locates and dates

The first meeting for 2015 will be held on January 28, 2015 at 1:00pm in Trenton, New Jersey. The Committee agreed to change the meeting dates to every third Wednesday of every other month beginning with March 18, 2015 with a start time of 9:30am. The locations of the meetings will be decided at the January meeting.

Next Meeting – January 28, 2015 – Trenton