

**New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect
Protection Committee
Donna Younkin, Acting Chair
Liza Kirschenbaum, Esq, Vice-Chair
May 13, 2015
1:00 P.M.
PerformCare – Room 113A**

Minutes

In Attendance:

Greta Anderson	DCF – IAIU
Joyce Applegate	Catholic Charities
Kerry Camerer	NJ CASA
Doug Behan	Rutgers School of Social Work
Eileen Caraker	Gloucester County Forensic Nurse Coordinator
Christene DeWitt-Parker	NJ Department of Education
John Esmerado	Union County Prosecutor's Office
Liza Kirschenbaum	Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of New Jersey
Cynthia Lischick	NJ National Guard
Patricia Lynch	Atlantic Health System
Kim Maloney	CSOC
Kelly Sandler	Essex County
Sylvia Snyder	DBH RDTTC
Lorene Wilkerson	NJCPAC
Donna Younkin	DCF-Director of Special Initiatives
Karen Zambrano	Wynona's House

Staff:

Ifeanyi Pole	DCF-NJTFCAN
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Introduction and Welcome

Introductions were made.

The March 2015 minutes were approved with noted edits.

Batterer's Accountability

Donna Younkin provided the Committee with the answers to the follow-up questions from the Division on Women (DOW) from the March 16, 2015 meeting.

1. How many batterers are currently being served by DOW Batterers Intervention Programs (BIPS)?

In 2014, there were 414 batterers referred and 306 clients were accepted.

2. How are issues of confidentiality (i.e. information about the batterer's fathering issues) being addressed by the BIPs?

During the 26 week program, three sessions focus on fatherhood. The

participants in the program do not have confidentiality and are made aware of this before beginning the program. The provider notifies the victim that the batterer has enrolled in the program. The provider also notifies the victim if the victim and/ or their family are in danger. If the participant was referred through Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P), the provider is encouraged to have regular contact with the CP&P caseworker throughout the participant's involvement in the program.

The Committee discussed the future of the Batterers Accountability Workgroup, the initial survey and redesigning the survey to include what is currently happening to address batterer's accountability. The Committee discussed having representation from the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCASA) and the New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women (NJCBW) at the Committee meetings to share their perspective on this issue. Donna and Lorene Wilkerson agreed to locate prior domestic violence and child abuse legislation and manuals. Donna also suggested reaching out to the State Central Registry (SCR) to see if they have any data regarding domestic violence. It was discussed that every Local Office has a domestic violence specialist and that domestic violence training is being offered. The Committee discussed creating a newsletter for providing updates on this topic, similar to DCF's human trafficking newsletter; this suggestion will be further discussed at a future meeting.

The following questions regarding Batterers Accountability were generated by the Committee's discussion:

- Are DV perpetrators being charged criminally for their act of DV?
- Are children who witness the abuse being referred to CP&P?
- Are perpetrators charged with child abuse and neglect when the child is physically there to witness the acts?

These Batterers Accountability topics will be added to the July 2015 meeting agenda.

Data Project

John Esmerado presented on the data projected and informed the Committee that Amanda O'Reilly, Director of Office of Research, Evaluation, and Reporting and DCF staff member, Donna Perna, had been very helpful with assisting him in compiling the data:

- In the 2012 report, of the 219 charged, 142 offenders were convicted statewide of sexually penetrating a child less than 13 years old.
- 72% of the cases were referred and substantiated by DCF and 84% of cases were non-caregivers that were substantiated.

John also reported on the physical abuse and the difference between the substantiation by CP&P and by law enforcement:

- CP&P data set is substantiated by caregiver and the criminal data set is based on probable cause if the defendant commits a crime.

- The Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT) in the 21 counties are required by statute to keep data by defendant and multiple sex acts committed by the defendant across the State, which is then referred to CP&P. The Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) send their data to the National Children's Alliance to be collected. However, only eight of the 21 New Jersey counties have a CAC.
- John noted that there was a difference in outcomes in court for physical abuse and sexual abuse.

John's recommends there be a uniform data system for child sexual abuse and physical abuse for the State and to begin data collection for juvenile on juvenile sexual abuse which is on the rise. John will provide the Committee with a drafted summary of the findings for their review and feedback. This topic will be added to the July 2015 meeting agenda.

The Committee thanks John for his time and dedication to this project.

Human Trafficking Update

Liza Kirschenbaum informed the Committee that the Human Trafficking (HT) County Guidelines document was approved by the human trafficking workgroup; the voting was done electronically via email. Donna and Liza agreed to amend the Guidelines with a reference to the federal statute of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The Committee voted to approve the HT Guidelines with the noted revisions, which will be sent to the Task Force for their approval. The Committee thanked Liza for her hard work and dedication with the HT Guidelines document.

The Committee discussed how the HT Guidelines may be disseminated. Donna informed the Committee that once the Task Force votes on the HT Guidelines, the Guidelines will be sent to the Attorney General's (AG) office.

Housekeeping

Donna discussed the Committee members' attendance in accordance to the bylaws of the Task Force. In December 2014, a review of the 2014 meeting attendance was conducted. Members that attended less than 50% percent of the meetings were sent a letter in February 2015 inviting their future participation and to inform Ifeanyi if their Committee availability has changed. According to the bylaws, members are required to attend at least 50% of the meetings to be considered in good standing. With the Committee's approval, a letter will be sent to the Task Force to recommend the removal of Committee members who have not attended at least 50% of the meetings. John Esmerado informed the Committee that some members have retired and John will forward those names to Ifeanyi. An updated Protection Committee list will be available at the July 2015 meeting.

Review of 2015 Goals

- John will provide a draft of written recommendations on the child physical/sexual abuse data project.
- The Batterers Accountability Project remains a project the Committee continues to discuss.

- The County Human Trafficking Guidelines have been approved by the Protection Committee.
- The role of the Forensic nurses is on HOLD at the request of Dr. Martin Finkel and Eileen Caraker.
- Donna asked the Committee if they would be interested in discussing information on human trafficking as it relates to pornography. The Committee expressed interest in pursuing this topic. Donna will contact the FBI and/or the State Police experts in this area and invite a representative to give a presentation at the July 2015 meeting.

Announcements

On June 26, 2015 the Office of the Attorney General is hosting a conference on Human Trafficking at the Morris County Public Safety Training Academy, Morristown, NJ.

Ifeanyi informed the Committee that the Task Force 2015 Biennial conference will be held on September 9, 2015. She will provide an update on this conference at the July meeting.

Next Meeting Date – July 15, 2015 at PerformCare in Robbinsville