

**New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect  
Protection Committee  
Mark Ali, Esq, Chair  
Liza Kirschenbaum, Esq, Vice-Chair  
May 15, 2014 @ 10:00 A.M.  
DCF Professional Center- Conference Room 130  
Minutes**

**In Attendance:**

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| Mark Ali           | Essex County Prosecutor's Office           |
| Greta Anderson     | DCF-Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit |
| Joyce Applegate    | Catholic Charities                         |
| Doug Behan         | Rutgers School of Social Work              |
| Susan Curcio       | Montclair State University                 |
| Liza Kirschenbaum  | CASA of New Jersey                         |
| 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:**

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| Ifeanyi Pole | DCF-NJTFCAN |
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**Introduction and Welcome**

Introductions were made.

March 2014 minutes were approved.

**Workgroup Updates**

Batterer's Accountability – Susan Curcio

Susan informed the Committee that due to the nature of the survey, it is not necessary to complete the IRB application process. Over the summer, the ground work will be done to launch the survey. The workgroup is looking to complete the survey by the next academic year and additional approval would be needed when the new director starts. Once the survey is complete, it is anticipated that the workgroup will be able to advance their work on this issue and determine what is needed; for instance, understanding the domestic violence training for law enforcement officers. A request was made to Mark Ali for the content of the training, in order to evaluate how the officers are trained in dealing with children when they respond to domestic violence issues and make recommendations to the Attorney Generals (AG) office. Once the survey is complete, Mark suggested inviting the Deputy Attorney General, Marie Pirog to attend a future Protection Committee meeting. Mark will contact the prosecutor's offices via phone and mail to provide information about this survey. Susan stated that First Assistant Prosecutor of Middlesex, Julia L. McClure would be able to make the calls for South and Central Jersey and Mark will handle North Jersey.

Data Project – Mark Ali

Mark informed the Committee that John Esmerado is no longer doing child abuse work. It was questioned as to whether John would still be able part of the Committee. Ifeanyi Pole

with confirm that John would still be able to serve on the Committee. Mark will contact John before the next meeting to confirm if he will still be interested in serving on the data project.

#### Human Trafficking Workgroup - Liza Kirschenbaum

Liza informed the Committee that she will be stepping down from leading the workgroup, however, she still wants be involved. Mark Ali has agreed to take the lead on the Human Trafficking Workgroup and he has requested a co-chair to work alongside him, preferably someone from DCF. Further discussion will take place on this issue at a later date.

#### **New Business**

##### Update on DCF's Human Trafficking Work – Donna Younkin

Donna provided the Committee with information on the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) human trafficking initiatives. First, she discussed the "The Partnership for Freedom", an organization that provides grants to address human trafficking, both domestically and internationally. DCF submitted a proposal in the fall of 2013 called "Innovation Grants" in an effort to approach human trafficking in a new way. A joint proposal was submitted by DCF and Polaris at the end of 2013. At the meeting in Washington, D.C in January 2014, the proposal was rewritten to include Caravan Studios (California). Caravan Studios' work involves the use of technology and software applications. At the end of April 2014, The Partnership for Freedom granted DCF's, "Safe Shelter Collaborative" initiative two thirds of the 1.17 million dollars.

The project's concept is to have a common assessment tool (mobile apps) that shelters agree to use when a human trafficking victim is in immediate need of shelter. The agencies participating will receive training, ongoing technical assistance and become certified to work with human trafficking victims. When there is not enough shelter beds, Caravan Studios will use their mobile app to send out a text requesting available beds or funding for beds in hotels. This will allow the participating domestic violence agencies in New Jersey access to additional resources along with providing case management. During this process, data to be will be collected.

The human trafficking certification is part of the grant that DCF is preparing; in which Polaris will be doing the training. The training curriculum for the domestic violence agencies is currently being created. There are five modules and one is partnering with law enforcement. Enhancements to the curriculum will be made in early July 2014.

Donna informed the Committee that the "Dream Catcher Program" project is under the Attorney Generals (AG) office. The AG office issued an RFP in December 2013 for a program to provide services to human trafficking victims. The Women's Center of Atlantic County won the grant and received \$350,000 to provide case management to human trafficking victims throughout the state. The agency will respond with law enforcement, help arrange for shelter and assist human trafficking victims. Dawn Lomongo, Donna Younkin and Polaris representatives will be meeting next week to further discuss the grant. Ifeanyi will remind Donna to email Mark the Dream Catcher flyer.

DCF has established a Human Trafficking Workgroup with Donna Younkin and Suzanne Alvino as the co-chair. The workgroup has identified some issues around policy and procedure on missing or runaway children. Contact has been made with the Center for

Missing and Exploited Children and Anna Cody will obtain basic information on what they need. The workgroup will also be assessing DCF human services police, law enforcement, FBI and anyone else involved in the reporting of a child that has been a victim of human trafficking, to understand their process and identify if there may be areas of improvement.

Additionally, DCF created a second workgroup to address confidentiality with regard to human trafficking. DCF is reviewing its own protocol on this issue. The mandates for Human Trafficking are not as clearly defined as they are for child abuse.

There is a third Human Trafficking workgroup that will be addressing screening tools. The street outreach programs are asking for screening tools. This workgroup will be researching screening tools already created to see what can be learned and applied. The workgroup will begin its work by updating the State Central Registry (SCR) screening tool as well.

Also, Suzanne Alvino is heading up a workgroup that will be looking at the approximately one hundred human trafficking reports that DCF has received since September 2013. The group will review the reports that were received by phone, how these calls were coded and the case details. Initially, DCF is will be assessing trends regarding the victims' age range and what days of the week the majority of calls are received. The next step for this workgroup will be able to research the cases in-depth to see if the victims had prior history with Child Protection and Permanency.

Donna informed the Committee that she currently serves on the Attorney General's New Jersey Human Trafficking Task Force and the Human Trafficking Commission. It was discussed that DCF policy is to report all human trafficking reports that received by DCF to the AG hotline and Polaris notifies local law enforcement. As of September 2013, when SCR receives a report regarding human trafficking, it is also sent to DCF executive management staff for review and assessment.

The Committee discussed the following human trafficking bills that have been introduced before Congress Bill H.R.3530 amends the victims of child abuse act definition to include human trafficking, production of child pornography within the definition of child abuse and neglect. Bill H.R.4058 was just introduced, and it changes Title IV-E eligibility requirements for states to have a specific plan that they submit to the federal government to include ways to identify and screen to determine state action and services for human trafficking victims. Donna stated that one of the charges of the Human Trafficking Commission is to make recommendations of any changes or additions to the law. The New Jersey Law Revision Committee was briefly discussed and their objective is to make recommendations for revisions to state statutes. Liza will forward Mark the New Jersey Law Revision Committee report, memorandum and the information regarding their next meeting in Newark on May 22, 2014.

The Committee was informed that the Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU) has had a decline in the number of human trafficking cases due to cases going to DCF. FCIU's future role was discussed since they are the group named in the statute as being responsible for these cases. Donna stated that if DCF has cases where they have to compel services, this is when DCF would use the statute and have the FCIUs bring the

cases before the judges to compel services if they were not appropriate under abuse or neglect.

The Committee discussed the documents, "BLUEPRINT- A Multidisciplinary Approach to the Domestic Sex Trafficking of Girls and "From 'The Life' to My Life: Sexually Exploited Children Reclaiming Their Future" that were previously emailed to the members by Susan Rekedal. It was discussed that the Committee may consider referencing this document and assessing its applicability in New Jersey. In referencing the BLUEPRINT document on page 10, it was discussed that Boston's legislation on human trafficking differs from New Jersey. It was discussed that it took Boston about four or five years to generate the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by all the stakeholders, which is listed in the BLUEPRINT's appendix on page 17. It was discussed that the Committee asked the Task Force for funding to have someone to work this issue full time and fund a part-time researcher. This could be an opportunity for the Task Force to partner with federal, state and local agencies. It was suggested that the Committee have a conference call with Susan Goldfarb, Executive Director, Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County in Massachusetts to discuss their process. Susan Rekedal will email or call Mark once a date is set to discuss the specifics for this call.

Donna mentioned that the Committee should look at the New Jersey Safe Harbor Law and become familiar with how it is impacting New Jersey. Also to see if it aligns with what the Committee is trying to do.

It was discussed that Microsoft has funded 10 programs around the use of technology with human trafficking. It was suggested to have a representative from Montclair State University attend a future Protection Committee meeting to discuss what research they are doing with the their Microsoft grant.

Donna will provide an update on the initiative being developed with DCF and Department of Health (DOH) at a future Committee meeting.

A date for the next Protection Committee-Human Trafficking Workgroup has not been scheduled.

The Committee was informed that Tracy Thompson is interested in participating in their human trafficking workgroup.

### **Announcements**

It was announced that on June 5, 2014, the New Jersey Multidisciplinary Team Coordinators' Association, New Jersey Children's Alliance and Monmouth University School of Social Work will present "The MDT Approach to Challenging Issues in Child Maltreatment" conference at the Sheraton Eatontown from 8:00am until 4:00pm. The conference is free. Members were encouraged to check their email or contact Ifeanyi Pole for additional information on this event.

### **Next Meeting – July 17, 2014 – DCF Professional Center**