

**New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect
Protection Committee
Mark Ali, Esq, Chair
Liza Kirschenbaum, Esq, Vice-Chair
July 17, 2014
Conference Call at 10:00 A.M.**

Minutes

In Attendance:

Mark Ali	Essex County Prosecutor's Office
Suzanne Alvino	DCF-Child Protection and Permanency
Greta Anderson	DCF-Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit
Joyce Applegate	Catholic Charities
Rhona Beadle	New Jersey Children's Alliance Chapter
Deirdre Carver	Department of Law and Public Safety
Felice Framo	DCF-Office of Legal Affairs
Liza Kirschenbaum	Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of New Jersey
Leslie Malkin	New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women (NJCBW)
Stephanie Petrillo	Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
Judy Spinney	Therapist
Cynthia Van Brunt	Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

Staff:

Ifeanyi Pole	DCF-NJTFCAN
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Introduction and Welcome

Introductions were made.

The May 2014 minutes were approved.

Workgroup Updates

Batterer's Accountability

Susan Curcio did not participate in the conference call. The Committee will discuss updates on the Batterer's Accountability workgroup at the October meeting.

Data Project – Mark Ali

Mark informed the Committee that John Esmerado is in the process of putting the information he collected from Promis Gavel into a written report which should be completed by September 2014. The Committee was reminded that John will no longer be working on special victim's child abuse cases due to new responsibilities. However, he will finish the written report of the data project. Mark will reach out to John today for an update and will inform Ifeanyi whether or not to add John to the agenda for the October meeting.

Human Trafficking Workgroup

Susan Rekedal informed the Committee that the Department of Children and Families (DCF) is applying for a federal grant on human trafficking called "Responding in Place to Prevent, Identify and Treat the Vulnerable Population regarding Trafficking Victims." The MDT Coordinators, New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect, New Jersey Counseling Association (NJCA), and the Prosecutor's Office, among other supporting partners have submitted letters of support for this grant.

Leslie Malkin informed the Committee that Prevent Child Abuse-NJ has been working on human trafficking training and that they are currently training DCF's Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P) staff on human trafficking.

A Human Trafficking workgroup Meeting Wizard request will be sent out for September 9, 10, 11, and 15, 2014 from 10:00am until 12:00pm in New Brunswick with a message for members to respond by or before close of business on July 31, 2014.

Suzanne Alvino stated that DCF and Polaris are currently developing training on human trafficking around the engagement of victims/survivors. The next round of this training is scheduled for November 2014.

Old Business

Boston Child Advocacy Centers Update

Susan Rekedal will reach out to Susan Goldfarb, the Director of the Boston Child Advocacy Center for potential dates for a conference call with Mark Ali, Susan Rekedal, and Donna Younkin regarding Boston's human trafficking program. Mark informed of his availability for the conference call. Susan will copy Mark and Donna on the email to Dr. Goldfarb. Mark will update the Committee at the next meeting regarding details of the call.

Announcements

Susan Rekedal informed the Committee that the MDT Coordinators received a grant from the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect to host the June 5, 2014 conference: "The MDT Approach to Challenging Issues in Child Maltreatment" and the upcoming training on September 18, 2014 to address the issues of recantation for MDT teams, MDT one-on-one for new team members and updates on best practices. The September 18th training will be held in Mercer County (Robert Wood Johnson). Susan will keep the Committee posted and notify the members of any available slots. Planning is in process for next year's conference and the theme is "Cultural Competence in Addressing Child Victims of Sexual Abuse." Mark will announce the September 18, 2014 MDT training at the Wynona's House Child Advocacy Center (CAC) Administrator's meeting on July 17, 2014.

The Protection Committee's September 18th meeting date was canceled and rescheduled to October 2, 2014 due to the conflict with the September 18th MDT training and religious observances. An email will be sent out to the Committee informing them of the next meeting date which is October 2, 2014 at DCF Professional Center.

Next Meeting – October 2, 2014 – New Brunswick