

**New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect  
Protection Committee  
Mark Ali, Esq, Chair  
Liza Kirschenbaum, Esq, Vice-Chair  
November 21, 2013  
9:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M  
Minutes**

**In Attendance:**

Suzanne Alvino	DCF-CP&P
Greta Anderson	DCF-IAIU
Joyce Applegate	Catholic Charities
Lorraine Augostini	OPD-OLG
Liza Kirschenbaum	CASA of NJ
Leslie Malkin	NJCBW
Kim Maloney	DCF-CSOC
Clinton Page	DCF-Office of Legal, Regulatory and Legislative Affairs
Stephanie Petrillo	AOC
Susan Rekedal	Monmouth County Child Advocacy Center

**Staff:**

LaTasha Holmes	DCF-NJTFCAN
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**Introduction and Welcome**

Introductions were made. The committee was informed that LaTasha Holmes would be staffing the meeting in lfeanyi Pole's absence.

October minutes were approved.

**Workgroup Updates**

Batterer's Accountability

Liza Kirschenbaum informed the committee that Susan Curcio was unable to attend the meeting. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

Red Flags Subgroup

The committee was informed that there has been no additional work from the Red Flags Subgroup. The red flags document that was reviewed at the October's meeting did not change. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) received additional red flag indicators from another stakeholder, which will be given to the subgroup. A final red flags document should be available for the committee to review at the next meeting

HTMDT Guidelines

Liza informed the committee that the HTMDT guidelines will be receiving some input from the Family Crisis Intervention Units (FCIU). Liza referenced the LexisNexis handout regarding the statutory provision code from the Juvenile Justice that covers the FCIU and references their responsibilities. Statue 2A:4A-21 g states: *"To insure protection and a safe environment for those sexually exploited juveniles who are charged with prostitution or who are alleged to be victims of human trafficking; and to*

*provide these juveniles with the appropriate shelter, care, counseling and crisis intervention services from the time they are taken into custody and for the duration of any legal proceedings".* The FCIU are responsible, especially when there is no other entity involved. FCIU have been waiting for the Attorney General's (AG) office to develop protocols on how the FCIU are supposed to proceed; and the AG office is waiting for the human trafficking guidelines to serve as a blueprint for their protocol. Liza informed the committee that two local FCIUs and a mobile response contact person will be joining the HTMDT Guidelines' drafting group within the next few weeks to allow for major revisions.

### Therapeutic Subgroup

The subgroup is looking at what are the appropriate clinical services for youths of human trafficking. Joyce Applegate informed the committee that the subgroup is making sure that therapists have the appropriate training, licenses as well as discussing what documents need to be signed. Liza informed the committee that Alan Vietze, Deputy Director at the Children's Systems of Care (CSCO) will be working with a group at Rutgers University to develop training for clinicians, specific to human trafficking. Since the October meeting, DCF has a Request for Proposal (RFP) for ten beds for human trafficking victims. The AG's office has an RFP out for services for human trafficking victims.

Alan Vietze, FCIU director, Mobile Response and someone from Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) will be a part of the subgroup and an invitation will be sent to Jim Romer from Children's Crisis Intervention Services (CCIS). The subgroup will focus on working with screening hospitals to get youth admitted once they are located or recovered. This will allow the youth to get cleaned up and some clinical intervention. There are more than one screening centers located in each region. The screening centers are under the Division of Mental Health and Addition Services located in either a medical or psychiatric hospital. There are no laws or guidelines for children screening; therefore adults laws are used to determine if a child needs to be psychiatric hospitalized. Liza also mentioned that with the new statute, the youths are not being fingerprinted, arrested or recorded as part of a recovery operation to generate data.

Lorraine Augustini discussed the provision of the civil court process when a child is involved with Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) and FCIU. The challenge is that some kids will be a part of many systems.

### **Special J Status - Clinton Page**

Clinton Page updated the committee on the "Special J" status with regard to DCF policy. In order for a child to be eligible for Special J status, they have to be placed in the custody of a child welfare agency. The child will be eligible for long term foster care if it is not in the best interest of the child to return to the country of citizenship. Clinton discussed the handout he received from Catholic Charities (CC) - Newark that indicates, if DCF refers the youth to CC, CC will take the lead in assisting with the application process. If the parental rights have been terminated and DCF has custody, DCF will be making the referrals to the agency and the agency will appoint an attorney to walk the child through the process. If the biological parents are still involved, DCF will refer them to CC. Lorraine Augustini stated that the law guardians assist in the Special J process and it is a huge benefit for the youth to get the Special J status. This allows youth to

apply for citizenship, which must be before they turn 18 years old. This starts with obtaining a court order from family court. The second step is referring them to an immigration attorney, which is challenging because not a lot of attorneys do their work at no charge. Lorraine will be attending mandatory immigration training on Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> focusing on older youth. Lorraine also stated that it is critical for folks representing youth to identify youth who are eligible for Special J and expedite the process because it takes time to complete.

Clinton informed the committee that the DCF - Office of Adolescent Services (OAS) recently hired a specific person who will be taking the lead on the Special J Visa. There is also discussion around developing contracts with outside agencies. Clinton will provide the committee with a list of agencies that will assist with the processing of the Special J Visa. There was also mention of the T Visa for victims of human trafficking and the U Visa for victims of domestic violence.

There was discussion around the part of the statute that states FCIU are the first to be contacted. Liza referenced the statute legislative history document provided at the meeting. The provisions became effective in January 2012 and there will be follow-up with Donna Younkin to see if it has been updated. It was mentioned that mock cases should be a part of the meetings to learn from how previous situations were handled.

The committee was informed that if the State Central Registry (SCR) declines to take the investigation, SCR will do a warm transfer to PerformCare. This will allow for one call to be made by the caller.

Liza informed the committee that Suzanne Alvino is interested in joining the HTMDT Guidelines' drafting workgroup. A meeting doodle was sent out with a number of dates for the next meeting.

### **New Business**

Liza announced the 2014 NJ Child Assault Prevention (CAP) award luncheon being held on March 28, 2014. The theme is "The Power of One...from the Strength of Many". The nomination deadline is January 10, 2014. The committee was encouraged to nominate people for the award.

### **Announcements**

The committee received the 2014 Task Force calendar for all the committees and subcommittees. It was noted that the Protection Committee meetings begin at 10:00am.

### **Next Meeting – January 16, 2014**