



Protection Committee
Donna Younkin, Acting Chair
Liza Kirschenbaum, Esq, Vice-Chair
January 20, 2016
1:00 P.M.

Minutes

In Attendance:

Greta Anderson	DCF – Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit (IAIU)
Lt. Louis Andrinopoulos	New Jersey State Police
Joyce Applegate	Catholic Charities
Doug Behan	Rutgers
Daren Brantley	DCF-Child Protection and Permanency
Marilyn Gorney-Daley	Department of Health
E. Marie Hayes	Cape May County Freeholder
Monica Johnson	Department of Education
Liza Kirschenbaum	Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of New Jersey
Patricia Lynch	Sussex County Forensic Nurse Coordinator
Donna Pincavage	Barnabas Health
Debbie Riveros	Monmouth County Child Advocacy Center
Sandler Kelly	Essex County Prosecutor's Office
Donna Younkin	DCF-Director of Special Initiatives
Lorene Wilkerson	NJ Child Placement Advisory Council (NJ CPAC)
Kelly Sandler	Essex County Prosecutor's Office

Staff:

Ifeanyi Pole	DCF-NJTFCAN
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Public Notice Read

Donna Younkin opened the meeting by reading the Open Public Meeting Notification.

Introduction and Welcome

Introductions were made.

Freeholder E. Marie Hayes participated in the meeting via conference call; Donna welcomed Freeholder Hayes to the Committee as a new member.

Donna also welcomed New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect (NJTF CAN) member Lt. Louis Andrinopoulos of the New Jersey State Police to the Committee and informed the Committee Lt. Andrinopoulos has partnered with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) on past projects.

Monica Johnson attended the meeting on behalf of the New Jersey Department of Education.



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Debbie Riveros, Monmouth County Child Advocacy Center, informed the Committee that she has applied to serve on the Committee in place of Sue Rekedal, who has retired.

Review and Approve November Minutes

The November 18, 2015 minutes were approved with the following edit:

Page 3 (first paragraph):

~~The Committee also discussed the need to develop a screening mechanism for when a child makes the disclosure regarding the perpetrator. Currently, there is some confusion as to when to contact the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P). The Committee discussed assembling all the necessary groups as a first step forward to understanding the process and to exchange contact information. The Committee expressed their concerns about the victim and the perpetrator's family, especially the children, as it pertains to this issue.~~

Goals for 2016

Donna Younkin and the Committee discussed the following goals for 2016. She noted that NJTF CAN is scheduled to elect the Chair of the Protection Committee at their March 18, 2016 meeting.

- **Focus on the issue of abusive images and sexting.**
- **Continue to address the topic of children who are victims of domestic violence as opportunities or information presents itself.**
- **Invite Lt. Louis Andrinopoulos to give a presentation on Missing Children at a future Committee meeting.** Lt. Andrinopoulos informed the Committee that his unit deals with missing children, run-aways and trafficked youth.
- **Address the issue of Racial Disproportionality.** The Committee discussed that the Court Improvement Committee (CICIC) has been trying to get momentum behind collecting data on this issue. Lorene Wilkerson has agreed to keep the Committee updated on this topic.



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Sexually Exploitive Images and Child Protection

Donna Younkin shared an update on the DCF and the NJTF CAN Skill Building Conference on abusive images with invited speakers: Dr. Sharon Cooper, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), law enforcement, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited children (NCMEC). The conference will be held at DCF's Professional Center in New Brunswick, NJ in September 2016 and the agenda was reviewed. DCF will partner with Rutgers in organizing the logistics of this Conference. The work of the Protection Committee was the impetus for this conference, and its input was critical in developing the topic/agenda.

The Committee discussed what is being done throughout the state to address this issue. Kelly Sandler informed the Committee that the Essex County Prosecutor's Office in Newark has a detective that is assigned specifically to handling 90% of images cases and 10% percent of extra overflows of special victims' cases. The Finding Words interview model is utilized to acquire more information from the child. If the situation is known ahead of time, the videos will be done by the FBI. There seem to be mixed information on whether some NJ jurisdictions include questions on potential victimization of minors through abusive images in their forensic interviewing protocols. It is not believed that Finding Words has this in it, but Kelly Sandler noted that at a recent national conference she attended there was discussion that other jurisdictions are indeed including this as a topic to cover in their forensic interviews with victims.

Kelly also informed the Committee that Assistant Prosecutors in the special victims unit are required within the next few months to undergo training on prosecution of child protection cases, which most have completed; and the detectives are going through training as well.

Patricia Lynch stated that Ginnie's House staff that are trained in Finding Words in Sussex County and has the capability to complete the entire process at their location. The program committee of Ginnie's House agreed to sign an agreement with the FBI for them to come to their center when a child is impacted by images or when a child is living in the same household as the perpetrator.

The Committee also discussed the importance of educating children, parents and educators on this issue. Monica Johnson will connect with Nancy Curry at the Department of Education (DOE) to see if there is any curriculum on this topic and report back to the committee.



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Follow-Up Discussion on Sexting Law and Diversionary Programs for Juveniles

The Committee discussed its interest in learning more about the educational diversion program for minors who are sexting first offenders. John Esmerado discussed this issue at the November 2015 meeting. John stated that he would provide the Committee with the corresponding statute and information on this model that is in use by schools in Union County. Ifeanyi Pole has agreed to follow up with John. Also, the Committee discussed their interest in learning more about the program instituted by Red Bank Regional schools on cyber security in which Sue Rekedal spoke about at the November 2015 meeting.

Donna suggested that the Committee could check with other state's CACs to see what they are doing to tackle this issue.

Kelly stated that she would contact the National District Attorney's Association to see if she could obtain information on schools' liability in providing children with devices (i.e. laptop computers, tablets, etc.) by which children are being sexually exploited.

Ifeanyi Pole will email the Committee the Diversionary Programs for Certain Juveniles statute for sexting.

Other

New Business

Donna informed the Committee that Dr. Martin Finkel is interested in the legislation regarding the funding of Child Advocacy Centers (CAC). She reminded participants that State employees are unable to comment on the topic. The Committee discussed that John Esmerado presented on this topic at the November 18, 2015 meeting.

Liza Kirschenbaum inquired about the Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) and Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) funding and whether or not there has been any discussion with Law and Public Safety about the funding. It was mentioned that the bill was introduced in November 2015 and did not pass at the last session. Liza inquired if there was a way to receive funding for the CAC and MDT without having to go through the legislative process or state budget. The Committee discussed contacting Phoenix Smith at Law and Public Safety regarding this matter.



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Announcements

Kelly Sandler informed the Committee that she will be starting a new position in the special victims unit in Morris County and will therefore no longer be a part of the Protection Committee. The Committee thanks her for her service on the Committee as well as the dedicated work she has done in her current role. She will be missed.

Donna Younkin informed the Committee of a grant opportunity from Juvenile Justice –Victims of Child Abuse Regional Children Advocacy Center (CAC) Program due by March 7, 2016. The program will support four regional CAC that will deliver training and technical assistance to Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT), programs and organizations. The notice came from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

Next Meeting Date

Due to a scheduling conflict, the meeting on March 23, 2016 will have to be rescheduled for another date in March. Ifeanyi Pole will send out a meeting notice.