

**New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect  
Protection Committee  
Mark Ali, Esq, Chair  
Liza Kirschenbaum, Esq, Vice-Chair  
January 16, 2014  
10:00 A.M. Conference Call  
Minutes**

**In Attendance:**

Suzanne Alvino	DCF- Division of Child Protection and Permanency
Greta Anderson	DCF-Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit
Joyce Applegate	Catholic Charities
Lorraine Augustini	Office of the Public Defender-Office of Law Guardian (OPD-OLG)
Rhona Beadle	New Jersey Children's Alliance Chapter
Susan Curcio	Montclair State University
John Esmerado	Union County Child Advocacy Center
Liza Kirschenbaum	CASA of New Jersey
Stephanie Petrillo	Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
Sue Rekedal	Monmouth County Child Advocacy Center
Judy Spinney	Therapist

**Staff:**

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

Introductions were made.

November minutes were approved.

**Workgroup Updates**

Batterer's Accountability – Susan Curcio

Susan stated that the application needs to be reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) in order to begin the survey process. This will take place once the semester begins.

The Committee was informed that New Jersey has created a new training on domestic violence for the law enforcement community which includes references to children. It can be accessed online only by law enforcement. An email request has been sent to Mark Ali to obtain this new information. Susan emphasized that this is pertinent to what the workgroup is planning and the survey will determine what the prosecutor offices are now doing with regard to this type of information.

Susan will keep the committee updated on any major developments.

Data Project-John Esmerado

John provided the committee with background information regarding the data project.

John initially began looking at the Department of Children and Families (DCF) data of substantiated and unsubstantiated cases from 2009 to 2012 to compare it with the Promis Gavel data (output system for criminal court recording of events regarding sexual and physical abuse of children). The purpose of the data project is to study the disparity reflected in the Promis Gavel. Melanie Payne from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has been assisting with the project and multiple outputs have been created. As a result of the outputs, several issues have been discovered. The most serious issue is how the data is inputted into Promis Gavel court system by two parties: the prosecutor's office and the courts. This study has now been limited to the 2012 data, which will be more accurate. Data has been circulated to every prosecutor's office that deals with child sexual abuse. When a criminal complaint is signed (filed) the police officer enters the information via a drop down box. It appears that the issue is not at the point of creation of the case. It happens when the cases are indicted and the clerk at the prosecutor's office (18 out of 21 counties) manually inputs the data. John and Melanie have looked at select cases in different counties (Hudson, Atlantic & Union) and the problem is that subsections are being dropped off at the point of input and when the indictment is returned, it erases the statutory data and statistical data of the initial criminal complaint. John will be writing a report recommending that the court clerk (at the time of the guilty plea) and the prosecutor's indictment clerk (at the grand jury) both use relevant statutory data which will lead to a better collection data point.

John will reach out to Joseph Ribsam, Assistant Commissioner, DCF, Office of Legal, Regulatory and Legislative Affairs at 609-292-1908 or by email [Joseph.Ribsam@dcf.state.nj.us](mailto:Joseph.Ribsam@dcf.state.nj.us) regarding whether or not DCF's data regarding substantiated and non-substantiated data should be included in his report. There are two sets of data: DCF data by county broken down between physical and sexual abuse as substantiated.

John informed the committee that the Assistant Prosecutor's offices that handle sex crimes of children, adults and adolescent are now meeting quarterly. Each county was given the Promis Gavel data for 2012 to provide any feedback or thoughts by the end of the month. Melanie will be providing information regarding the issue of how court system counts multiple child victim cases.

#### Human Trafficking – Liza Kirschenbaum

Liza updated the committee on the human trafficking workgroup. The last meeting was held on November 21, 2013 after the Protection Committee meeting. The drafting workgroup felt that they were losing sight of the Family Crisis Intervention Units (FCIU) role, the human trafficking based on the new human trafficking statute, and the therapeutic services that need to be included to serve the youth that are being trafficked. Liza discussed her conversation with Donna Younkin. There has been a number of cases where youth have been recovered. DCF is working with law enforcement and other stakeholders to see how these cases are being handled and stated that they are having some success with the youth. Liza will follow up with Donna.

The committee was informed of the SANE/SART (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner/Sexual Assault Response Team) Statewide Network presentation on human trafficking-red flags. The presentation is for all law enforcement officials to help in

identifying the red flags or human trafficking as well as educate them about human trafficking- both sex and labor. Liza requested a copy of the presentation.

The committee discussed the Human Trafficking training event sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Attorney General's Office and the Child Abuse, Research, Education & Service (CARES) Institute on January 15th. Liza discussed the morning training presented by Detective Woolf on how education, awareness programs, and films were created to incorporate in all the high schools in Fairfax County. Liza also pointed out if the average age is twelve; why not start at the middle school level. Ifeanyi Pole will update the Prevent Child Abuse-New Jersey's role in youth education on trafficking. Ifeanyi will forward Detective Woolf contact information to Liza Kirschenbaum and Susan Curcio.

Suzanne discussed with the committee the clinical piece with regards to Detective Wolf's presentation. She offered that clinical providers treating victims in recovery need to understand the gang piece of the youth being trafficked. The youth consider the gangs as family. The presentation was helpful from a child protection worker's point of view on how one might engage the victim differently. Suzanne mentioned the programs in Fairfax, Virginia and will be reaching out to Detective Woolf with regards to their model. It was stressed that gang training and the dynamics behind it is something that clinical providers should be looking at.

Ifeanyi informed the committee of the "NJ Fourth Annual Human Trafficking Event" being held at the War Memorial on January 24th from 10:00am – 12:30pm. Ifeanyi will send the committee additional information.

Sue Rekedal informed the committee that the Boston's Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) recently developed a program on human trafficking and how the CAC are involved. Sue will be requesting this information.

Sue Curcio informed the committee that she is currently teaching a course at Montclair State University called "Current Social Issues for the Child Advocate" related to gang membership and has some research materials.

### **New Business**

Liza suggested incorporating conference calls in place of meeting especially when the attendance is low. Meetings will definitely be held if there are documents to review and/or a lengthy meeting.

**Next Meeting – March 20, 2014**