



## STAFFING AND OVERSIGHT REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Suzanne Kreie, Chair  
Lisa Chapland, Co-Chair

“In compliance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975, notice of this meeting was given by way of public posting on the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect website: [DCF | New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect \(NJTF CAN\)](#).”

*\*Please note the meeting was recorded for the transcription of minutes.*

June 9, 2026  
Meeting Minutes

### Attendance:

Suzanne Kreie, Coordinated Family Care  
Lisa Chapland, Relative Resource Parent  
Marygrace Billek, Public member  
Clinton Page, Department of Children and Families  
Mary Coogan, Advocates for Children of New Jersey  
Lynette Rente, Office of the Public Defender  
Linda Porcaro, Somerset County Office of Youth Services  
Traci Telemaque, Office of the Public Defender  
Angie Waters, CASA NJ  
Mary Hallahan, Resource Parent

### Guests

Emily Douglas, Montclair University  
Svetlana Shpiegel, Montclair University  
Jamie Buren, Montclair University  
Victoria Vargas, Montclair University

### I. Opening Administrative Items

- Meeting opened with the reading of the public notice.

- Agenda materials were distributed later than intended due to a communication issue, therefore the committee was not able to vote on the previous month's meeting minutes.
- Prior meeting minutes are expected to be circulated before the next meeting for review and action.

## II. Membership and Governance

- Committee discussed efforts to strengthen membership composition.
- Focus was placed on filling needed roles and broadening representation.
- Committee's role was described as reviewing membership applications and making recommendations.
- Final appointment authority rests with the task force.
- Members discussed the need to:
  - Clarify membership categories
  - Identify which current members serve in which roles
  - Establish or formalize term limits
  - Align membership practices with legislative requirements
- General agreement was expressed that this work is necessary for compliance and orderly future recruitment.

## III. Public Member Applications

- Committee considered applications from four prospective public members.
- Discussion emphasized the value of:
  - Community-based perspectives
  - Lived experience
  - Advocacy backgrounds
  - Broad knowledge of issues affecting children and families
- Members highlighted the importance of a balanced body with varied experiences and viewpoints.
- The committee voted on each individual applicant. All members were approved for membership consideration without opposition or abstention. Recommendations on applicants will advance to the task force.
- It was noted that additional applications may be considered at future meetings.
- Members discussed creating a regular annual schedule for reviewing and voting on membership matters, except when vacancies require quicker action.

## IV. Annual Report Project Work

- Committee reviewed substantive work related to the annual report.
- A presentation was provided on findings associated with pillar four.

- Topics discussed included:
  - Permanency outcomes
  - Reunification
  - Kinship legal guardianship
  - Re-entry into care
- Discussion focused on trends across:
  - Age groups
  - Racial groups
- Particular attention was given to differences affecting:
  - Infants
  - Children ages one to five
  - Children ages six to twelve
  - Black or African American children
- Members raised questions about moving beyond identifying disparities toward understanding underlying causes.
- It was explained that future report expansion is intended to examine some outcomes, including re-entry, in greater depth.

#### v. Data Collection and Methodology

- A substantial portion of the meeting focused on data challenges and methodology.
- Members discussed difficulty evaluating permanency delays and long-term placement without consistent county-level data.
- Court-related factors identified as potentially affecting timely permanency included:
  - Hearing delays
  - Adjournments
  - Extensions
  - Changes in attorneys
  - Number of judges involved in a case
  - Pace of court review
- Participants observed that data quality and availability likely vary significantly by county.
- Some counties may maintain detailed records.
- Other counties may have limited or less standardized documentation.

#### vi. Need for More Than Quantitative Data

- Members stressed that numerical data alone do not explain why children remain in placement for long periods.

- Discussion emphasized the importance of understanding service access and service effectiveness.
- Concerns were raised that referral data alone do not show:
  - Whether services were actually accessed
  - Whether services were available in a timely manner
  - Whether attendance occurred
  - Whether services matched family needs
  - Whether services were completed, delayed, inaccessible, or ineffective
- Committee agreed that understanding the reasons behind the numbers is necessary for meaningful recommendations.

#### VII. Options for Future Review

- Members discussed possible approaches for designing a manageable review process.
- One option was to sample cases across all counties.
- Another option was to focus on a smaller number of counties with stronger records.
- Discussion generally favored focusing on one to three counties with especially good data.
- Reasons given included:
  - Reduced burden
  - Less intrusive information requests statewide
  - More reliable findings from higher-quality data
- Members discussed consulting the Administrative Office of the Courts or related court system representatives.
- Possible purposes of that consultation included:
  - Identifying counties with the most useful information
  - Determining what court data sources are available
  - Requesting a presentation to the committee
- Members also suggested comparing county data with information on where children remain in placement the longest.

#### VIII. File Review and Data Limits

- Committee discussed the possibility that key information may not exist in centralized databases.
- It was suggested that important details may only be available in:
  - Individual case files
  - Court orders

- As a result, future efforts may require focused file review rather than reliance only on administrative summary data.
- Members acknowledged that any such review would need to be carefully designed to remain feasible and avoid unnecessary burden.

#### IX. Project Timeline and Planning

- Meeting shifted to planning for the current reporting cycle.
- Staff outlined a revised schedule based on the report due date of December 20.
- Under the revised approach:
  - Written narrative materials would be distributed shortly after each presentation
  - Committee members would be asked to comment within one week
- It was noted that this differs from the previous year's process, when larger sets of material were circulated at once.
- The revised process is intended to:
  - Improve timeliness of feedback
  - Keep drafting on track
  - Allow members to comment while presentations are still recent

#### X. Upcoming In-Person Meeting

- Committee was advised that an in-person meeting is proposed for September 10, 2026.
- This date is approximately one month earlier than the comparable meeting the prior year.
- The earlier timing is intended to allow more time for:
  - Review
  - Revision
  - Committee action
  - Task force consideration
  - Final design work
  - Submission before the December deadline
- The schedule also includes:
  - A committee vote in early November
  - Transmittal for final production after that vote
- Members were informed that the timeline is ambitious.
- Success depends on timely receipt of required data.
- Presentation order may need to shift depending on data availability.
- Possible meeting locations were discussed, including the current proposed site and a more central alternative.

- A request was made for a formal save-the-date notice for the September meeting.

#### XI. Practice Model and Family Engagement

- Additional discussion addressed practice models and family engagement.
- Questions were raised about whether discontinuing SBC would lead to standardized evaluations.
- It was clarified that the intent is not to return to a one-size-fits-all approach.
- Individualized assessment and service planning remain the expectation.
- It was stated that principles of family engagement and assessment will continue to guide practice.
- Family team meetings will remain part of the work going forward.

#### XII. Dissemination of Prior Report

- Committee discussed how the previous year's report is being shared.
- It was observed that the full report is thorough but may be less accessible due to its length and density.
- Staff reported development of shorter dissemination products for summer use.
- These products are expected to include one- to two-page materials presenting:
  - Key findings
  - Concrete practice recommendations
- Members also discussed presenting portions of the report at relevant meetings and events.
- The goal is to reach practitioners and leadership audiences without requiring review of the full report.
- Longer-term dissemination ideas mentioned included:
  - Video products
  - Presentations at broader conferences

#### XIII. Research Support Contract Update

- Committee received an update on the research support contract.
- The current contract is scheduled to end in December of this year.
- Work is underway to establish a new two-year agreement.
- The new agreement would continue support through the end of December 2027.
- Budget development and related administrative steps are in progress.

*This memo aims to maintain transparency and provide the public with an overview of the task force's recent deliberations. The committee values community input and engagement as we*

*collectively strive to enhance the welfare of children and families across New Jersey. This meeting report was prepared, in part, with the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).*

*For further information or queries, the public can reach out via the contact channels provided by the Department of Children and Families.*