





New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect  
Allison Blake, Ph.D., L.S.W., Co-Chair  
Martin A. Finkel, DO, FACOP, FAAP, Co-Chair

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Protection and Permanency (CP&P) Local Office staff working with these children and families are being educated on these challenges:

- DCF has partnered with Rutgers University to handle DCF involved children ages 0-21 years old with immigration challenges. Rutgers University hired specialized attorneys to handle these cases. As of December 2016, there are a total of 117 cases and 34 cases in litigation.
- It was noted that in New Jersey, twenty two percent of the population is foreign born (Mexico, el Salvador, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Liberia, Philippines, Argentina, China and Korea). DCF is working on tracking the population of immigrants being served by DCF.
- Meredith will be presenting, "Assisting Undocumented Children and Families In and Out of Court," at the Children in Court (CIC) conference being held on March 27, 2017.
- Closed cases are being referred to other agencies for continued legal and immigration services. Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) agencies will be added to DCF's list of agencies providing continued services. The list serves as a resource for only the CP&P cases. The Task Force will be provided with the list of agencies.
- The Task Force was informed that unaccompanied minors that come in contact with the Federal government are placed with caregivers by the Federal government. CP&P gets involved when there is suspected abuse and/or neglect by their caregivers. The Federal government conducts background checks, fingerprinting and DCF conducts some of the Child Abuse Record Information (CARI) check requests.
- The different kinds of relief (i.e. special immigrant juvenile status, U-Visas, asylum, and for victims of domestic violence) were discussed. The five relief requirements are: the child must be under the age of 21, unmarried at the time of filing to the federal government for this release; declared dependent; reunification is not likely due to abuse or neglect; and it is not in the child's best interest to be return to his/her country.
- The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) data captures the number of children placed in New Jersey.

## **NJTFCAN Business**

### Children's Trust Fund (CTF) to market the Children's Trust Fund

Niurca Louis reported on the Communication Committee efforts to increase the CTF. The Communication Committee is proposing to use \$50,000 of the CTF for printed materials for distribution for the purpose of directing individuals to donate to the CTF for the 2018 tax season. There was also a discussion on directing donors to a link on DCF webpage to donate via credit cards (subject to the same procurement rules as other State departments). The Committee also discussed hiring a consultant with experience in fundraising to make recommendations in an effort to receive the best return on investment. The Task Force agreed that the Communication Committee should reach out to the Ad Council to assist with developing a message and a marketing association willing to provide pro bono services. Information will be sent to Daniel Yale regarding companies willing to work with the Communication Committee pro bono. There was also discussion about working with supermarkets to increase the CTF through customer donation during check out.

### Assembly Bill A4378



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The Task Force discussed their concerns regarding the Assembly Bill A4378. The bill would amend the child abuse reporting law to require provision of identifying information by reporting persons. The discussion focused on how this could be a burden for caseworkers, expressed concerns for DCF's State Central Registry (SCR) screeners and the concern for real allegations going unreported if the bill highlights false reporting as a criminal matter. The Task Force discussed proposing language recommendations to Legislation for this bill before it is presented to the Committee. Joseph Ribsam informed the Task Force that DCF does not have data on false reporting but indicated there is data on substantiated or unsubstantiated cases.

This topic will be added to the May 2017 meeting agenda.

#### Elect Chairs

The Task Force voted and approved the Staffing and Oversight Review Subcommittee (SORS) new Chair Mary Grace Billek and the new Vice Chair Mary Coogan.

#### Committee Applications

The Task Force approved the Protection Committee applications for Martin Krupnick, Psy.D., IEP Youth Services and Jane Reynolds, Mercer County Forensic Nurse Coordinator.

#### **Subcommittee/Committee Updates**

##### Communication Committee

The Task Force was informed that the Communication Committee is currently working on a draft logo for the Children's Trust Fund for the Task Force approval. Daniel Yale will email the draft logo to the Task Force members. It was noted that the Committee received assistance from DCF in creating the logo. The Committee is revising a one page document created to assist the Committee with tactical ways to market the campaign to ensure all the benchmarks are met and the distribution mechanism.

Seetha Holmes thanked everyone for filling in during her absence and announced she plans to be back soon.

##### Prevention Committee

Niurca Louis informed the Task Force that the Prevention Committee is currently working on updating the Prevention Plan. Clarus Consulting Group is assisting the Committee with rewriting the Plan to inform the future work of prevention throughout New Jersey.

##### Protection Committee

Richard Stagliano provided the Task Force with an update on the two Protection Committee workgroups:

- The Digital Realm of Child Abuse workgroup will be working with the Department of Education on obtaining an inventory of what is being done around the State with regards to educating students and/or parents on internet safety. The Committee will be receiving the standards around educational technology which provides an insight on what students are being exposed to at each grade level.
- The Juveniles with Sexually Inappropriate Behaviors workgroup is researching some of the disparities across the State, the lack of treatment providers and how different counties' Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) work to differentiate these children and how they are treated. Martin Krupnick has agreed to be involved with the workgroup.
- The Committee agreed to have DCF staff present at future meetings to educate the Committee on some of the positive changes that have taken place within DCF.



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Staffing and Oversight Review Subcommittee (SORS)

No Updates Provided.

**Announcements**

Joseph Ribsam made a correction regarding the voting proxy that was mentioned at the January 2017 meeting. It was noted that the Legislative members' designees are allowed to vote on their behalf.

Joseph Ribsam provided the Task Force with an update on DCF's Child Fatality Review report. All the data has been collected and should be finalized by the summer. The data will be presented to the three Citizen Review Panels and then the final recommendations and report will be issued.

**Next Meeting – July 28, 2017 in Trenton (Commissioner's Large Conference Room)**