



New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

Christine Norbut Beyer, MSW, Co-Chair  
Martin A. Finkel, DO, FACOP, FAAP, Co-Chair

## Minutes

**January 25, 2019**

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Capital Center Building  
New Brunswick, NJ

### **In Attendance**

Christian Arnold	Office of the Attorney General
Marygrace Billek	Mercer County Social Services
Mary Coogan	Advocates for Children of New Jersey
Cindy Cortez	NJ Senate Legislative District 15
Esther East	Jewish Family Services
Martin A. Finkel	CARES Institute
Seetha Holmes	Office of the Public Defender
Corinne LeBaron	Foster and Adoptive Family Services
Jason Sarnoski	Warren County Freeholder
Richard Stagliano	Center for Family Services
Darlene Supnick	Senator Addiego
Jennifer Underwood	Department of Community Affairs
Stephen Urbanski	NJ State Police
Wendi White	Department of Corrections

### **Staff**

Jason Butkowski	Department of Children and Families
Daniel Yale	DCF – Office of the Commissioner

“In compliance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975, notice of this meeting was given by way of notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Trenton Times and the Newark Star Ledger and posted at the Department of State, 125 West State St., 1st Floor, Trenton, New Jersey.”

### **NJTFCAN Business**

#### **Consideration of Committee Application – Scout Hartley, Protection Committee**

This Committee application could not be considered as there was not a quorum at this meeting. This application will be considered and voted upon at the next meeting.

#### **Nominations for Communication Committee Chair**

Seetha Holmes announced that she has resigned as chairperson of the Communication Committee but will still participate as a member. Seetha provided the Task Force with a brief synopsis of the role of the Communication Committee. As donations to the Children’s Trust Fund (CTF) have been on a steady decline in recent years, the Communication Committee has been primarily concerned with promoting the CTF and trying to make the public aware of the CTF to increase the amount of donations. The current plan of the Communication Committee is to utilize social media to promote awareness of the CTF. Daniel Yale explained



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that, although the Communication Committee promotes the CTF in attempt to increase awareness, they are tasked with other responsibilities as well. The Communication Committee is responsible for reviewing the annual Task Force report and the annual SORS report, as well as other communications that are released from the Task Force.

The committee currently has 7 members. It was explained that a chairperson of any subcommittee of the Task Force must be a member of the Task Force. Matthew Schwartz is the only other member of the Communication Committee that also has a seat on the Task Force. However, as his term has already expired, and he is currently a member in holdover status, it is not advised that he be named chair of the Committee.

Dr. Finkel asked if any Task Force member has an interest or experience in working with the media or marketing that would like to volunteer to chair the Communication Committee. As there were no volunteers at that time and because there were many members not in attendance at this meeting, Dr. Finkel suggested sending out an email to request someone to volunteer for this position.

### **Subcommittee/Committee Updates**

#### **Communication Committee**

As previously reported, the Communication Committee has been working to increase donations to the CTF. The Task Force was advised that over 19,000 emails were sent to Certified Public Accountants in NJ in an effort to reach those that are preparing taxes this year. The reason for this email was to request that tax professionals inform their clients of the CTF and to advise them of the check box that individuals can utilize to donate money. Unfortunately, the response rate was not as high as expected, as only one response was received. The committee discussed sending hard copies of the letter and materials through the U.S. mail. However, the committee decided that it may not be advisable as there was not a good response from the email. Seetha stated that a social media campaign may be more effective. The committee will prepare a proposal for approval to promote the CTF on social media to the Task Force for review at the next meeting. Jason Butkowski, DCF Director of Communication explained that the committee is considering looking at how we use social media to point people directly to the CTF donation page. DCF has had some success with how we use social media ads for Safe Haven. DCF had a campaign that pointed people to the Safe Haven website. There were approximately 1.1 million impressions and 250,000 people between the ages of 18-30. The committee is discussing using the numbers from Safe Haven and determining how it can be scaled to generate greater awareness and interest in donating to the CTF. Jason informed the Task Force that another possibility is to engage an effort to include the CTF in a campaign at grocery stores or Wawa stores. Richard Stagliano stated that perhaps we can learn from how other states have increased donations and awareness of their CTF. Jason stated that the committee can do some research on that topic and inform the Task Force of the results.

#### **Prevention Committee**

Daniel Yale provided the Task Force with an update on the Prevention Committee. Daniel explained that the Prevention Committee has created workgroups for each of the strategic priorities of the Prevention Plan. These groups are doing some preliminary work regarding collecting data and other information. It was explained that during the Prevention Committee meetings, the workgroups meet, report out to the entire committee on their progress and then meet within their groups to continue working on the goals of the workgroup.



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The Task Force was also advised that the co-chair of the Prevention Committee, Niurca Louis, has been appointed as the Assistant Commissioner of DCF Family and Community Partnerships and will no longer be a member of the Task Force or co-chair of the Prevention Committee.

#### Protection Committee

Richard Stagliano informed the Task Force that the Protection Committee continues to work on their two major issues. The Digital Realm of Child Abuse Workgroup is looking at schools in New Jersey and how they can help educate children and parents about some of the dangers of the internet. Jennifer Underwood informed the Task Force that another member of the Protection Committee, Dr. Jacquelynn Duron, agreed to complete a data analysis on the information received from the survey. At the last meeting of the Protection Committee, she provided some preliminary feedback about some questions that were asked regarding the data that was received. Dr. Duron will continue to evaluate the data and informed the committee that she hoped to have the evaluation complete within the next few weeks.

Jennifer stated that there was another issue with the survey in that it was sent only to public schools. The committee has discussed sending the same survey to nonpublic schools, but there may be some additional steps required prior to doing so. The workgroup hopes to have a good snapshot of what is going on in schools regarding what kind of things they are teaching about internet safety and be able to offer some type of recommendation based on the data that was received.

Richard stated that the Juveniles with Sexually Inappropriate Behaviors workgroup has been working on how we can increase the standardization of treatment for this population across the state. One of the problems in many counties is that they don't have programs or therapists that can provide treatment. The committee discussed the need to increase the number of clinicians trained to treat juveniles with sexually inappropriate behaviors across the state. Several years ago, there was a clinician training program provided by the NJTF CAN and the committee has been discussing how to facilitate a similar training program across the state. Dr. Krupnick has put together a proposal that would allow for a case consultation project that would train therapists that are interested in working with this population. This would include 2 groups; 2 instructors for 8-10 clinicians per group, all printed materials, a full day of training and then 20 2-hour case consultations. The necessary books would be purchased by the clinicians. The estimate for this program is approximately \$22,000.

The Task Force discussed using funds from the Children's Justice Act Grant to fund this initiative. Dr. Finkel felt that, considering the surge in juveniles with sexually inappropriate behaviors, partly due to the internet, it is a tragedy that we don't have adequate assessment and treatment for this population. Dr. Finkel stated that we also need to educate law enforcement regarding this population. It was suggested that if this initiative were to come to fruition, that the training include a law enforcement piece as well so that those being trained understand the issues from the law enforcement perspective. Marygrace stated that those selected to complete the training should also be required to sign an agreement to complete the process and once the training is completed, they must agree to continue to take clients for two years. Dr. Finkel stated that the Task Force will need to have more discussion on the matter.

#### Staffing and Oversight Review Subcommittee

Marygrace informed the Task Force that SORS created their work plan at their last meeting. They came up with an outline of how they will complete their report. They will have some presentations as well as some



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updates from the training academy. Family First will be part of the standing agenda so that they can be updated on a regular basis as to the status.

The Task Force briefly discussed 3 bills that are pending in the legislature: S2707, S408, and S1130. Dr. Finkel asked that DCF provide an update and their opinion on these bills.

### **Understanding and Responding to Sexual Victimization – Dr. Martin Finkel**

Dr. Finkel provided the Task Force with a presentation regarding his work at the CARES Institute. Some of the topics covered by Dr. Finkel during this presentation included:

- The history of medicine's response to child maltreatment;
- Definitions of Child Sexual Abuse and prevalence of sexual victimization
- Outcomes for children
- Medical history, the purpose of medical evaluations, and the clinical presentation of sexual victimization and
- Medical examination and findings

**Next Meeting – March 29, 2019 in New Brunswick.**