



NEW JERSEY TASK FORCE ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Christine Norbut Beyer, MSW, Co-Chair
Mary Coogan, Esq., Acting Co-Chair

“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.”

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

June 28, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Commented [DB[2R1]: Yes, she stepped in for someone who stepped down before I came into this position but she is technically acting because the Gov didn't appoint her.

Attendance

Mary Coogan, Advocates for Children of New Jersey
Marygrace Billek, Public Member
Katherine Stoehr, Department of Children and Families
Jaqueline Augustine, NJ Administrative Office of the Courts
Jenifer Underwood, NJ Department of Community Affairs
Richard Stagliano, Center for Family Services
Wendi White, Department of Corrections
Nydia Monagas, New Jersey Children’s Alliance
Kaitlin Mulcahy, Montclair State University
Lorene Wilkerson, NJ Child Placement Advisory Council

Guest

Dr. Mimi Mincer, Living Out Loud, DV advocate
Jason Butkowski, Department of Children and Families

Staff

Bethany D’Amelio, Department of Children and Families

1. Meeting Agenda and Compliance

- The meeting was brought to order with the reading of the public notice aloud. Due to a lack of quorum (14 members required), the meeting was conducted primarily to discuss announcements and strategic planning.

2. Budget and Financial Updates

- The committee was informed about the ongoing finalization of the budget.
- Commissioner Beyer did not foresee significant alterations from Governor Murphy's proposed budget.

- Contingency plans were discussed in the event of unexpected changes, including dialogues with service providers.

3. Strategic Planning

- Updates on the Task Force's new strategic plan were presented.
- Discussions focused on the missions and objectives of subcommittees, namely Prevention, Protection, and Race Poverty and Neglect.
- Key goals include reassessing subcommittee missions to accommodate new member recruitment and ensuring the charges of each do not overlap.

4. Subcommittee Reports and Projects

- Subcommittee on Race, Poverty and Neglect contracted with an outside research firm, Action Research, to facilitate focus groups in three sectors, law enforcement, medical and education. They expect a findings report this Fall.
- Attendees deliberated on the transition of the Subcommittee on Protection to focus on child safety and the Subcommittee on Prevention to focus on family support and child wellbeing.
- Current focus topics: prevention, protection, development, and fundraising initiatives.
- Future activities include collaboration with multiple agencies and organizations to ensure broad representation and engagement.

5. Plans for the Statewide Forum

- Planning is in progress for the DCF Annual Fall Conference. Themes were discussed and potential agenda was shared.

Data and Institutional Insights

- The committee has engaged with relevant entities such as Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit (IAIU) to bring forth data for ongoing research and discussion.
- Commissioner Beyer's recent directive to gather data from IAIU was also emphasized for informing future action plans.

6. Further Recommendations and Next Steps

- Members are encouraged to explore collaborative meetings between various subcommittees to enhance integration and reduce duplication of efforts.
- Consideration of in-person, cross-subcommittee meetings to foster interactive dialogue and shared insights.

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

Commented [BN[3]: Did this happen?

Commented [DB[4R3]: No, but this meeting occurred in June and at that time they believed it would.

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.