



New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

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

## Minutes

**July 27, 2018**

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
DCF Professional Center  
30 Van Dyke Avenue  
Room 138  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

### In Attendance

Marygrace Billek	Mercer County Social Services
Anna Diaz-White	180 Turning Lives Around, Inc.
Esther East	Jewish Family Services & Children’s Center of Clifton/Passaic
Martin A. Finkel	CARES Institute
Tracy Kaplan	Preferred Behavioral Healthcare
Christina Lazzaruolo	Pelletieri, Rabstein & Altman
Niurca Louis	Robin’s Nest, Inc.
Sonia Moticha	Department of Education
Dawn Marlow	Department of Children and Families
Kaitlin Mulcahy	Montclair State University
Asw. Nancy F. Munoz	Legislative District 21
Jason Sarnoski	Warren County Freeholder
Matthew Schwartz	Youth Representative
Richard Stagliano	Center for Family Services
Jennifer Underwood	Department of Community Affairs
Wendi White	Department of Corrections

### DCF Staff:

Jason Butkowski	DCF – Office of Communications and Public Affairs
Daniel Yale	DCF – Office of Communications and Public Affairs

NJTFCAN Business:

### Predictive Analytics Proposal –Prevent Align Prevent

*Katherine Stoehr, DCF Deputy Commissioner for Operations*

Katie began her presentation by informing the Task Force of the Department’s focus on prevention efforts to strengthen families to prevent maltreatment and to prevent abuse in out-of-home placements. The Predictive Analytics proposal was presented highlighting Dr. Dyann Daley’s works with the expectation of it being funded with the use of the Children’s Trust Fund (CTF). The tool focuses on mapping where abuse might be occurring



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to align resources to prevent it from happening. The approach looks outside the traditional child welfare cases. DCF is proposing to pursue this approach to begin identifying targeted areas within communities to create a prevention strategy to see if it brings about a change. If approved, the funds will be used by staff at DCF's Office of Research Evaluation and Reporting (RER) to learn how to analyze the data and have the capability of replicating the analytical work going forward. The discussion also focused on obtaining and disseminating the data to communities to determine what can be done at the community level to broaden the conversations.

Members discussed previous years' initiatives utilizing the CTF and the lack of follow-up feedback and outcomes. There was a request for the Task Force to receive a summary of how the CTF was used over the last ten years. It was noted that the CTF received \$26,000 this year and in previous years the average yearly amount received ranged between \$110,000 and \$130,000. Daniel Yale will research why this year's CTF amount was drastically lower.

The full proposal to analyze one urban and one rural area will cost \$380,000. It was noted that DCF should approach other partners (Rutgers Universities, Robert Wood Johnson, Department of Health, New Jersey Health Initiatives other institutions) to reduce some of the overhead cost. Task Force members agreed funding this initiative with the use of the CTF which aligns with the strategic plan. The Task Force voted and approved \$250,000 to be used for the Predictive Analytics proposal. Katie thanked the Task Force for allotting a substantial amount of the CTF dollars to assist DCF in this prevention approach. Katie also indicated that DCF will provide an update on the status of additional funding at the September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **DCF Child and Family Service Review (CFSR)**

#### ***Dawn Marlow, DCF***

The Task Force was presented with an overview of DCF's CFSR. The CFSR is a comprehensive review by the federal government for every state, tribe and territory in the nation to see how funds are being utilized under Title 4B and Title 4E for better outcomes for children, youth and families. Currently, DCF is in Round 3 (2015-2018). In July 2107, DCF went through a week of case reviews (65) and stakeholders interviews. The process is a collaborative effort with the Children's Bureau(CB) and it looks at DCF's strengths in certain areas, outcomes, systemic factors and identify areas for improvement. A state reviewer is present to assist the federal reviewer to know what New Jersey's child welfare system looks like, the policies and practices, state laws and the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SAWCIS) to help promote continuous quality improvement.

DCF is in the process of finalizing the implementation steps, reporting, structure and measuring plan to establish baselines on how to measure its improvement strategies over time to ensure: (1) children remain safe in their own home whenever possible; (2) improve the quality of case practice around the engagement of parents (especially fathers); and (3) improve the timelessness for permanency for children entering out of home care by strengthen our concurrent practice and increase the use of kinship care to promote better permanency outcomes for children and to strengthen our relationship with other child welfare stakeholders particularly with AOC. Once finalized, DCF stakeholders will be informed and the report and additional information can be found on DCF's website as well as the Children's Bureau website. Dawn provided members her contact information as well.



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The Task Force thanked Dawn for presenting DCF's Child and Family Service Review.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Annual NJTF CAN Report – Recommendations for DCF**

The annual report was discussed with regards to the Task Force providing recommendations on what DCF should be focusing its efforts on for the next year. Members were informed to email their suggestions to Daniel Yale.

### ***Consideration of Committee Applications***

The Task Force voted and approved Joanne Hatt's application to serve on the Protection Committee.

### **Subcommittee/Committee Updates**

#### **Communication – Matthew Schwartz**

The Committee is continuing its efforts in increasing the Children's Trust Fund. Currently, the Committee is focusing their outreach to Certified Public Accountants in New Jersey for upcoming tax season. The first step is to send an email blast out to all the CPAs to see if they are interested in helping to raise funds for the CTF. If interested, hard copies of the information will be sent out to the CPA. This approach will reduce the cost of the postage fees which the Committee proposed to use the CTF funds. It was referenced that other states have a substantial amount of dollars in their CTF account yearly through fees from marriage, death and birth certificates. A proposal will be submitted to the Task Force to start a license plate program as well as looking into the birth, marriage and death certificate program to raise money for the CTF. It was mentioned that the Committee would have to get a legislator to sponsor the proposal.

The Task Force voted and approved the Communication Committee's efforts to move forward with the CPA outreach to increase the CTF.

#### **Prevention Committee– Niurca Louis**

The Task Force was informed of the Committee's efforts in moving the Prevention Plan action items towards implementation. Four workgroups have been created to steer the implementation to ensure each goal becomes achievable. During the May 2018 meeting, chair persons have been selected for the workgroups and will meet individually to work on their assigned task to accomplish the work on behalf of the Task Force. More volunteers are needed to join the workgroups to push forward the work ahead for the Committee. Clarus Consulting has been working with the Committee and they have created a template to guide their work. The Prevention Plan kickoff is scheduled for September 20, 2018 at DCF's Professional Center in New Brunswick.

#### **Protection Committee – Richard Stagliano**

The Committee is focusing on the two projects around the digital realm of child abuse and juveniles with inappropriate sexual behaviors. Rutgers University will analyze the data from the surveys of the schools to guide the Committee's work going further around more trainings and workshops on the digital realm of child abuse.

The Task Force was informed that the New Jersey Bar Association approved the juvenile probation treatment program proposal. This will change how juveniles are dealt with in court. The Committee is also working on doing an inventory of services (by county) available to juveniles with inappropriate sexual behaviors. Dr.



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Marty Krupnik is recommending implementing statewide training programs due to the lack of skilled providers in this field of work.

#### SORS – Marygrace Billek

The annual report is due and SORS will have a draft of the report by the September 28<sup>th</sup> Task Force meeting. The subcommittee is working on scheduling a conference call for August 2018. SORS is also focusing on DCF's commitment to the treatment and trauma assessment that was noted in the latest Monitor's report.

#### **Announcements**

The CARES Institute next Experts in Child Abuse and Neglect Lecture Series is being held on August 17, 2018 at Mercer County Community College. Dr. Howard Dubowitz will be presenting on Neglected Children: Controversies and Challenges. The lecture is free, and participants can register at [www.caresinstitute.org](http://www.caresinstitute.org).

The Task Force will be hosting the 2018 Skilled Building Conference on September 14, 2018 from 9:00am until 4:00pm at the Pines Manor in Edison, New Jersey. The conference is titled "Hidden Danger: Keeping Kids Safe on the Internet."

The CARES Institute will host another Experts in Child Abuse and Neglect Lecture Series in October or November 2018. The lecture will focus on addressing mental health issues.

**Next Meeting – September 28, 2018 in Trenton.**