



## 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.*

9/27/2024

Meeting minutes

### Attendance

Commissioner Christine Beyer, Department of Children and Families  
Mary Coogan, Advocates for the Children of New Jersey  
Kaitlin Mulcahy, Montclair State University  
David Tang (For Jaqueline Augustine), NJ Administrative Office of the Courts  
Dr. Martin Finkel, NJ CARES Institute  
Christian Arnold, Department of Law and Public Safety  
Jennifer Underwood, Department of Community Affairs  
Lorene Wilkerson, NJ Child Placement Advisory Council  
Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz, Assembly District 21  
Natasha Johnson, Department of Human Services  
Nydia Monagas, New Jersey Children’s Alliance  
Sonia Moticha, Department of Education  
Wendi White, Department of Corrections  
Richard Stagliano, Center for Family Services

### Guests

Catherine Freda, Center for Family Services  
Katherine Stoehr, Department of Children and Families  
Marygrace Billek, Public Member  
Jason Butkowski, Department of Children and Families

### Staff

Bethany D’Amelio, Department of Children and Families

### 1. Introduction

The Committee recently convened to discuss initiatives and make decisions crucial to advancing the aims of the task force. This memo summarizes the discussions, presentations, and decisions made during the meeting. The meeting was brought to order and the public notice was read aloud.

## **2. Application and Membership Updates**

- Clarification was sought regarding the subcommittee membership application process. It was affirmed that task force seats are appointed, while subcommittee memberships are open for applications from interested parties.

## **3. Subcommittee Flowchart**

- A flowchart with the newly formed subcommittee names and vision statements was presented to the task force for approval.
- Voting procedures were executed to ascertain consensus on new committee structures and initiatives. There was unanimous support among members.

## **SORS report Overview**

- Outlined the four pillars model of the report and detailed the focuses of each pillar.
- Areas that were not studied in this report were listed.
- The task force was asked to review the draft of the SORS report and respond with comments, questions, or suggested edits.

## **Development and Fundraising Subcommittee and Children's Trust Fund update**

- A detailed review of the past fiscal year's expenditures was conducted, noting significant allocations towards initiatives such as the Fatherhood Engagement Initiative and the Predict Align Prevent effort.
- Past investments have resulted in valuable insights which are informing future strategic directions.
- Efforts will be augmented by new stakeholders from diverse sectors, including philanthropic partners and fiscal strategists.

## **National Trust Fund Initiatives**

- Insights into successful models from other states including New York and Ohio were shared.

## **Problematic Sexualized Behavior Work Group**

- Problematic Sexual Behavior Program Framework: Ongoing efforts to address issues related to minors' sexual behaviors were highlighted. The referral process was outlined as well as the training of treatment providers.
- Funding in the following areas was provided by the Department of Children and Families.
  - Specialized Care Coordinator positions
  - Child Treatment Assistance Fund
  - PBS Program Staff and related program expenses.
  - Training
- Presentation outlining preliminary data review.

## **Fall Conference update**

- The conference is at full capacity, including participants from law enforcement, educational and medical settings.
- The agenda has been set to include a presentation by keynote speaker, Dr. Jessica Pryce.
- The main topic will be mandatory reporter requirements. The conference seeks to enhance effectiveness and awareness in child neglect and abuse reporting to render improved outcomes in child protection interventions.

### **Conclusion**

- The dedicated efforts of all members to uphold the mission of strengthening family and children's services in New Jersey were acknowledged.

*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.*