



New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

## **PREVENTION COMMITTEE**

Natasha Johnson, Chair  
Niurca Louis, Vice Chair

**May 4, 2017**

**10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

Capital Center Building  
50 East State Street, 2nd Floor  
Commissioner's Large Conference Room  
Trenton, NJ 08625

### **Minutes**

#### **In Attendance:**

Christine Baker	Metro-RDTC at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center
Maureen Braun-Scalera	Rutgers School of Social Work
Nicole Carpenter	Clarus Consulting
Jeanette Collins	NJ Child Assault Prevention
Suzanne Conrad	Prof/Voc. Educational Administrator
Diane Dellanno	Advocates for Children of NJ
Linda Holland	DCF – Information Technology
Niurca Louis	Robins' Nest, Inc.
Kristie McCullough	Clarus Consulting
Cheryl Mojta	NJ Child Assault Prevention
Kathleen Roe	Parents Anonymous
Svetlana Shpiegel	Center for Child Advocacy and Policy
Charmaine Thomas	DCF – Family and Community Partnerships & Div. on Women
LaTasha Holmes	DCF – Special Assistant to the Commissioner

#### **Staff**

Daniel Yale	DCF – Executive Coordinator
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**The Pledge of Allegiance** – The Pledge of Allegiance was not completed at this time.

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

A brief welcome was provided by Niurca Louis. Kristie McCullough and Nicole Carpenter of Clarus Consulting, who will be assisting with the development of the 2018 – 2021 Prevention Plan, introduced themselves to the committee.



### **Review and approve March 2, 2017 Minutes**

Minutes were approved with the following edits:

Cheryl Mojta – NJ Child Assault Prevention **Program**

### **Data Hub Presentation – Linda Holland**

Linda Holland, Department of Children and Families' (DCF) Director of Information Technology, presented the New Jersey Child Welfare Data Hub. Linda explained to the Committee that the Data Hub is another way for DCF ensure transparency with data. DCF has partnered with Rutgers University to develop and maintain the Data Hub. Although the majority of the data is taken from the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P) at this time and census data, there are plans to incorporate data from the Division of Family and Community Partnerships (FCP), Children's System of Care (CSOC) and the Office of Adolescent Services. In the future, the Data Hub may also be used to provide child abuse prevention data as well. The Data Hub is open to the public and can be an especially useful tool for researchers, legislators and DCF providers.

### **Announcements**

The Committee was informed that DCF's executive team has reflected on the accomplishments of the Department and its community partners regarding the previous prevention plan. The information is being compiled and will be available at the next meeting.

Niurca reported that in April 2017, FCP held three regional events for Child Abuse Prevention Month. The events focused on how FCP programs use and leverage community partnerships to improve prevention efforts in local communities. It was reported that the events were well attended and awards were provided to partners in the communities.

Svetlana reported that Montclair University received final state approval for a Masters of Social Work program. The program will concentrate on children, youth and families and will include a course regarding child abuse and neglect.

Cheryl informed the committee that New Jersey Child Assault Prevention has moved and is now located at Camden County College. The group was informed that the contact telephone numbers and email addresses have also changed.

Charmaine informed the committee that an event to honor Displaced Homemakers that participated in the Displaced Homemakers Program will be held on May 11, 2017 at the State House. Charmaine also reported that on June 22, 2017, there will be two separate events taking



place. The New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence will be holding their 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at the Busch Campus of Rutgers University and Family Success Center will be holding a 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at the DCF Professional Center.

## **Business**

### 2018-2020 Prevention Plan – Focusing on Strategic Priorities as a Framework

The committee was informed that the representatives from Clarus Consulting Group would be facilitating some activities to engage in the development of the next iteration of the Prevention Plan. The committee received a handout which provided the scope and outline of work tasks as well as a timeline for the development of the next Prevention Plan. It was explained that a goal in the development of the next Prevention Plan was to preserve the priorities in the current Prevention Plan and to use the existing framework, but to make the plan more implementable. A survey and interview process will be completed to obtain an understanding of the current opportunities and challenges that are present, as well as to determine if there are any innovative ideas that may make the plan more actionable. The survey that is being developed will be similar to the previous survey that was administered so that longitudinal data can be utilized. The data will also be cross referenced with the data from the Data Hub to be able to pinpoint what is happening in individual counties. This will enable DCF and community partners to “find the gaps” more easily to prioritize and focus on certain areas. Once the data is analyzed, Clarus will attend the Prevention Committee meeting scheduled in September to report the results. The Prevention plan should be finalized by the end of the calendar year. Clarus will also be assisting with the “kick off” of the new Prevention Plan and will be conducting two discussions in 2018 to ensure that the plan is being implemented.

At the conclusion of the introduction of the time table for the new Prevention Plan, Clarus conducted a “vision activity” with the committee that built on the work that was done at the last meeting. The activity was designed to assist committee members in reflecting on the vision of the Prevention Plan, how they can each contribute to the work individually and as partners, and the implementation and execution of the plan going forward.

Meeting adjourned.

**Next Meeting - July 20, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in Trenton (Commissioner’s Large Conference Room)**