



New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

## **PREVENTION COMMITTEE**

Natasha Johnson, Chair  
Niurca Louis, Vice Chair

**July 12, 2018**

**10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

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

### **Minutes**

#### **In Attendance:**

Christine Baker  
Andrea Breitwieser  
Gerard Costa  
Diane Dellanno  
Gina Hernandez  
Erika Hillman  
Aldina Hovde  
Corissa Kazar  
Niurca Louis  
Patty Mojta  
Ilene Palena  
Charmaine Thomas  
Wendi White

Metro Regional Diagnostic Treatment Center  
NJ Department of Human Services  
Montclair State University  
Advocates for Children of NJ  
Prevent Child Abuse NJ  
PEI Kids  
NJ Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Foster and Adoptive Family Services  
Robins' Nest, Inc.  
Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey  
Department of Children and Families  
Department of Children and Families  
Department of Corrections

#### **By Telephone:**

Jeanne McMahon  
Svetlana Shpiegel

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
Montclair State University

#### **Staff**

Daniel Yale

DCF – Executive Coordinator

*"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 is being recorded for the transcription of minutes. Please be sure to state your name prior to making comments, motions and seconding votes.*



### **Welcome and Introductions**

A brief welcome was provided by Niurca Louis and each member briefly introduced themselves.

### **Review and approve March 1, 2018 and May 3, 2018 Minutes**

The March Minutes were approved with the following edits:

- Page 8 – Prevent Child Abuse NJ and NJ Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics collaborated to screen the documentary on “Resilience” at Rutgers University in Camden on March 26<sup>th</sup>.
- It was also noted that the current Prevention Plan goes until 2021.

The May Minutes were approved without edits.

### **Update on Prevention Plan “Kick-Off” in September**

The Prevention Committee discussed the NJ Statewide Prevention Plan and spoke about beginning to lay the ground work with the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). The kick off for the Plan will be held on September 18<sup>th</sup>. The symposium will highlight the Department of Children and Families’, in conjunction with the Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ), efforts on prevention. The Administration for Children and Families’ (ACF) Associate Commissioner Jerry Milner will be in attendance to talk about his vision for the FFPSA. Amelia Franck-Meyer will discuss how the child welfare system works and changes that need to made. Commissioner Christine Beyer will provide welcoming remarks and Cecilia Zalkind will be the moderator. The symposium will also include a panel discussion featuring Commissioner Beyer, Jerry Milner, and Amelia Franck-Meyer. The Prevention Plan will be presented in the afternoon and there will be an invitation for attendees to join the workgroups to begin implementing the Prevention Plan.

The Committee was informed that Commissioner Beyer plans to host regional meetings with stakeholders to ensure that the message being presented is consistent throughout the state. Niurca Louis stated that she is committed to attending the regional meetings. Members were encouraged to attend the forum in their region, as this could be a possible venue to bring in stakeholders to be a part of the planning committee for the prevention plan. Members were informed to mark their calendars for September 18<sup>th</sup> and to email Daniel Yale names of their colleagues that should be in attendance.

### **Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)**

The Committee viewed a portion of the recorded “Funding and Sustaining Evidenced-Based program in the Child Welfare System webinar by The Annie E. Casey Foundation. The webinar focused on the Family First Prevention Services Act as it relates to evidence-based programs; lessons learned from other States that have implemented the programs and practices and lessons learned with creating funding



partnerships. The Committee was encouraged to watch the entire webinar now available at <https://www.aecf.org/blog/funding-evidence-based-programs-in-child-welfare-with-the-family-first/>.

### **Discussion regarding implementation**

The Committee discussed the work going forward within the different workgroups ensuring it aligns with the direction of the Prevention Plan as well as the Family First Prevention Services Act. The Committee was informed that DCF's Deputy Commissioner Katherine Stoehr had assembled a Family First Steering Committee and four different subcommittees to work towards developing DCF's system to be able to utilize these funds. As discussed at a previous meeting, the executive summary for the evidence-based blueprint for New Jersey can be found on DCF's website. During the discussion, the topic of implementing evidence-based programs across the State was emphasized and looking at current providers to see who has already implemented the process to be included in the FFPSA. In the coming months, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) will release information on what they consider evidence-based; and DCF staff will be in Washington D.C. next week to attend the State Team Planning meeting to discuss how child welfare, prevention and the court system should be working together. The Committee was informed that July 21, 2018 is the deadline to submit comments on the Family First Prevention Services Act. Members were reminded to comment using their agency/organization and not to comment on behalf of the Task Force. The Committee was encouraged to review the 2017 Blueprint Executive Summary as well as the 2006 American Psychological Association document on evidence-based practice.

The Committee discussed the National Implementation Research Network (NIRN) work with DCF. The Office of Strategic Development (OSD) staff have been working on implementation science to become more familiar with the research to ensure services are being implemented in an effective way. Nancy Gagliano is the contact person at DCF for NIRN. The Committee wants to make certain they understand how to recommend evidence-based approaches. NIRN has helped DCF implement the practice profiles across the state within the family success centers to ensure services are being provided throughout the process.

### **Assignments for workgroup**

The Chair persons for the four workgroups were announced along with members volunteering to serve on at least one of the workgroups. The Committee was reminded to provide Charmaine Thomas and Daniel Yale the names of colleagues interested in joining the workgroups. The Committee reviewed the chart created by Clarus Consulting which will be utilized to guide the work of the workgroups. Niurca Louis will ensure that each workgroup receives the revised version of the guide. Members were reminded that the work generated by the workgroups will need Task Force approval. One of the goals for September is to recruit new members.

### **Announcements**



Gerard Costa announced that he is a part of on new executive group of stakeholders formed for Autism. The group began their discussion with “What does Medicaid currently approve for Autism” as well as discussions around evidence based programs. The next meeting will be held on July 16, 2018.

Montclair State University applied to the request for proposals (RFP) issued by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) for infant and early childhood mental health. The Department of Children and Families and several communities’ partners provided their support for the application.

The Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ) is the lead agency for New Jersey’s Babies Zero to Three campaigns. A lot of work is being done around the needs of infants and toddlers throughout the State. An event was held in Trenton to bring awareness in making infants a priority and there were one hundred and fifty babies and eight legislators in attendance. There is also a Think Babies Coalition tasked with setting the priorities for the campaign. Members will be kept informed of the priorities selected and the issues going forward. On July 30<sup>th</sup> at the Rutgers Business School in Newark, ACNJ will release New Jersey’s Babies Count report and there will also be an event held in South Jersey.

Montclair State University received funding from two foundations to conduct a study on preschool expulsions in New Jersey. The survey will be for educators in different sectors throughout the State. This has been a topic of concern and the Committee will be provided with the results of the survey.

The NJ Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics provided funding to strengthen the pediatric partnership curriculum around adverse childhood experiences and implement a screening tool. The pilot program will be featured in Camden, New Jersey.

On July 20, 2018, the New Jersey Community of Care Consortium meeting will be held at the New Jersey Hospital Association. The Department of Health (DOH) Deputy Commissioner Jackie Cornell will be the keynote speaker talking about DOH priorities.

The New Jersey Statewide Network for Cultural Competence annual conference is scheduled for December 4, 2018.

The Statewide Parent Advocacy Network is the recipient of a grant from the Department of Health to implement a pilot community dual program in Essex county.

The Committee expressed that Kerrie Ocasio will be missed and expressed a need to recruit a member with a research background.



Next Meeting – September 18, 2018

Meeting Adjourned.