



New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Natasha Johnson, Chair
Niurca Louis, Vice Chair

January 10, 2019

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:

Maureen Braun-Scalera
Andrea Breitwieser
Suzanne Conrad
Diane Dellanno
Corissa Kazar
Niurca Louis
Jeanne McMahon
Cheryl Mojta
Patty Mojta
Kathleen Roe
Dr. Tiffany Tucker

Rutgers University School of Social Work
NJ Department of Human Services
Consultant
Advocates for Children of NJ
Foster and Adoptive Family Services
Robins' Nest, Inc.
Director of SPAN Health & Family Support Programs
NJ Child Assault Prevention
Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey
Parents, Inc.
Cooper University Hospital

Guest:

Trevor Melton

NJ Department of Education

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.

Review November 1, 2018 Minutes



Although the November minutes could not be approved as there was not a quorum at this meeting, the committee suggested the following edits:

- Page 2, 5th bullet: Should read (Erin's Law)
- Page 2, last bullet: Should read Gerard Costa and Advocates for Children in New Jersey
- Page 3, 5th bullet: Should read PCA is conducting a survey. Last sentence to end after "Once the data is analyzed, information will be provided".

2019 Biennial Conference Discussion

Niurca asked the committee to discuss topic ideas for the 2019 Biennial Conference that would be beneficial to the community that serves our families. The idea behind this discussion is to present these ideas to the Task Force for consideration. Niurca explained that the theme of the conference changes from year to year and is really about empowering and moving the field forward across sectors and departments.

It was suggested that the conference align with Commissioner Beyer's priorities of well-being for staff, culture of safety, etc. Niurca stated that her suggestion was community prevention as an avenue to create change for families in our communities in order to surround them with the support that they need. This could be a way to follow up with DCF's goal of safe, healthy and connected families. Diane Dellanno suggested community-based approaches that are evidence-based and successful. The committee discussed having poster sessions that explain what the evidence-based approaches that are working well in NJ.

Kathy Roe suggested that the committee should look at the National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect (NCCAN) topics as they encompass the scope of national workshops. Kathy listed the 5 priorities of the NCCAN conference: prioritizing prevention, focusing on well-being, reshaping foster care as support for families, building community capacity, and supporting the workforce. Diane also suggested that perhaps a motivational person speak about preparing us for change. It was suggested that the conference be recorded and be accessible to the public so that they can access the information at any time.

Suzanne Conrad asked about the audience for this conference. Niurca explained that the attendees are usually service providers across the state, not families. Niurca stated that we are working hard to open our world of prevention of child abuse and neglect to other communities and sectors. It is important to have people from faith-based communities, the business sector, education, health, etc. join us so that they can understand what we do and how it aligns with what they do. The only way to reduce abuse is to have other sectors and communities understand what is being done and join the effort. Niurca asked the committee if there were any thoughts about how to reach other sectors. Trevor Melton stated that the Department of Education has a unit based on community engagement and the Attorney General's Office has policy and planning boards with several community members that are part of the coalitions. Kathy also spoke about including the Department of Corrections. Suzanne asked if the committee is assuming that all those agencies that will be attending are familiar with ACEs and trauma informed care



because perhaps we should not make that assumption. Suzanne also suggested that we include nurturing in the conversation. Cheryl informed the committee that she presented to the superintendent's round table last spring and asked how many knew about ACEs. Cheryl stated that only one county superintendent raised their hand.

The committee discussed whether teacher and/or school staff would be able to attend the biennial conference. The committee was informed that teachers would not be able to attend because it is the beginning of the school year and because there are multiple holidays in September. It was suggested that if the target audience is teachers, it would be best to include the topic at the teacher's convention in November. If the committee would prefer the audience to include policymakers of the school districts, the school board conference is in October.

Workgroup Reports

Outreach and Engagement

Andrea stated that her group had a question about the intended audience for the Prevention Plan. Niurca stated that the plan is written for those that engage in prevention work to move the agenda forward. The byproducts are intended outward, but the actual plan is for the Prevention Committee and prevention community. Andrea informed the committee that she is the chair of the Outreach and Engagement workgroup and that their primary goal is to increase protective factors and decrease risk factors in an effort to reduce adverse childhood experiences for all expectant parents, infants, children, youth and families. Part of the work that we are doing in the workgroups is how do we take a piece and translate it in a way that is effective for the various communities. Niurca explained that the Prevention Plan is a tool to focus the committee for the next four years on what it is we would like to see happen.

Patty stated that Corissa Kazar identified a communication campaign that is federally funded through the Children's Bureau called "WE CAN" which stands for Work to End Child Abuse and Neglect. The campaign includes dozens of images that are already formatted for social media. Many are prevention focused and multicultural. Some of the images also include links that connect to resources. They plan to contact the creators of the program in the hope that the creators will allow them to modify the messages and allow the workgroup to use the images. Niurca felt that the images also needed to have a "call to action" that explains what you want a viewer to do. Patty stated that they would propose to create a toolkit that would help people create a campaign.

Andrea stated that they had some thoughts on identifying other system partners. There are individuals from within our system partners that could attend Prevention Committee meetings to present on their data. For example, the Department of Health can present on Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to put more context around the data. Also, when you look at the Child Fatality Report, it becomes evident that there are key people that should be at the table. Another objective is about data sharing and connecting



across state departments. NJ Easel has four state departments involved. Perhaps having them present about the current system as they are only in the first stage of a many staged process. Perhaps they would be able to talk about the objectives and outcomes that they are looking to achieve.

Maureen stated that her group focused on trying to tease out the objectives. First, the workgroup had to agree on the definition of Evidence Based Programs (EBPs) so that when they spoke of EBPs, all understood what that meant. Their workgroup spoke about accessing repositories or inventories so that we understand the different levels of evidence-based or promising practices. They also discussed trying to figure out, in New Jersey, who is doing what and where in order to draw on those resources. They want to continue to promote and advocate the use of EBPs and implementation science to ensure fidelity in terms of transfer of knowledge and skills. Another objective is to support the expanded availability of EBPs for expectant parents, children and youth, which would include advocating for funding. They will also look into ways to advocate for funding to analyze data as Requests for Proposals (RFPs) come with program funding, but not funding for research and evaluation. The workgroup spoke about capacity building for providers without EBPs to at least collect qualitative and quantitative data. They also talked about training with the existing programs and looking at technology in terms of training through webinars and other ways to offer online access to training.

Daniel stated that the Infrastructure and Resources workgroup is trying to gather more information on what the Children’s Trust Fund (CTF) has funded in the past. How it is related to Infrastructure and Resources and what funds have been spent on infrastructure and resources. The workgroup plans to review and summarize the Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) report to determine what DCF has used these funds for and what has been successful. Look into cross department collaborations that have had successful outcomes.

Diane stated that the workgroup is trying to figure out whether what was done in the past has worked. Are the initiatives that have been funded in the past still in existence? The workgroup will look into whether we are building a system of prevention programs or just doing “one and dones”. Once the workgroup has more data, they workgroup can provide more guidance and recommendations.

Workgroup Discussions

The committee members were given time to break into their workgroups.

Announcements

Meeting Adjourned.