



New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

## **PREVENTION COMMITTEE**

Maura Somers Dughi, Esq, Chair  
Niurca Louis, Vice Chair

**November 3, 2016**

**10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

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

### **Minutes**

#### **In Attendance:**

Christine Baker  
Maureen Braun-Scalera  
Andrea Breitwieser  
Christina Colon  
Diane Dellanno  
Jessica Gregory  
Daniela Hellman  
Gina Hernandez  
Aldina Hovde  
Jaime Kaiser  
Natasha Johnson  
Niurca Louis  
Cheryl Mojta  
Patty Mojta  
Kerrie Ocasio  
Svetlana Shpiegel  
Maura Somers Dughi  
Charmaine Thomas

Metro-RDTC at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center  
Rutgers School of Social Work  
NJ Kids Grow  
DCF – Family & Community Partnerships  
Advocates for Children of NJ  
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Prevent Child Abuse – NJ  
American Academy of Pediatrics – NJ Chapter  
Advocates for Children of NJ  
DHS – Division of Family Development  
Robins' Nest, Inc.  
Child Assault Prevention Program  
Prevent Child Abuse – New Jersey  
Rutgers University School of Social Work's Institute for Families  
Center for Child Advocacy and Policy  
Child and Family Advocate  
DCF – Family & Community Partnerships & Div. on Women

#### **Staff**

Ifeanyi Pole

DCF – Office of the Commissioner



## **Welcome**

### **Introductions and Members' Brief Prevention Updates**

Maura Somers Dughi informed the Committee that she has resigned from the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect (NJTF CAN) and Chair of the Prevention Committee effective November 3, 2016. Maura stated that Natasha Johnson will submit her nomination for Chair of the Prevention Committee at NJTF CAN's January 20, 2017 meeting.

Charmaine Thomas informed the Committee that DCF's Family and Community Partnerships (FCP) and the Division on Women (DOW) are developing a new data system; FCP and DOW plan to launch this data system in five years. Charmaine also stated that FCP's Family Success Centers (FSCs) are developing a practice profile with a projected launch date of January 2017.

Niurca Louis informed the Committee that a delegation of 15 people will be coming from South Korea in November 2016 to discuss New Jersey's FSC model.

Natasha informed the Committee that the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS) and the New Jersey Department of Labor (DOL) applied for a two year technical assistance grant to work with parents and children; this grant will address the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) initiative for home visiting.

Jessica Gregory informed the Committee that she recently visited Vermont for a training with the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN) and the National Family Professional Partnership Coalition.

### **Review of September Minutes**

The Committee approved the September 1, 2016 Minutes with the following edit:

Aldina Hovde                      American Academy of Pediatrics-NJ Chapter

## **Business**

Maura asked that discussion of the 2017 Prevention Statement be tabled to the January Committee agenda.



## Workgroup and Program Updates:

- **Prevention Course Development Workgroup**

Kerrie informed the Committee that this Workgroup will be meeting following the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee meeting and will be discussing a deadline for their work. Kerrie stated that the Workgroup and Committee are awaiting advice through NJTF CAN from the New Jersey Attorney General's (AG) Office on their question of authorship of the course if the Workgroup consults with external partners on this project (i.e. Doris Duke Fellows).

- **Prevention Plan Implementation Workgroup**

Maura informed the Committee that she mentioned the Prevention Plan will be expiring in 2017 at the September 23, 2016 NJTF CAN meeting; Charmaine stated that she will be meeting with Commissioner Blake and will discuss this issue.

- **Prevention Standards Workgroup**

Kerrie discussed the needs assessment of the programs, partnerships, and the support that comes from DCF to get feedback from the public. Kerrie disseminated hand-outs to the Committee on the results of pre-training assessments and other home programs that were surveyed. Approximately 8 trainers were enrolled in the training with 11 training classes in all. Parents and parent leaders were the focus of this training. A survey was given to the trainees on the program for feedback; 110 parents committed to this training.

Daniela Hellman informed the Committee about parents and home visits. She informed how it improves and commits to the development of the programs.

The Committee discussed the importance of members attending prevention related meetings with other state departments (i.e. the New Jersey Department of Health, New Jersey Department of Agriculture, etc.) to ascertain what services and assistance they may be able to provide to enhance the Prevention Standards.

Gina Hernandez and Jessica Gregory informed the Committee about the Prevention Standards' webinars on Rutgers' website that will be available in English and Spanish.

- **New Jersey Children's Trust Fund Marketing Campaign Workgroup**

Niurca informed the Committee that NJTF CAN approved the three-phase New Jersey Children's Trust Fund (NJ CTF) Marketing Campaign Proposal at its September 23, 2016 meeting.



Jessica informed the Committee about the development of NJ CTF logo themes and design process with DCF's graphic designer, Juan Serrano. Ifeanyi informed the Committee that the Communication Committee will share the NJ CTF logo to the Prevention Committee at its January 2017 meeting prior to presenting it to NJTF CAN at its January 20, 2017 meeting for approval.

Jessica also stated that the Workgroup will launch a NJ CTF Facebook page and panel card in 2017 to disseminate to tax preparers and their clients.

Jessica informed the Committee that DCF and the Office of Information Technology (OIT) have partnered to research adding a credit card donation option to the NJ CTF webpage.

- **Improving Outcomes for Families of Infants and young Children**

Charmaine discussed that there are two counties in addition to Essex County. Passaic and Camden have also started to participate in the initiatives. All six of the Essex County local offices (Newark Center City, Newark Northeast, Newark South, Essex Central – East Orange, Essex North – Bloomfield, and Essex South – Millburn) are now participating in this project; the local offices work with families and screen for risk. Such risk include: child abuse, housing, and substance abuse which require services. Speech and OT make referrals to child specialized hospitals as needed.

- **Discuss Prevention Committee's 2017 Recommended Communication Messaging**

Messaging is separate from the marketing campaign. As April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, it is important to message this and highlight it in bullet format. This would also be shared with DCF.

- **Discuss recognition of programs that demonstrate mastery of the Standards for Prevention**

The Committee discussed how to get more people to participate in the process and how to improve and ensure the agencies meet these standards. This information could be recorded by the staff to ensure standards are being achieved. A checklist for the staff to follow would help in this procedure. The parent's input is critical as a factor in promoting the standards and to instill relative incentives for the staff. The development of models should be based on the type of work the staff complete daily in order to meet these standards. This is meant as a more scientific look at improving the relationship between the staff and how effective they are with the families. Coordinating the expectations and the variations from the staff will be a continuous task.



## **Announcements**

Ifeanyi informed the Committee that effective November 28, 2016 she will no longer serve as NJTF CAN Acting Executive Coordinator; Ifeanyi received a promotion in DCF and will transition to the DCF Office of Adolescence Services' (OAS) team to lead the work of OAS' youth homelessness prevention programs. The Committee extended their well wishes to Maura and Ifeanyi.

**Next Meeting – January 5, 2017 in Trenton.**