



- New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN

Nydia Monagas, Chair
Greta Anderson, Co-Chair

**Please note the meeting was recorded for the transcription of minutes.*

Attendance:

Greta Anderson, Department of Children and Families
Jill Pniewski, Department of Children and Families
Christine Beyer, Commissioner, Department of Children and Families
Anthony Cameli, Families and Communities Together
Liza Kirschenbaum, CASA of New Jersey
Jennifer Underwood, Department of Community Affairs
Lorene Wilkerson, NJ Child Placement Advisory Council
Jaqueline Martin, CarePoint Health
Maureen Donnelly, Cooper Health
Ron Welsh, DADs Council
Lynette Rente, Office of the Public Defender
Svetlana Shpiegel, Montclair State University
Amber Floyd, Capitol Kids-Mercer County
Juanita Johnson-Brooks, PEI Kids
Dayna Zatina-Egan, Montclair State University
Michelle Renner, Catholic Charities

Staff:

Bethany D'Amelio, Department of Children and Families

1. Welcome and Introductions:

- Meeting minutes from the June 18, 2025, meeting were approved without edit.

2. Training and Education Workgroup Update:

- The workgroup recently engaged with the Department of Education (DOE) to gather valuable insights, leading to a potential redirection in strategy.
- Following recommendations from the DOE, a "Best Practices" document is being proposed for educators. This approach is favored over initiating additional training sessions.
- The workgroup efforts continue to refine a survey to potentially incorporate feedback from childcare providers and professionals beyond traditional educational settings.

- Members deliberated on effective methods for disseminating information and the feasibility of integrating this content into the newly established mandated reporter training modules.
- It has been decided that the working document will be shared with the entire subcommittee to foster collaboration and transparency.
- The workgroup remains committed to regular meetings and strategizing future endeavors to ensure its initiatives meet the highest standards.

A. Challenges and Considerations:

- Concerns were expressed regarding the possible limited impact of distributing lengthy documents without accompanying context, emphasizing the need for interactive or supplementary discussion formats.
- Strategies to enhance message reception are under consideration, including concise formats or digital webinars.
- The Committee is open to receiving feedback from stakeholders to improve the proposed communication strategies, with a view to finalizing the recommendations for presentation to the task force at the upcoming September meeting.

3. Policy and Legislation Workgroup Update:

- Due to scheduling conflicts, the workgroup has been unable to convene as planned.
- Contact was initiated with Senator Vin Gopal's office. The workgroup is actively engaged in arranging a meeting to discuss key aspects of the "Pass the Trash" Bill.
- Communication efforts with the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) have been undertaken. The receipt of a response from NJEA remains uncertain at this time.
- This workgroup aims to convene prior to the upcoming subcommittee meeting.

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.