



## STAFFING AND OVERSIGHT REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Marygrace Billek, Chair

Lisa Chapland, Co-Chair

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“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 was recorded for the transcription of minutes.*

### **SORS Meeting**

**June 6, 2025**

#### **Attendance:**

Marygrace Billek, Public member  
Katherine Stoehr, Department of Children and Families  
Clinton Page, Department of Children and Families  
Mary Coogan, Advocates for Children of New Jersey  
Mary Hallahan, Resource Parent  
Corinne LeBaron, Embrella  
Ruth Hartnett, NJ Legislature  
Lynette Rente, Office of the Public Defender  
Traci Telemaque, Office of the Public Defender  
Gina Hernandez, Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey  
Lisa Chapland, Relative Resource Parent  
Linda Porcaro, Somerset County Department of Human Services  
Garnet Roberts-Batson, Dad's Council

#### **Guests:**

Emily Douglas, Montclair University  
Svetlana Spiegel, Montclair University  
Wendy Zeitlin, Montclair University  
Megan Bruhn, Montclair University  
Victoria Vargas, Montclair University

#### **Staff:**

Bethany D'Amelio, Department of Children and Families

### **1. Review of Committee Objectives and Priorities**

- **Discussion on Current Priorities:**

- Acknowledged the possibility of reassessing the committee's priorities due to changes in federal landscapes, particularly related to funding.
- Emphasized aligning priorities with legislative mandates and ensuring they are measurable and actionable.
- **Federal Landscape Impact:**
  - Consideration of the implications of recent federal budget updates, which may necessitate shifting focus areas.

## **2. Data Needs and Availability**

- **Clarification on Data Requirements:**
  - There was a noted need to reconcile the difference between data availability and answering specific committee questions.
  - Identified confusion between child health services data and actual child well-being metrics. The committee expressed the need for distinct data sets to address both aspects.
- **Survey and Data Collection:**
  - Discussion around the potential deployment of a survey to collect new data, although concerns were voiced about the efficacy and clarity of desired outcomes from such efforts.

## **3. Service Provision and Effectiveness**

- **Service Efficacy:**
  - Questions were raised regarding the effectiveness of existing services in preventing out-of-home placements. The committee acknowledged the importance of differentiating between service availability and service impact.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:**
  - Suggested convening relevant parties, including caseworkers and service providers, to identify service shortfalls and explore ongoing issues with service delivery such as waitlists and transportation.
  - It was requested that DCF provide a presentation on the types of services available by county, which could facilitate a more unified and effective response if coordinated correctly.

*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.*