



## STAFFING AND OVERSIGHT REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Marygrace Billek, Chair  
Lisa Chapland, Co-Chair

"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.*

January 9, 2024  
SORS Meeting minutes

### Attendance

#### Members

- Marygrace Billek, Committee Chair
- Lisa Chapland, Committee Co-Chair
- Amy Fisher, New Jersey Judiciary
- Laura Jamet, Department of Children and Families
- Robyn Veasey, Office of the Public Defender
- Angie Waters, CASA of New Jersey
- Gina Hernandez, Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey
- Garnet Roberts-Batson, Dad's Council
- Traci Telemaque, Office of the Public Defender
- Mary Hallahan, Public Member
- Katie Stoehr, Department of Children and Families

#### Guests

- Colleen McCauley, Camden Coalition
- Kathleen Noonan, Camden Coalition
- Kate Bradley, Department of Children and Families
- Jason Butkowski, Department of Children and Families
- Angela Phillips, Department of Children and Families

#### Staff

- Bethany D'Amelio, Department of Children and Families

## Overview

The committee convened a meeting to discuss pertinent issues surrounding the New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF). The session focused on the dissemination of the SORS report, strategies for public engagement, and operational updates across multiple initiatives. Below is a summarized account of the discussions, action points, and commitments agreed upon by members during the meeting.

### 1. Report Dissemination and Public Engagement

- **Discussion Points:**
  - **Distribution Concerns:** Addressed how to increase public interest in the SORS report. The committee Chair highlighted the need to distribute effectively while maintaining transparency and the independence of the task force.
  - **Press Strategy:** A representative from the DCF Office of Communications reinforced the need for a dissemination strategy that respects the task force's independence.
  - **Constituency Building:** Discussed by several members, emphasized expanding beyond the immediate group to cultivate a wider audience interested in child welfare.
- **Key Agreements:**
  - **Website Posting:** Reports to be accessible via official DCF websites to enhance visibility.
  - **Community Engagement:** Members agreed to engage their local constituencies to foster deeper community interaction and feedback.

### 2. Task Force Activities and Project Updates

- **Operational Tasks:**
  - **Family Interviews and Training Sessions:** Committee Chair discussed upcoming family interviews and the integration of solution-based casework practices with upcoming training sessions scheduled later in the month.
  - **Cohort Cycles for 2024:** Clarification around project timelines was sought, with emphasis on ensuring members observe from initiation to completion of planning cycles for a holistic understanding.
- **Future Planning:**
  - **Legislative Obligations:** The committee reassured the legislative obligations would be met by engaging all relevant parties for the preparation of upcoming reports.

### 3. Challenges and Considerations

- **Public Communication:** DCF communications expressed need to ensure independence of Task Force in its work and promotion activities.
- **Internal Coordination:** The need for better internal coordination across sub-committees was highlighted, pointing out the complexity of remote communication setups.

#### 4. Actionable Items

- **Report and Press Release Drafting:** Co-chair volunteered to draft a press release to announce the recent report, with collaboration for review and approval.
- **Follow-Up Meetings:** A follow-up meeting scheduled for February 2025 will aim to evaluate the effectiveness of the report distribution strategy and public engagement levels.

#### 5. Closing Remarks

The meeting concluded with a call for sustained cooperation and proactive engagement from all members. The committee extends gratitude for continued support and dedication to fostering transparency and community welfare within New Jersey.

*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.*

*For further information or queries, the public can reach out via the contact channels provided by the Department of Children and Families.*