



New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

## **STAFFING AND OVERSIGHT REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE**

Marygrace Billek, Chair  
Mary Coogan, Vice-Chair

**July 14, 2020**  
**10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**  
**Conference Call**

### **In Attendance:**

Marygrace Billek  
Lisa Chapland  
Mary Coogan  
Mary Hallahan  
Corinne LeBaron  
Lori Morris

Mercer County DHS  
Kinship Resource Parent  
ACNJ  
Resource Parent  
Embrella  
Lifeties

### **Staff**

Daniel Yale

NJ Department of Children and Families

*"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 Marygrace Billek and each member briefly introduced themselves.

### **Review May 12, 2020 Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes from the May 12, 2020 conference was made by Mary Hallahan. Motion was seconded by Lori Morris. Minutes were not approved at this time as there was not a quorum.

### **Member Check-in Regarding COVID-19**

Mary Coogan informed the Committee that, due to COVID-19, all State Departments will be required to cut their budget by 15%. Marygrace stated that Commissioner Beyer gave an update to the Task Force at their last meeting in which she stated that DCF was making preparations for the possibility of budget cuts.

Marygrace informed the Committee that she sits on a pandemic fund committee and during their last meeting they had an in-depth conversation with Cecilia Zalkind regarding childcare. Childcare centers



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are facing significant issues due to staff not wanting to return and issues with operating childcare centers at half capacity and still be viable. The Committee discussed that families will also be facing issues when parents have to return to work and don't have childcare. Marygrace stated that Cecilia felt positive about the return of home-based childcare with relatives or friends. Mary informed that there are several webinars that discuss childcare issues on the Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ) website located at ACNJ.org.

The Committee discussed that special needs children are not getting the therapy that they need. Parents that were home in the beginning of the pandemic and providing the therapy that is needed will need to return to work. If schools don't open full-time, these children will be left without the necessary services. Marygrace stated that she will bring the issue to the Task Force.

The Committee discussed that parent-child visitation has been an issue during the pandemic, specifically whether the visitation is actually occurring and the quality of the visitation. ACNJ has released guidelines regarding how to conduct visitations during the pandemic, but the Committee discussed whether a webinar could be produced and released to resource parents. The Committee also discussed that resource parent to resource parent experience can be helpful to assist with the unknowns.

### **Discuss Annual SORS report**

Marygrace reminded the Committee that the annual SORS report is due in the coming months and that the Committee should take some time to review what has been accomplished in the previous year as well as what the Committee would like to discuss in the future. The Committee reviewed the previous year's workplan to discuss what was accomplished. The following accomplishments and changes to the work plan were discussed:

- Goal #1 - Marygrace reminded the Committee that they were provided with at least two updates from Carmen Diaz-Petti, including updates on the Family First legislation. The Committee agreed to merge the strategic plan implementation and the Family First updates into one goal and to keep them on the work plan for the following year.
- Goal #2 – The Committee reviewed the CFSP and PIP and received two presentations from Dawn Marlow, DCF. The Committee agreed to continue to monitor and will request another presentation from DCF.
- Goal #3 – The Committee discussed requesting a presentation from the DCF Office of Staff Health and Wellness. The Committee also discussed providing DCF with their concerns for DCP staff including the additional trauma of working during the pandemic.



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- Goal #4 – The Committee agreed to carry the previous goal of requesting an update from the DCPD Office of Resource Families regarding the kinship pilot conducted in Ocean/Monmouth counties.
- Goal #5 – Received a presentation from the Office of Training and Professional Development (OTPD). The presentation included an update on the Electronic Learning Management System, new training initiatives, implicit bias, and disproportionality. The OTPD was still developing trainings regarding undocumented populations, poverty and related issues (homelessness, housing, welfare, etc.) and cultural humility. The Committee will continue to request updates to stay up to date on new initiatives.
- Goal #6 – The goal of completing the annual SORS report will remain on the workplan.
- Goal #7 – The Committee agreed to add a new goal regarding the impact of COVID-19 as it has/will have an impact on all operations of DCF staff.

Meeting Adjourned – Next meeting September 8, 2020.