



New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

STAFFING AND OVERSIGHT REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Marygrace Billek, Chair
Mary Coogan, Vice-Chair

September 8, 2020
10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.
Conference Call

In Attendance:

Marygrace Billek
Lisa Chapland
Mary Coogan
Carmen Diaz-Petti
Amy Fischer
Mary Hallahan
Corinne LeBaron
Lori Morris
Angie Waters

Mercer County DHS
Kinship Resource Parent
ACNJ
NJ Department of Children and Families
Monmouth Vicinage, Administrative Office of the Courts
Resource Parent
Embrella
Lifeties
CASA Atlantic/Cape May

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 the meeting was called to order. The Committee discussed that because these meetings are not able to be held in person, contact information will be listed on the SORS website for members of the public to be able to request to attend the virtual meetings.

Review May 12 and July 14, 2020 Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from the May 12, 2020 conference call was made by Mary Coogan. The motion was seconded by Corinne LeBaron. The May 12, 2020 meeting were approved without edit.



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Lisa Chapland made a motion to approve the July 14, 2020 minutes. Corinne LeBaron seconded the motion. The July 14, 2020 minutes were approved without edit. Carmen Diaz-Petti and Amy Fischer abstained from the vote on July 14, 2020 meeting minutes.

Member Check-in Regarding COVID-19

Corinne informed the Committee that Embrella is still looking at services and working remotely until at least January. Amy Fischer stated that the Judiciary is still in Phase 2 according to the Governor's Executive Order. They are holding all family dockets virtually although they have recently started some in-person proceedings for certain types of cases. Every Judge and hearing Officer are working from home. There are some staff that report to their office as much of the case management is still done manually. There has not been any talk of entering Phase 3 at this time. Amy stated that certain Children in Court (CIC) cases are being held in person if the parties are requesting to be heard in person. These types of cases include guardianship cases, child abuse/neglect cases, adoption cases, etc. During these proceedings, judges, DAsG, defense attorneys may be present or there may be a combination of parties in person and remote.

Review 2021 SORS Workplan

The Committee reviewed a draft of the 2021 SORS Workplan. Mary Coogan asked the members to review the workplan and discuss if there is anything missing or if there are any issues with the timeframes for presentations. The following edits were discussed:

- Move the Impact of COVID-19 from the end of the workplan to the beginning as it is overarching and is the top concern at this time.
- Add a responsible party from CSOC to provide updates.
- Add a responsible party from the Office of Strategic Development to provide updates.
- Update on Office of Staff Health and Wellness in November by Nancy Carre-Lee, Deputy Director of DCPD
- Update on from DCF Office of Resource Families in January by Dawn Marlow, Director
- Office of Training and Professional Development (OTPD) is now overseen by DCPD. There have been multiple staffing changes. Add an update from the OTPD in the Spring of 2021.
- Mary Coogan stated that each Committee member would be able to comment on the impact of COVID-19. Mary felt that the Committee should spend 15-20 minutes during each meeting to discuss the impact or potential impact on DCPD staff from different perspectives. This will be included as a standing agenda item.



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Topics for SORS Annual Report

Marygrace informed the Committee that a draft of the report had been completed but asked that Committee members review the topics and discuss if any topics needed to be added or edited.

Marygrace provided an overview of the topics that were included:

- Overview based on the report that Commissioner provided to the federal court on the pandemic impact on the workforce and service provision to families;
- Families First Prevention Services Act and the delay due to lack of federal direction;
- Solution-Based Case Practice;
- Resource Family Survey;
- Update from Office of Training and Professional Development.

Meeting Adjourned – Next meeting November 10, 2020.