



- New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN

Nydia Monagas, Chair
Greta Anderson, 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.*

April 16, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Nydia Monagas, New Jersey Children's Alliance
Greta Anderson, Department of Children and Families
Jill Pniewski, Department of Children and Families
Christine Beyer, Commissioner of Department of Children and Families
Anthony Cameli, Families and Communities Together
Mary Coogan, Advocates for Children of New Jersey
Lorene Wilkerson, New Jersey Child Placement Advisor Council
Liza Kirschenbaum, CASA New Jersey
Judy Spinney, LCSW, public member
Juanita Johnson-Brooks, PEI Kids
Jacqueline Martin, CarePoint Health
Kim Pinto, New Jersey Child Assault Prevention
Eileen Caraker, Forensic Nurse Coordinator, Gloucester County
Michele Renner, Catholic Charities, Warren, Hunterdon, Somerset
Caryn Hirsch, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton
Joyce Applegate, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen
Christine Doman-Well, Rutgers Institute for Families
Ron Welsh, DAD's Council
Lisa DeLorenzo, CMO of Essex County
Darianne Mastricola, School Counselor

Staff:

Bethany D'Amelio, Department of Children and Families

I. Membership Update

The committee was informed that the membership vote was not conducted in the March task force meeting due to a lack of quorum. Applicants were encouraged to continue to attend meetings as guests

and informed that their work in workgroups continues to be valuable and meaningful to the subcommittee.

II. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

- A. The committee discussed the charter that is in the process of being drafted. The membership list was discussed to assure that necessary seats are represented without duplication and are relevant to the new vision and goal of the subcommittee.
- B. Workgroup Updates: members were encouraged to engage with workgroups and recommend stakeholders who may be able to collaborate with the groups.
 1. Training and Education
 - Overview of current policies and practices aimed at the protection of children, particularly within schools and child-serving institutions.
 - A highlight on the necessity for uniformity in training across districts to address inconsistencies.
 - Consideration of boundary-setting training as a preventative measure to curb institutional abuse.
 2. Policy and Legislation
 - Review of the 'Pass the Trash Legislation' concerning personnel conduct in schools as well as the two proposed pieces of legislation that are aiming to address deficits in the current legislation.
 - Examination of CARI Checks processes for school employees; issues identified include manual processing inefficiencies affecting the scale of checks.
 - Discussion extended to comparing state-level legislation and identifying best practices that could be adopted.

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.