



NEW JERSEY TASK FORCE ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Christine Norbut Beyer, MSW, Co-Chair
Mary Coogan, Esq., Acting 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.*

NJTFCAN In-Person Meeting
March 28, 2025

Attendance:

Greta Anderson, Department of Children and Families
Jennifer Underwood, Department of Community Affairs
Wendi White, Department of Corrections
Monica Maher, Department of Corrections
Sonia Moticha, Department of Education
Natasha Johnson, Department of Human Services
Traci Telemaque, Office of the Public Defender
Mary Coogan, Advocates for Children of New Jersey
Nydia Monagas, New Jersey Children's Alliance
Marygrace Billek, Public Member
Richard Stagliano, Center for Family Services
Dr. Martin Finkel, NJCARES Institute

Guests:

Calvin Hall, Department of Children and Families
Georgia Kioukis, Department of Children and Families
Katie Stoehr, Department of Children and Families
Jason Butkowski, Department of Children and Families
Sanford Starr, Department of Children and Families
Corissa Kazar, Embrella

Staff:

Bethany D'Amelio, Department of Children and Families

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting commenced with a formal welcome and reading of the public notice. The agenda was set with a focus on critical issues like funding allocations, strategic partnerships, and program evaluations.

II. **Budget Updates:**

The committee reviewed recent federal funding adjustments impacting local programs. Discussions centered on adaptive strategies to mitigate these impacts, specifically through local fundraising initiatives and reallocation of existing resources.

III. **Presentation by the Office of Applied Research and Evaluation: NJTFCAN CFSR Focus Group Discussion Points:**

Child Welfare Initiatives: The need for integration of interdisciplinary support systems to ensure comprehensive, long-term care for families post DCPD involvement throughout New Jersey was highlighted.

Community Engagement and Outreach: The committee deliberated on expanding outreach efforts to include underrepresented groups to gain more insights and nurture broader community involvement. Upcoming events such as community walks were proposed as platforms for raising awareness.

- The committee discussed that the development of offices such as Office of Family Voice, Office of Housing, Office of Staff Health and Wellness was in response to the recognized need for ensuring targeted and efficient responses to community concerns.

IV. **Subcommittee Reports**

- **Subcommittee on the Safety of Children:** Provided an overview of focus areas detailing the subcommittee's formation of two work groups; Policy and Legislation, which will examine current policies that impact child safety and the Training and Education work group, which will investigate current training requirements for educational and school staff members in New Jersey. Currently this subcommittee is working on data collection to support recommendations that will be made to the task force.
- **Development and Fundraising Committee:** Progress was reported in identifying new fundraising channels and enhancing community partnerships. The committee aims to boost financial support through increased corporate engagements and local collaborations. This committee plans to create media outreach for child abuse prevention month to pitch the CTF as a mode to help children in New Jersey and prevent child abuse. The subcommittee announced the nomination of a co-chair.
- **Subcommittee on Race, Poverty and Neglect:** Action Research collected information through workgroups regarding mandated reporting which identified two main themes; Training and Liability. The subcommittee has contracted Outside Voice to assist with the recruitment and creation of the Training and Liability workgroups to begin work in April 2025.
- **Family Support and Child Well-being:** Efforts are underway to revise and upscale support systems addressing family dynamics and child well-being, with plans to deploy updated measures within the following year. This subcommittee created workgroups tasked with updating the Prevention Plan. Each workgroup is examining a current

priority to determine if it continues to be a subcommittee priority and will update the plan to align with the emerging social challenges over the next four years.

- **SORS:** The SORS committee executed a contract with Montclair University to begin working on data collection which will be used in drafting the annual SORS report. Currently the team is working to prioritize data points and choosing specific focus areas.

The meeting concluded with an emphasis on the continuous need for collaborations across sectors to address the dynamic challenges faced by the community. All participants were thanked for their contributions and were encouraged to relay feedback prior to the next scheduled meeting.

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.