



New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

## **PREVENTION COMMITTEE**

Natasha Johnson, Chair  
Niurca Louis, Vice Chair

**November 1, 2018**  
**10:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**  
Capital Center Building  
50 East State Street, 2nd Floor  
Commissioner's Large Conference Room  
Trenton, NJ 08625

### **Minutes**

#### **In Attendance:**

Christine Baker	Metro-RDTC at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center
Marjorie Blicharz	Foster and Adoptive Family Services
Maureen Braun-Scalera	Rutgers University School of Social Work
Andrea Breitwieser	Department of Human Services
Suzanne Conrad	Prof/Voc. Educational Administrator
Gerard Costa	Montclair State University
Roslyn Dashiell	PEI Kids
Aldina Hovde	NJ Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Corissa Kazar	Foster and Adoptive Services
Niurca Louis	Robins' Nest, Inc.
Jason Lynch	Montclair State University
Cheryl Mojta	NJ Child Assault Prevention
Patty Mojta	Prevent Child Abuse – New Jersey
Svetlana Shpiegel	Montclair State University
Charmaine Thomas	DCF – Family and Community Partnerships
Tiffany Tucker	Cooper University Hospital
Wendi White	Department of Corrections

#### **Staff**

Daniel Yale	DCF – Executive Coordinator
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“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.”

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

A brief welcome was provided by Niurca Louis and each member briefly introduced themselves.



### **Review and approve January 5, 2017 Minutes**

The July meeting minutes were approved with the following edits:

Page 4 -should read – The American Academy of Pediatrics provided funding to strengthen the pediatric partnership curriculum around adverse childhood experiences and implement a screening tool. The pilot program will be featured in Camden, New Jersey.

### **Prevention Updates**

During the updates, members shared with the Committee things that are happening within their organizations as well as some of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) initiatives that were highlighted at the previous Task Force meeting.

- New members have been added to the Prevention Committee: Dr. Tiffany Tucker from Cooper University Hospital and Dr. Terry Clancy from the Department of Health.
- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA) Grant was not awarded to New Jersey. There will be other opportunities to apply for the grant.
- The County Councils for young children have received funding from another department to continue their work from January through December 2019. The contract with DCF ends as of December 2018.
- The preschool development grant application for birth to five years old collaboration between DCF and four other state departments is due next week. If awarded, the 15 million dollars will be used amongst the five departments to assist with the developing work that's being done.
- The Senate Bill 1130 was discussed with regards to prevention of sexual abuse of children and education for the entire State. The bill is tied to the Assembly Bill 796 (Erin's Law) which was passed in February 2018. An addendum has been submitted and will create a relationship with the Department of Education (DOE) and DCF. Senator Anthony Bucco is the sponsor of the bill. There was also some discussion with regards to creating a Task Force for Prevention of Sexual Abuse for the Department of Education. The Committee discussed inviting someone from DOE to the Prevention Committee meetings to help guide the work on the prevention of sexual abuse.
- As of August 2018, Ilene Palena has retired from State service and her position will be posted.
- After 33 years of State Service, Charmaine Thomas announced her retirement as of December 31, 2018. The Committee congratulated and thanked Charmaine for her years of service.
- The Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS) education component ensures that all of their resource families have their educational credits and licenses up to date. FAFS is also looking for ways to broaden its training to birth parents. FAFS' support department is working to have advocates bridge the gaps between foster families and birth families.
- Gerry Costa and Advocates for Children and New Jersey (ACNJ) created a video on how to think about visitation practices for judges.



- Cooper University Hospital is in the process of starting its screening process for human trafficking for thirteen to seventeen-year-olds as well as some therapy services. Current partnerships in place are with the CARES Institute and Division of Child Protection and Permanency.
- The Committee will be updated at the next meeting on the transition of the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) supportive visitation services for families and foster families.
- The Committee will be provided with the results from the parent and child screening for adverse childhood experiences.
  - DCF has been in contact with the First Lady's office with regards to ACES and to have this work steered from Governor's office.
- Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and Prevent Child Abuse NJ will be screening the film "Resilience" focusing on "Hope" featuring Dr. Nadine Burke Harris.
- Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey began an initiative in Camden County called Trauma Transformation Initiative with early child care centers to assist centers in becoming trauma informed. A survey is being conducted to assess whether child care centers are trauma informed. There will also be a series of workshops with the administrator, teachers and parents. Five workshops have been developed based on trauma for the different school systems with early child care in mind. Once the data is analyzed, information will be provided.
- Commissioner Christine Beyer's is committed to DCF's workforce well-being. Commissioner Beyer is considering hiring a Chief Well-Being Officer and establishing an office that will be looking at the health and well-being of staff through its partnership with Alia. DCF is also implementing a culture of safety around human factor with aid from a GPS emergency APP for field staff as a safety device. Within the Children System of Care, Commissioner Beyer wants to expand the trauma focus therapy, outpatient services for adults and children and thinking beyond the medical model.
- The dates for the regional forums will be sent out again to the Committee to ensure everyone has an opportunity to hear the same messaging on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Child Welfare System.
- The Predict Align Prevent (PAP) work was highlighted at the previous Task Force meeting by Deputy Commissioner Katherine Stoehr. PAP does predictive analytics for child abuse and neglect within a ½ block increments for children and families in need of support. It features heat mapping around neighborhoods where child abuse and neglect are most likely to occur by looking at what exists in the neighborhoods as contributing factors. The outcome is the ability to provide services in the communities before child abuse and neglect occurs. With the approval of the Task Force, this work has been funded with the Children's Trust Fund for a pilot in one rural area and one urban area of the State. Additional information regarding this initiative will be presented at the next meeting.

### **Workgroup discussions**

Niurca Louis and the Prevention Plan workgroup chairs convened briefly before today's meeting to discuss the goals and objectives for each of the workgroups which was later discussed with the full Prevention Committee.



Throughout the discussion, it was foreseen that there would be some overlapping work between the workgroups. The goals and objectives were highlighted:

- Outreach and Engagement goal is to increase the protective factors and decrease risk factors in an effort to reduce adverse childhood experiences for all expectant parents, infant, children youth and families. The objectives are to increase coordination across infants, children, youth and families serving systems and supports and to develop nontraditional partnership to assist in primary prevention efforts.
- Evidence Based Evidence Informed Programs and Practices goal is to promote a cultural of continuous quality improvement supported by a continuum of evaluations approaches that measure effectiveness and take action to prevent specific types of abuse and neglect. The objectives are to advocate for evidence-based programs at each level of prevention; and if EBPs cannot be used encourage programs at a minimal to collect quality data and follow research-based guidelines and standards to evaluate effectiveness; and to promote workforce access to training, coaching and ongoing support to better align services with prevention standards.
- Infrastructure and Resources goal is to develop creative and sustainable strategies to increase funding for prevention programs that strengthen families and communities. The objectives are to advocate for the expansion of the Children's Trust Fund resources; explore funding opportunities at state and federal levels; encourage the maximization of resources across agencies and support improved administrative management of agencies.
- Communication goal is to increase awareness of the prevention messages and connect families with prevention support and services. The objectives are to work with system partners to develop key primary prevention messages and develop and implement diverse strategies for communication of prevention messages to families and partners.

The Committee was informed that the last sixty minutes of the Prevention Committee meeting has been designated for the workgroups to meet. In addition, the workgroups will meet or arrange conference calls at least twice in between the Committee's scheduled meeting times to provide updates at the full Prevention Committee. Conference lines can be arranged by contacting Daniel Yale.

The Committee members were encouraged to select a workgroup to help move along the work of the Prevention Plan.

### **Review and approve 2019 Prevention Committee Meeting Calendar**

The Committee after deciding on the September 12, 2019 meeting date, voted and approved the Prevention Committee meeting dates for 2019.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

### **Next Meeting – January 10, 2019**