



New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Natasha Johnson, Chair
Niurca Louis, Vice Chair

May 3, 2018

10:00 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
Maureen Braun-Scalera
Suzanne Conrad
Gerard Costa
Aldina Hovde
Natasha Johnson
Niurca Louis
Cheryl Mojta
Patty Mojta
Ilene Palena
Kathleen Roe
Charmaine Thomas

Metro-RDTC at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center
Rutgers School of Social Work
Prof/Voc. Educational Administrator
Montclair University
NJ Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Department of Human Services
Robins' Nest, Inc.
NJ Child Assault Prevention
Prevent Child Abuse NJ
Department of Children and Families
Parents, Inc.
Department of Children and Families

Staff

Daniel Yale

DCF – Executive Coordinator

Guests

Kristie McCullough

Clarus Consulting



Welcome and Introductions

A brief welcome was provided by Natasha Johnson and each member briefly introduced themselves.

Review and approve March 1, 2018 Minutes

Minutes were not reviewed at this time. The March 1, 2018 minutes will be approved at the July 12, 2018 meeting.

Review of Approved 2018-2020 Prevention Plan

Niurca explained that the edits to the Prevention Plan that were recommended at the previous meeting were made and the plan was presented to the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect on March 23, 2018. Natasha informed the committee the 2018-2021 NJ Statewide Prevention Plan was approved by the Task Force.

Kristie McCullough from Clarus Consulting led a discussion reminding members to discuss what is already happening across the state so as not to duplicate efforts and to decide what goals the committee will be able to accomplish within the timeframe of the plan. Kristie discussed that the committee will be focusing on preliminary action steps by developing workgroups around the priorities listed in the plan. When the workgroups launch in September, they will have a starting point and a sense of priorities within the action steps. The goal is to have a “living, breathing document” so the workgroups can expand and modify the action steps.

In order to get a “temperature” of the room, Niurca asked the committee members which of the strategic priorities they felt they would like to work with. Members chose by a show of hands the workgroup to which they would like to belong. Niurca also asked the committee to think about people within their network that should be engaged with this work, but are not currently involved. The committee will invite stakeholders to join the workgroups to help with the action steps. Committee members should explain why it is important to be a part of this and how it crosses into the work that they are already doing.

Outreach and Engagement

The committee, as a whole, discussed the Outreach and Engagement priority and action steps. When discussing system partners, the committee should try to be as specific as possible. What is the ask once partners have been identified? Part of that ask is to look at programs that may assist in certain areas. Think about things that can be packaged, that can be done and evaluated immediately. One example of an ask would be to have pediatricians perform an ACE assessment on each patient.

The committee was asked to think about not only where they are and what they are already doing, but how the workgroup can add value to what’s already occurring. If possible, gather information



and feedback from parents. One of the things this workgroup can challenge itself to do is to create a toolkit or mechanism for different sectors to understand how they can be involved in ACE work, resiliency work, etc. Give examples of where these things are already happening. Learn from experiences people already have and systems that already exist. The committee is good at developing why – it’s how we deliver it that is important and most difficult.

Develop some guidance about how to speak about prevention with families and parents who are at risk. Parents are retraumatized when entering the system. Careful attention needs to be paid to affect and gestures.

This workgroup will have to be able to focus and prioritize what can be done quickly. What can be accomplished over the course of a year? Ideas should be framed in a strength-based model.

Members of this workgroup will need to do an environmental scan of what already exists, who’s doing it, where they’re doing it, and where the holes are that need to be filled. What types of opportunities for communication or training need to be created or developed for certain types of individuals that will be disseminating or communicating, i.e. medical field, schools, police, etc.

Set up workgroups for the 2018-2020 Prevention Plan

The committee broke into workgroups, based on their preference, to discuss the remaining strategic priorities. The members were requested to look at the actions steps, have a prioritization conversation and discuss if there is anything “big” that is missing. Once the committee reconvened, the groups reported out to the larger group as to what was discussed.

The intent of the next meeting will be to determine which workgroup people would like to join, assign tasks and make sure that the workgroups are focused on what the priorities will be for the first year. The goal is to have tangible ideas that can enable the workgroup to move forward. The committee will also determine who will be charged with leading these workgroups.

Daniel Yale will send out an email to committee members to make sure that enough people will be able to attend the next meeting on July 12, 2018. Daniel will also send the date for the September meeting. The structure of the upcoming meetings will be at least an hour for workgroups to discuss their priority, thirty minutes to report out, and an hour for prevention discussion with the entire committee. As there will be crossover between workgroups, it will be important to have a discussion as a whole committee so that we are all on the same page.

Natasha reminded committee members to think about these workgroups and who from outside the committee can be invited to engage in these workgroups. Natasha requested that committee members start thinking about that now so that people will be available for the September meeting.



The committee discussed the types of people to invite to the workgroups: people outside of the “prevention bubble”, data analysts, researchers, parents. The committee also discussed inviting staff from other state agencies: Department of Education, Department of Higher Education, Department of Health. Department of State - Faith based initiatives, as well as staff from Military Family Advocacy Program.

Announcements

On June 7, 2018 Prevent Child Abuse NJ will hold a Father Appreciation Event. This event will bring young fathers together to be motivated, inspired and connected to resources. Fathers will receive free haircuts and a free suit. There will be events for kids and a professional photographer. This event is free and will be held in Mt. Laurel from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

On May 10, 2018, Montclair State University will hold the 7th annual Todd Ouida Children’s Foundation Conference. This year’s conference will focus on mindfulness for infants, children and those who care for them.

On June 29, 2018, DCF will hold a Father Engagement Summit at the DCF Professional Center in New Brunswick.

On June 21, 2018, the Family Success Center will hold its annual conference at the DCF Professional Center in New Brunswick.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting - July 12, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. in Trenton (2nd Floor Conference Room)