



Protection Committee
Richard Stagliano, Chair
Liza Kirschenbaum, Esq, Vice-Chair
November 14, 2018
1:00 P.M. Meeting

Minutes

In Attendance:

Greta Anderson
Joyce Applegate
Eileen Caraker
Esther East
Liza Kirschenbaum
Martin Krupnick
Lisa Landsman
Nydia Monagas
Sonia Moticha
Nora Pearce
Tara Rizzolo
Debbie Riveros
Judy Spinney
Richard Stagliano
Lorene Wilkerson

DCF – Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit (IAIU)
Catholic Charities – Diocese of Metuchen
Gloucester County Forensic Nurse Coordinator
Jewish Family Service
CASA of New Jersey
IEP Youth Services
Attorney/Trainer
New Jersey Children’s Alliance
Department of Education
Attorney/Trainer
Foster and Adoptive Family Services
Monmouth County Child Advocacy Center
Therapist
Center for Family Services
Child Placement Advisory Council

By telephone:

Martin Finkel
Jennifer Underwood
Cynthia Lischick

CARES Institute
Department of Community Affairs
Rutgers University

Guest:

Scout Hartley

National Foster Youth Institute

Staff:

Daniel Yale

DCF-NJTFCAN

Introduction and Welcome

A brief welcome was provided by Richard Stagliano and each attendee briefly introduced themselves.

Review and Approve May 9, 2018 Minutes

The May 9, 2018 minutes were approved without edit.

New Business

2018 Committee Initiatives



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The Digital Realm of Child Abuse Workgroup

A preliminary report from the survey data analysis was provided to each member of the committee. Jennifer Underwood explained that the analytical narrative of the survey results was provided by Dr. Jacquelynn Duron from Rutgers University. Jennifer explained that Dr. Duron is in the process of delving into the data more deeply, so this is just an overview of the information. Jennifer stated that there were respondents from all 21 counties. Only 37.45% of participants reported that their schools provided students with some type of child sexual abuse/child sexual exploitation curricula.

Through the survey, participants indicated that there is a strong feeling that Internet safety needs to be addressed. When looking at the data, the largest number of respondents felt that this topic should be addressed with children 8-10 years old. Dr. Finkel felt that 8-10 years old was a little late. Dr. Finkel stated that children acknowledge that they are viewing pornography at younger ages. Sonia Moticha stated that participants were allowed to choose more than one response and although the highest percentage was for 8-10 year olds, 52.59% felt that education around Internet safety was important for 6-7 year olds. The committee discussed that in religious communities, it can be more difficult to educate children on this subject matter due to what the parents and administrators feel is appropriate. It was stated that education should begin with parents in religious communities. A question was raised regarding how to deal with the issue of 6 or 7 year old children viewing pornography. Dr. Finkel stated that the best way to reduce exposure to pornography in that age group is to increase increasing parental awareness and create safe environments.

Sonia felt that the parent component should be discussed within their workgroup. Of the schools that reported providing programs, 38.89% reported that there was no parent component to educate parents about child sexual abuse / sexual exploitation. A question was raised about whether there was any correlation in the schools that have more parental involvement, and whether there was a higher incidence of them knowing about the programs. Another issue raised was whether the survey took language barriers into consideration.

Richard asked the committee what they felt were the next steps regarding this information. The workgroup will reconvene and plans to send out a survey to private schools. There was a question regarding whether this issue is addressed in PRIDE training. The committee felt that, because it was developed many years ago, it probably isn't included. However, because some of the children are already victims, it should be a part of the training. FAFS does provide a training for resource parents once they become licensed regarding social media, Internet safety, etc. However, this training is not mandatory.

A question was raised regarding whether the committee has any information about the curricula that was mentioned by respondents in the survey and whether there is someone in the NJ Department of Education (DOE) that the committee can speak to regarding this type of training. The committee



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discussed that perhaps there should be a standardized curriculum. The committee also discussed the possibility of “piggybacking” on the sexting legislation to include a broader curriculum in the student learning requirements. Sonia stated that, although she is not involved in that process, she will attempt to find out more information.

Lisa Landsman asked whether the committee is planning to make an ultimate recommendation to the DOE that there be some type of standardized training in every school around child sexual assault and sexual exploitation. The committee discussed that it may be difficult because, although there are requirements for specific areas that a school must teach, each district has the ability to do things differently.

A question was raised regarding whether there was a bill in the Legislature that includes prevention of child sexual abuse including the creation of a task force. The committee was informed that the bill has passed the Senate and was currently in the Assembly Education Committee. The bill would create a task force to develop guidelines for training and curriculum for the DOE. It would address all sexual abuse prevention and response. The committee was informed that there is also a bill that is similar to “Erin’s Law” in that it addresses educating kids in school about sexual abuse prevention. It passed the Assembly and went to the Senate where there were some modifications. It talks about aligning the student learning standards with sexual abuse prevention education. There is also a 3rd bill that talks about parent and adult education. A question was raised regarding whether the Protection Committee can we ask the Task Force to send a letter in support of the passage of the 3 bills. The committee decided to review the bills prior to requesting that the Task Force submit a letter of support. Nydia stated that she will send a summary of the bills to the committee for review. Another issue that was raised was, if the NJ Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect already has a Protection subcommittee, why would there be a need to establish another Task Force? It was explained that this new Task Force would be created in the Department of Education, rather than a subcommittee of the NJ Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Lorene mentioned that the workgroup tried to make a connection with the state Parent Teacher Association to see if they would sponsor a conference for parents dealing with this issue. Parental involvement is critical when you’re dealing with young children. Unfortunately, many parents are reluctant to discuss this type of topic. When looking at the results of the survey, 10% of respondents said that they strongly disagree that internet safety needs to be addressed.

Approval of 2019 Meeting Dates

The committee discussed the proposed meeting dates for 2019. Several members of the committee stated that they had a conflict with the proposed January date. The committee agreed to move the January meeting to January 23rd.



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Juveniles with Sexually Inappropriate Behaviors Workgroup

Dr. Krupnick informed the committee that 4 years ago, the New Jersey Bar Association (NJBA) formed a subcommittee of the criminal law section regarding Megan's Law. Dr. Krupnick stated that he was asked to sit on the subcommittee as an associate member. One of the things that this board looked at was juveniles and Megan's Law. For 4 years the board went through a process of committees, subcommittees, and executive committees of the NJBA culminating in a recommendation from the NJBA to Judge Grant, the Acting Administrative Director of the Administration of Courts. The recommendation was to take the Probation Offenders Program (POP) which, after being reframed, is now called the Juvenile Treatment Program (JTP) and implement a similar program statewide. Two weeks ago, at the meeting of the NJ Juvenile Justice Commission there was an extensive discussion of this recommendation. The main issue was that not every county has the ability to implement the program because they do not have the resources. Without having enough clinicians, the program cannot succeed.

The recommendation from the NJBA is similar to what is done in Monmouth County wherein a juvenile is on probation and is in the treatment program. At the end of the program, if they have successfully completed the program and the requirements of their probation, it reverts back to the beginning and becomes a deferred disposition. Therefore, there are no charges and there is no Megan's Law finding attached to it. This has been vetted over four years by sitting judges and retired judges. Many prosecutors, current and retired, have looked at it, as well as public defenders, law guardians and private attorneys.

In the past, the NJTF CAN received federal funding to create a statewide training program for therapists who work with victims of sexual assault. It was called the Child Sexual Assault Case Consultation project. The program ran for 17 years but was defunded approximately 5 years ago. About 10 years ago, there was similar program in the Juvenile Justice Commission that ran for approximately 3 years. The program consisted of a full day training, followed by 20 - 2 hour case consultations. Dr. Krupnick recommended that the Protection Committee advocate to implement a similar program with the backing of the Task Force.

The next step is determining how to get the training program up and running again. Richard asked about an approximate cost of this training. Dr. Krupnick stated that he will look into his files to determine how much it previously cost. Dr. Krupnick believed that the training cost approximately \$30,000. The issue with this type of training is finding clinicians that want to work with this type of population. Joyce Applegate stated that Catholic Charities would be very supportive of this initiative. They currently have 2 clinicians that are waiting to be trained and if the initiative is funded, she would contact other therapists that work with Catholic Charities to bring them on board as well.



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Nydia stated that the NJ Children's Alliance is bringing trainers in from Oklahoma and doing a year-long collaborative with 4 to 6 teams from community mental health agencies and whomever is partnering with the Child Advocacy Centers. They are hoping to train 24 – 36 individuals on the school age curriculum.

Announcements

Nydia informed the committee that there will be a two-day conference starting the following day in Ocean County regarding forensic interview topics for MDT professionals. The conference will include speakers from Gundersen as well as local speakers. There will be information on recantations, MDT roles in forensic interviews, how to introduce evidence in forensic interviews for older children, and a speaker with an update on child sexual abuse accommodation syndrome and how it is impacting her work.

Meeting adjourned

The next meeting is scheduled on January 23, 2019 at 1:00pm at PerformCare.