



Protection Committee
Richard Stagliano, Chair
Liza Kirschenbaum, Esq, Vice-Chair
May 17, 2017
1:00 P.M. Meeting

Minutes

In Attendance:

Greta Anderson
Joyce Applegate
Eileen Caraker
Jacquelynn Duron
John Esmerado
Martin Finkel
Francesca Gervasi
Liza Kirschenbaum

Martin Krupnick
Nydia Monagas
Sonia Moticha
Clinton Page
Nora Pearce
Donna Pincavage
Jane Reynolds
Joseph Ribsam
Judy Spinney
Richard Stagliano
Jennifer Underwood

DCF – Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit (IAIU)
Catholic Charities – Diocese of Metuchen
Gloucester County Forensic Nurse Coordinator
Rutgers University
Union County Prosecutor's Office
CARES Institute
Foster and Adoptive Family Services
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of
New Jersey
IEP Youth Services
New Jersey Children's Alliance
Department of Education
Department of Children and Families
Attorney/Trainer
Metro Regional Diagnostic Treatment Center
Mercer County Forensic Nurse Coordinator
Department of Children and Families
Therapist
Center for Family Services
Department of Community Affairs

Staff:

Daniel Yale DCF-NJTFCAN

Introduction and Welcome

Richard Stagliano, Chair of the Protection Committee welcomed all attendees and introductions were made.

Review and Approve January 2017 Minutes

The May 17, 2017 minutes were approved with noted edit:

The Digital Realm of Child Abuse Workgroup bullets two and three should be combined. (The superintendents would be the recipients of the survey to filter out to the school districts to inventory what type of education is being offered to students and/or parents).

Modified Settlement Agreement (MSA) and the Sustainability and Exit Plan

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) Deputy Commissioner Joseph Ribsam presented the MSA and the Sustainability and Exit plan. Mr. Ribsam discussed the history behind the MSA, DCF



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progress over the years, and the renegotiation which looked at the data, performances, and strengths and identified targets that DCF could continue to work towards bettering the system to sustain the infrastructure. DCF is focused on quality, outcomes and transitioning to evidence-based services. Some key points included in the presentation are as follows:

- DCF is unusual in that it has more resource homes than needed. The target for all resources homes to be licensed is 150 days.
- The Foundational Elements section is where the State agrees to maintains and improve its systems in specific areas and the Monitor only steps in if there are reasons for concern.
- The data from the State Central Registry hotline quality review has not yet been released, but at first glance is impressive.
- The “To Be Maintained” section goals have been achieved and DCF continues to achieve these goals.
- “To Be Achieved” category indicates that the targets have not been met. Once achieved, it will shift to the “To Be Maintained” category.
- The new measure for DCF is the Child Health Units to address all the health needs for children in placement.
- Under the MSA, DCF is required to have Family Team Meetings (FTM). This practice went from 30 days to 45 days after placement to allow for factors outside of DCF ability and the target has been shifted to 80%.
- The Caseload standard for intake staff is no more than eight new assignments and no more than 12 total families in a month. Caseloads are measured by office average and individual standards. Under the MSA, 95% of the workers had to be in compliance and for the exit plan it has been reduced to 90%. Also, once a worker is at the max number of assignments, only two secondary assignments can be assigned.
- Investigation timeliness new requirement for the exit plan is 85% within 60 days and 95% within 90 days.
- Maltreatment post reunification target for the exit plan is 6.9% due to DCF’s new finding system and input from experts.
- The permanency targets plan for any given child is 12 months is 42% and for the second year is 63% and year three the target becomes 80%.
- The qualitative review process has been updated to align with the case practice model. Each Local Office gets to participate in the qualitative review process to create a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP).
- In order for DCF to exit the Sustainability and Exit Plan, DCF must move from the “To Be Achieved” section into the “To Be Maintained” section and maintain for one year.
- DCF workforce development (created by Rutgers University) staff retention rate is under 7%. DCF also post annual reports to its website as part of the data transparency.



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The Protection Committee thanked Mr. Ribsam for attending the meeting and presenting the MSA and the Sustainability and Exit Plan.

Data Disparity Report

John Esmerado presented the final draft of his Data Disparity report. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) Office of Research, Evaluation and Reporting Director, Amanda O'Reilly and staff have been instrumental throughout the process. The following information was reported:

- The data sets were reported to be different due to how DCF and the prosecutor's office define abuse.
- Mr. Esmerado is recommending a statewide data collection at the county based MDT level to be published online by county. It was noted that data is being collected at the prosecutor's county level called victim assistance tracking system; however Mr. Esmerado is unable to determine if it is child on child due to the information being confidential.
- DCF data is relatively consistent from 2009-2012.
- The prosecutor's data for criminal charges defendants jumped significantly (40%) from 700 to over 1000 in 2012. The counties that showed increase were Union, Mercer, Sussex and Monmouth.
- The Committee discussed DCF's low substantiation rates for physical and sexual abuse. Clinton Page stated that the when the hotline screens the calls, it can be coded with multiple codes.
- The Committee agreed to approve the report to be forwarded to the Task Force. John will review the report and edit the report for grammatical errors and send it out to the Committee upon completion.
- The Committee congratulated and thanked John for his dedication and commitment to finalizing the report.

New Business

The Digital Realm of Child Abuse Workgroup

Sonia Moticha informed the Committee that the workgroup focus is to assess the schools to figure out what districts are doing for students and parents to determine the direction the workgroup will focus their efforts. The workgroup is also looking to find a measure that is already established to assist with the Department of Education's approval process. If not, the workgroup will have to create a measure internally. Once the survey is created, Sonia will submit it for approval to be sent out to the superintendents. The target audience will be kindergarten to fifth grade.



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Dr. Martin Finkel mentioned an Assembly Bill regarding posting child abuse hotline information in all schools to bring awareness. Dr. Finkel also discussed Assembly Bill A4442 regarding not allowing school staff members accused of a sexual offense to work in another school. Sonia indicated that she is unaware of this bill. Dr. Finkel has agreed to reach out to Rush Russell to invite him to attend a meeting for further discussion.

Juveniles with Sexually Inappropriate Behaviors Workgroup

Martin Krupnick stated that the workgroup will continue working on the issues discussed at the March 22, 2017 meeting. It was also reported that the New Jersey Bar Association Criminal Division has approved the Juvenile Treatment Program (JTP) which was modeled after the Probation Offenders Program (POP) under the Megan's Law Subcommittee. The JTP is doing well in Monmouth County.

The Committee was informed of the new federal law regarding sex offenders traveling outside the country. The passport will have a distinguishing graphic and currently there are six countries that are turning offenders away.

The workgroup will be scheduling a conference call in the near future.

Announcements

The Task Force 2017 Biennial Conference - Implementing Evidence-Supported Services for Children and Families will be held on September 8, 2017 in Princeton, New Jersey.

The CARES Institute Experts in Child Abuse and Neglect Lecture: Understanding and Caring for Transgender and Gender Non-conforming Youth, to Improve Their Care will be held on June 20, 2017 at the Conference Center at Mercer in West Windsor, New Jersey. The conference is free and members can register at www.caresinstitute.org.

The Committee was informed that the Camden juvenile Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) is also interested in the diversionary programs. It was mentioned that this would be a good source of collaboration moving forward especially around funding and the lack of qualified sex specific therapist.

The Committee was informed that the Governor's Advisory Council is taking on a new model this year through panel discussions. The Council will be looking at the Rutgers University case and how suicide ties into technology and the media. Matt Sandusky will be participating in the panel discussion. Once available, the Committee will be provided with the exact date and location in December 2017.

The New Jersey Forensic Coordination Council conference has been rescheduled to June 6, 2017. One of the workshops is on child on child sexual abuse and the WISE program in Essex County. The



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conference is free and will be held at the Rutgers University Busch Campus in Piscataway. Additional information regarding the conference will be sent out to the Committee members.

The next meeting is scheduled on July 19, 2017 at 1:00pm at PerformCare.

Meeting adjourned