



SUBCOMMITTEE ON RACE POVERTY AND NEGLECT

Katherine Stoehr, 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.*

January 27, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Katherine Stoehr, Department of Children and Families
Wendy Yallowitz, Department of Children and Families
Eleanor Gilliam, Department of Children and Families
Patricia Risch, Department of Human Services
Natasha Johnson, Department of Human Services
Larry Braasch, Department of Human Services
Mary Coogan, Advocates for the Children of New Jersey
Sonia Moticha, Department of Education
Nydia Monagas, New Jersey Children's Alliance

Staff

Bethany D'Amelio, Department of Children and Families

Meeting Highlights:

1. **Welcome and Introductions:**

- Greetings and attendance were noted.
- New members were introduced.

2. **Current Initiatives and Framework:**

- The committee discussed existing frameworks targeting family support outside the Child Protection System (CPS). Emphasis was placed on identifying effective pathways for help.
- Exploration of new frameworks involved incorporating feedback from diverse stakeholders involved in family and community services.

3. **Resource Accessibility and Barriers:**

- Discussions included identifying barriers to access, such as economic constraints and systemic inefficiencies.
- Strategies were proposed to enhance service reach, including better training for hotline operators to differentiate between issues related to poverty and maltreatment.

4. **Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration:**

- There was a collective agreement on expanding stakeholder engagement to improve feedback loops and resource accessibility.
- Engagement with local entities, such as hospitals and social services was emphasized to develop a comprehensive support network.

5. **Development of Communication Materials:**

- Plans to develop clear and consistent communication materials are underway. These materials will aim to educate the public about appropriate usage of hotlines and available support resources.

Next Steps:

- **Survey Deployment:** An institutional survey is to be conducted post-focus group evaluations to gather more insights from hospital administrators and other service providers.
- **Drafting Guidelines:** The committee will draft guidelines to clarify when certain issues should be reported to child protection hotlines versus other support avenues.
- **Ongoing Collaboration:** Continued collaboration with community partners to ensure alignment and integration of services will be prioritized. This will include involving prevention subcommittees to consolidate efforts and resources.

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.