



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.*

October 24, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Katherine Stoehr, Department of Children and Families
Eleanor Gilliam, Department of Children and Families
Sonia Moticha, Department of Education
Natasha Johnson, Department of Human Services
Larry Braasch, Department of Human Services
Patricia Risch, Department of Human Services
Mary Coogan, Advocates for Children of New Jersey
Nydia Monagas, New Jersey Children's Alliance
Lauren Burd, Warren County Social Services
Tiffany Tucker, Pediatric Physician
Kayanne Foster, Lived Experience Expert Partnership (LEEP)
Lisa Drago, Cooper Health
Veronica Ford, Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey

Guests:

Dr. Susan Esquilin,

• 1. Introduction and Compliance Statement

- The meeting commenced with the compliance statement read by the subcommittee in accordance with Chapter 231 of the public laws of 1975. Official notices were filed with the Secretary of State and published in designated publications.

2. Structural Updates

- A restructure of the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect was announced. The current subcommittee operates under this task force, which is exploring new collaborative opportunities within its revised framework.

3. Focus Groups and Recruitment Strategy

- Recent focus groups faced challenges with no-shows among medical and education professionals. Adjustments are being made to the recruitment strategy, particularly

focusing on law enforcement, and collaboration with the Attorney General's office to direct-recruit participants for future sessions.

4. Work Streams Discussion

- The subcommittee identified potential work streams, including addressing liability concerns for mandatory reporters within professional environments (e.g., hospital and school systems). There is consideration to develop a decision tool for reporters, which may involve hiring a consultant to aid in this project, pending available funding.

5. Training Initiatives and Funding

- Secured funding to enhance mandated reporters' training. Plans to rewrite existing programs to make them more comprehensive are underway, with input sought from various stakeholders.

6. Examination of Child Poverty

- Ongoing discussions on child poverty strategies were reviewed, referencing the National Academy of Sciences report which was highlighted as lacking comprehensive solutions. The subcommittee aims to explore long-term policy changes that can effectively reduce childhood poverty at its roots.

7. Future Conferences and External Collaboration

- Plans to participate in a national convening by Casey Family Programs, aimed at discussing mandated reporting and training laws, which may provide insights from other jurisdictions.

8. Conclusion and Next Steps

- Future meetings will continue to address these topics, with specific focus on actionable outcomes from ongoing discussions and engagements with external bodies.
- Additional surveys and focus groups are planned to gather more nuanced data to inform policy and strategy decisions.

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.