



## **SUBCOMMITTEE ON RACE POVERTY AND NEGLECT**

Katherine Stoehr, Chair

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*"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 this meeting was recorded for the transcription of minutes*

December 16, 2024

Meeting Minutes

### **Attendance:**

Katherine Stoehr, Chair, Department of Children and Families  
Natasha Johnson, NJ Department of Human Services  
Veronica Ford, Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey  
Patricia Risch, NJ Department of Human Services  
Kayanne Foster, Lived Experience Expert Partnership Member  
Lisa Drago, Cooper Health  
Nydia Monagas, New Jersey Children's Alliance  
Wendy Yallowitz, Department of Children and Families  
Dr. Tucker, Public Member  
Eleanor Gilliam, Department of Children and Families  
Larry Braasch, NJ Department of Human Services  
Lauren Burd, Warren County Social Services  
Sonia Moticha, Department of Education

### **Guest:**

Kayla Rivera, Parent Committee  
Dr. Susan Esquilin

### **Staff:**

Bethany D'Amelio, Department of Children and Families

### **1. Welcome and Legislative Compliance:**

- Meeting commenced; public notice read aloud.

### **2. Reflections on the Casey Convening on mandated Reporting in Austin, TX:**

- The committee exchanged observations from the recent convening hosted by Casey Family Programs—focusing on innovative practices in child welfare across various jurisdictions.
- Key insights were drawn from peers working in child welfare, noting both common challenges and unique solutions.

- Discussions highlighted complexities surrounding mandated reporting, influenced by socioeconomic disparities, with emphasis on necessary mindset shifts.
- The need for refined definitions and clear distinctions between poverty and neglect in legislative contexts was discussed.

#### **4. Strategic Planning and Upcoming Initiatives:**

- Progress and timelines outlined for engaging a consultant to aid strategic efforts.
- Plan to form time-limited working groups by spring, focusing on specific domains identified for improvement, such as training for mandated reporters.

#### **5. Community Engagement and Collaboration:**

- Emphasized including individuals with lived experiences in future working groups.
- Noted the importance of leveraging community interest spurred by the NJTFCAN Fall Conference to enhance outreach.

#### **6. Review of Current Actions & Preliminary Feedback:**

- Considerations about aligning ongoing efforts without duplication across subcommittees.
- Anticipation of actionable insights from forthcoming consultant analysis and focus group data.

#### **7. Closing Remarks and Forward Path:**

- Acknowledged contributions of all members and celebrated shared commitment to meaningful change.
- Encouraged continued engagement as the committee aims to embark on operational implementation of strategies discussed.

*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.*

*For further information or queries, the public can reach out via the contact channels provided by the Department of Children and Families.*