



## 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.*

February 24, 2025

Meeting Minutes

### **Attendance:**

Katherine Stoehr, Department of Children and Families  
Eleanor Gilliam, Department of Children and Families  
Wendy Yallowitz, Department of Children and Families  
Natasha Johnson, Department of Human Services  
Larry Braasch, Department of Human Services  
Patricia Risch, Department of Human Services  
Sonia Moticha, Department of Education  
Mary Coogan, Advocates for Children of New Jersey  
Veronica Ford, Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey  
Lauren Burd, Warren County Social Services  
Kayann Foster, Lived Experience Expert Partner

### **Guests:**

Kayla River, Department of Children and Families Parent Committee  
Kimesha Department of Children and Families Kelly, Parent Committee

### **Staff:**

Bethany D'Amelio, Department of Children and Families

### **1. Presentation on Work Group Establishment**

- **Purpose:** Develop foundational structures for training and liability management.
- **Action Required:** Volunteers were requested to co-chair these work groups, which are essential for driving targeted actions and recommendations.

### **2. Timeline for Implementation**

- **Key Dates:**
  - Work groups should be operational by April 7th.

- Recommendations are expected by early August.
- A final report is due in September.
- **Process Outline:** A survey will be distributed to gather preferences for work group participation, with applications to be reviewed between March 14th and 24th.

### 3. Subcommittee Charter Development

- **Progress:** The language and ethos of the subcommittee charter are crucial. Volunteers will aid in finalizing the document to ensure alignment with strategic goals.
- **Deadline:** Completion expected by March for presentation in March 31st meeting.

### 4. Member Selection and Recruitment

- **Challenges Discussed:** Ensuring diversity and transparency while streamlining the recruitment process. The committee considered adopting a middle-ground approach for recruitment that is neither overly lengthy nor too hasty.
- **Solution:** Focus on populating key priority seats quickly, with ongoing recruitment thereafter.

### 5. Community and Stakeholder Engagement

- **Outreach Strategy:** Emphasis on swift communication to inform members of their roles, share background data, and ensure readiness for inaugural work group meetings in April.
- **Feedback Mechanism:** Continual collection of input from diverse community sectors to expand inclusivity.

### 6. Conclusion and Next Steps

- **Final Remarks:** The committee expressed confidence in meeting the outlined deadlines and achieving impactful changes through coordinated efforts.
- **Future Meetings:** The next meeting is set to advance these discussions and review progress in the March 31<sup>st</sup> meeting.

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.