



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.*

March 31, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Katherine Stoehr, Department of Children and Families
Wendy Yallowitz, Department of Children and Families
Sonia Moticha, Department of Education
Natasha Johnson, Department of Human Services
Mary Coogan, Advocates for Children of New Jersey
Nydia Monagas, New Jersey Children's Alliance
Veronica Ford, Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey
Lauren Burd, Warren County Social Services
Kayann Foster, Lived Experience Expert Partner
Lisa Drago, Cooper Health
Tiffany Tucker, Pediatric Physician
Kayla Rivera, Parent Council
Kimesha Kelly, Parent Council

Guests:

Beth Kuenstler, Outside Voice
Buckley Slender, Outside Voice
Lori Clark, Outside Voice
Palak Shah, Outside Voice

1. Work Group Formation and Member Selection:

- Membership applications were not confirmed in the task force meeting due to the absence of quorum.
- A structured process has been established for forming work groups to address training, compliance, and best practices.
- Applications were solicited broadly among the law enforcement and education sectors, without results.
- Final selection emphasized balance across critical sectors: law enforcement, education, and healthcare to enhance the subcommittee's and work groups' efficacy.

2. 2025 Subcommittee Goal Setting:

- Discussed setting a 2025 subcommittee goal of child poverty information gathering.
- Ask the Eagleton Fellow to collect information regarding what is being done across the country to combat child poverty for this group to consider.
- The subcommittee will work to create a framework to examine best practice around the county and compare to current New Jersey practices.

3. Timeline and Deliverables:

- Workgroups to commence by the end of April, continuing through September. The aim is to finalize action-oriented recommendations by August.
- The committee will synchronize workgroup activities to align with task force meetings, ensuring seamless integration of feedback and iterative development.

4. Training Development and Oversight:

- Rutgers University has been contracted to develop a comprehensive training framework for mandated reporters, dubbed the "gold standard".
- Feedback loops with the Rutgers team will ensure the training content meets all necessary statutory compliance and aligns with identified best practices.

5. Public and Stakeholder Engagement:

- A communication strategy, including public announcements and updates, will be rolled out, ensuring stakeholders remain informed and engaged.
- A set of key talking points will be distributed to engage consistently with queries from the community.

6. Next Steps:

- Final member announcements and initiation of workgroup meetings will occur in the coming weeks.
- Continued gathering of data and legislative feedback to adapt strategies and refine recommendations for task force submission.

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.