



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.*

April 29, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Katherine Stoehr, Department of Children and Families
Natasha Johnson, Department of Human Services
Lauren Burd, Warren County Social Services
Sonia Moticha, Department of Education
Nydia Monagas, New Jersey Children's Alliance
Eleanor Gilliam, Department of Children and Families
Wendy Yallowitz, Department of Children and Families
Veronica Fors, Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey
Dr. Tiffany Tucker, Pediatric Physician

Guests:

Amanda Gilliam, CASA New Jersey

Staff:

Bethany D'Amelio, Department of Children and Families

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

- **Introduction:** A warm welcome was extended to all participants, with an emphasis on the importance of collaboration and open dialogue.
- **Acknowledgment of New Members:** The committee recognized the participation of recently joined individuals, underscoring their roles in enhancing the group's diversity of perspectives.

2. Agenda Overview

- **Key Initiatives:** The agenda focused on current projects and included a detailed discussion on child welfare practices, with a specific look at prevention and mandatory reporting systems.
- **General Updates:** Routine updates on previously initiated programs and their status were provided.

3. Discussion Points

- **State Regulations Analysis:**
 - Examination of current reporting requirements and statutory differences among states.
 - Consideration of training programs and evaluation mechanisms being employed in other areas of the country.
- **Feedback from Focus Groups:**
 - Importance of stakeholder feedback was reiterated as a critical factor in shaping policy and practice.
 - Plans for integrating feedback into actionable strategies were discussed.

4. Strategy Development

- **Conference Utilization:**
 - Proposal to leverage upcoming conference for stakeholder engagement and feedback collection.
 - Discussion around the logistics and potential impacts of such initiatives.
- **Engagement with Broader Team:**
 - Exploration of ways to diversify the audience and participants in future discussions, including inviting individuals with varied professional backgrounds.

5. Legal and Policy Considerations

- **Mandated Reporting and Liability:**
 - Emphasis on understanding the legal framework governing mandated reporting.
 - Discussion on aligning committee recommendations with state laws and regulations.

6. Future Directions and Action Items

- **Research and Feedback:**
 - Plans to engage with external experts and to learn from other states' experiences.
 - Continued focus on analyzing data and refining approaches based on comprehensive feedback.
- **Upcoming Meetings:**
 - Scheduling and planning of the upcoming committee meetings.
 - Invitations to be extended to community stakeholders for inclusive discussion.

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.