



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.*

August 26, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Katherine Stoehr, Department of Children and Families
Eleanor Gilliam, Department of Children and Families
Wendy Yallowitz, Department of Children and Families
Mary Coogan, Advocates for Children of New Jersey
Dr. Lisa Drago, Cooper Health, Pediatric Emergency Medicine Dr.
Sonia Moticha, Department of Education
Kayanne Foster, Lived Experience Expert Partnership (LEEP)

Staff:

Bethany D'Amelio, Department of Children and Families

I. Introduction

Notice of this meeting was initiated with the reading of the public notice.

II. Overview

The Subcommittee convened to discuss strategic initiatives aimed at addressing the intersection of race, poverty, and neglect. The session emphasized enhancing

community awareness of services and aligning multi-agency efforts toward child welfare improvement.

III. Key Discussions

1) Initiative Review and Action Steps:

- The Subcommittee revisited a series of proposed action steps derived from the previous conference aimed at combating racial bias and its conflation with poverty and neglect.
 - i) Sustaining ongoing dialogue and raising issue awareness.
 - ii) Identifying what resources are available to families that require information and referral.
 - iii) Engaging pre-litigation legal representation for families involved with DCPD even if their case is not litigated.
 - iv) Looking into the impacts of resource care on a family's assistance.
 - v) Engaging law enforcement, school personnel and health care providers to transform reporting behavior.

2) Policy and Coordination Strategies:

- Discussions focused on identifying alternatives to traditional reporting mechanisms where economic support to impoverished families might mitigate perceptions or occurrences of neglect.

3) Subcommittee's Role Expansion:

- Members proposed an inter-disciplinary approach, incorporating education and healthcare professionals towards broader community integration and resource sharing.

IV. Organizational Developments

1. Task Force and Collaborative Networks:

- The Subcommittee considered expanding its collaboration with other subcommittees, especially those focusing on prevention strategies, to synchronize efforts and avoid duplication.

2. Resource Management:

- The potential utility of maintaining a centralized repository for scholarly resources and relevant information on a digital platform was evaluated.

V. Conclusion

The session concluded without formal votes due to the absence of quorum, but significant strides in strategic planning and inter-group dialogue were made. The Subcommittee anticipates further detailed discussions in forthcoming meetings to finalize action plans.

VI. Next Steps

- Scheduled further meetings to refine focus areas and formalize engagement with the wider task force membership.
- Anticipated collaboration with additional community stakeholders to enrich and expand the perspectives within the Subcommittee.

The Subcommittee embarks on this strategic journey with the firm belief in community strength and resilience as the foundation for impactful change in tackling issues of race, poverty, and neglect.

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.