



STAFFING AND OVERSIGHT REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Marygrace Billek, Chair
Lisa Chapland, Co-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.*

October 15, 2024
Meeting minutes

Attendance

Marygrace Billek, Chair, public member
Angie Waters, CASA of New Jersey
Linda Porcaro, Somerset County Human Services
Mary Coogan, Advocates of New Jersey
Laura Jamet, Department of Children and Families
Katie Stoehr, Department of Children and Families
Corrine LeBaron, Embrella
Lisa Chapland, Kinship Resource Parent
Lorene Wilkerson, Child Placement Advisory Council
Traci Telemaque, Office of the Law Guardian
Scout Hartley, public member
Elizabeth Sherwood, Division of Law
Gina Hernandez, Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey

Guests

Aaron Turchil, Camden Coalition
Coleen McCauley, Camden Coalition
Stephen Singer, Camden Coalition
Cathleen Noonan, Camden Coalition

Staff

Bethany D'Amelio, Department of Children and Families

1. Introduction and Overview

- The meeting commenced promptly with a recap of prior discussions and objectives.

- Emphasis was placed on incorporating feedback from Task Force members present in this meeting as well as written comments.
- Key sections under review included staffing adjustments, operational workflow, and performance evaluation areas not previously covered.

2. Staffing Discussions

- **Sections Reviewed:**
 - Staffing: Examined subsections such as caseload management, staff retention, recruitment strategies, and training programs.
 - Feedback was solicited on clarity, inaccuracies, and opportunities for improvement.
 - Participant input included the following observations:
 - Efficiency in case practice and staff retention needed enhancements.
 - Recruitment strategies were discussed to include more diversity and lived experiences among staff.
 - Training programs require continuous updates to meet current demands.

3. Operational Enhancements

- **Operational Review Included:**
 - Reorganization of workflow to optimize output.
 - Enhancement of data systems to support operational needs.
 - Initiatives to streamline inter-departmental communications.
- **Key Performance Areas:**
 - Efficiency in response times and administrative processing were deemed priority areas.
 - Ongoing monitoring and feedback mechanisms were proposed to ensure adaptability and responsiveness.

4. Recommendations and Feedback Incorporation

- **Draft Recommendations:**
 - Continued improvement of child wellbeing measures, focusing on mental and behavioral health provided in the least restrictive settings.
 - Strengthening independent oversight from diverse stakeholder input including former service recipients.
- **Acknowledgements:**
 - Achievements in maintaining service quality and adapting to new challenges were recognized.

- The acknowledgment section was separated from recommendations to clearly delineate areas of commendation and those requiring further action.

5. Conclusion and Next Steps

- The committee expressed gratitude for the collaborative effort from all stakeholders.
- Future meetings aim to refine recommendations and ensure they align with statutory requirements while enhancing service efficacy.
- Additional feedback on the executive summary was requested, with an extension provided to accommodate thorough review.

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.