



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.*

April 9, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Members

- Marygrace Billek, Public Member
- Lisa Chapland, Kinship Resource Parent
- Mary Hallahan, Public Member
- Eleanor Gilliam, Department of Children and Families
- Katherine Stoeher, Department of Children and Families
- Laura Jamet, Department of Children and Families
- Robyn Veasey, Office of the Public Defender
- Linda Porcaro, Human Services of Somerset County
- Garnet Roberts-Batson, Public member
- Mary Coogan, Advocates for the Children of New Jersey
- Angie Waters, CASA of New Jersey

Guests

- Collen McCauley, Camden Coalition
- Lissette Lester, Department of Children and Families
- Rozalyn Masi, Department of Children and Families

Staff

- Bethany D'Amelio, Department of Children and Families

The committee conducted a meeting on April 9, 2024, focusing on notable initiatives, implementation strategies, and ongoing challenges. Below is a summary of key discussion points and determined actions:

1. Collaborative Quality Improvement (CQI):

- Emphasized the adoption of a collaborative approach to refine quality improvement measures.
- Noted improvement in gathering detailed, case-specific data to foster actionable insights and decisions.
- Recognized that broad, statewide initiatives need tailoring to effectively meet diverse local needs.

2. Implementation of Solution-Based Casework (SBC):

- Highlighted the integration of SBC into our existing case practice model.

- Addressed confusion regarding its incorporation with family team meetings, proposing standardized communication to eliminate inconsistencies.

3. Supervision and Oversight Enhancements:

- Recognized enhanced oversight for documentation, including quality review processes of supervisory contact notes as a priority.
- Proposals to optimize protected time for supervisors and case workers to improve focus and documentation accuracy without workflow interruptions.

4. Family Team Meetings:

- Discussed a decline in formal family team meetings and strategies to clarify the role of SBC for consistency across practices.
- Suggested developing structured agendas and strategies for more effective and engaging family involvement initiatives.

5. Case Practice and Assessments:

- Reinforced the commitments to thorough risk assessments and ongoing safety evaluations of children and families.
- Acknowledged challenges in balancing comprehensive service delivery with limited resources and propagated innovative intervention models.

The committee remains committed to progressing these priority areas.

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.

For further information or queries, the public can reach out via the contact channels provided by the Department of Children and Families.