



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.*

SORS meeting minutes

June 20, 2024

Attendance:

- Marygrace Billek, Public Member
- Laura Chapland, Kinship Resource Parent
- Linda Porcaro, Department of Human Services Somerset County
- Robyn Veasey, First Assistant Public Defender
- Elizabeth Sherwood, Division of Law
- Corinne LeBaron, Embrella
- Mary Coogan, Advocates for the Children of New Jersey
- Gina Hernandez, Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey

Guests:

- Commissioner Beyer, Department of Children and Families
- Collen McCauley, Camden Coalition
- Kate Bradley, Department of Children and Families
- Amanda O'Reilly, Department of Children and Families
- Steven Little, Department of Children and Families
- Kevin Belli, Department of Children and Families
- Kelechi Ezeadi, Department of Children and Families
- Paul Dziewisz, Department of Children and Families

Staff:

- Bethany D'Amelio, Department of Children and Families

Introduction:

The meeting commenced with an overview of a workgroup project that allowed participation in a CoQI training process at offices throughout the state. This process identified areas in need of improvement, placing emphasis on the critical advancements in implementing supervisor-based consultations within the NJ Department of Children and Families. The committee acknowledges the support and effort extended by all stakeholders involved.

Agenda Items Discussed:**1. History and Implementation:**

- The Solution Based Casework model was selected to enhance outcomes linked to assessment, planning, and teaming with families. Previous evaluations illustrated the potential improvements achievable through these consultations.
- Execution of the evidence-based enhancement is underway, with full-scale application intended across multiple office locations.

2. Progress Monitoring:

- Supervisors are pivotal, acting as the scoring mechanism's foundation for case practice fidelity.
- Consistent state-wide implementation data is employed to refine practice levels among supervisors and staff.

3. Supervisor Training:

- Supervisor seminars focus on equipping individuals with critical skills for scoring and accountability.
- A state-wide calendar supporting these educational sessions is being prepared to assist new supervisors in role adaptation.

4. Community Engagement:

- Feedback from families is a central facet, revealing a shift towards partnerships instead of hierarchical decision-making.
- Working groups articulated varied improvements across departments, signifying tailored strategies like workshops and checklists.

5. Family-Based Improvements:

- Emphasis on reducing miscommunication and boosting engagement by aligning activities with family inputs. This strategy relies heavily on understanding and empathy to meet families at their point of need.

Conclusion:

The meeting underscored the importance of ongoing statewide cooperation, with a focus on individual supervisor enhancement initiatives. The Committee endorses the continued commitment to Solution Based Casework as a framework for constructive family partnership. Additionally, the preparedness to innovate based on feedback and evolving circumstances indicates a strong trajectory towards achieving heightened process efficiency.

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.