



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.*

September 10, 2024

SORS Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

- Marygrace Billek, Committee chair
- Lisa Chapland, Committee Co-chair
- Mary Coogan, Advocates for the Children of New Jersey
- Angie Waters, CASA of New Jersey
- Gina Hernandez, Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey
- Garnet Roberts-Baston, Father's Group
- Elizabeth Sherwood, DOL
- Mary Hallahan, Public Member
- Katie Stoeck, Department of Children and Families
- Amanda Melillo, New Jersey Legislature
- Laura Jamet, Department of Children and Families
- Linda Porcaro, Department of social services Somerset County
- Scout Hartley, public member

Guests:

- Colleen McCauley, Camden Coalition
- Stephen Singer, Camden Coalition
- Aaron Truchil, Camden Coalition
- Kate Bradley, Department of Children and Families

Staff:

- Bethany D'Amelio, Department of Children and Families

Overview

The SORS committee met on September 10, 2024, to discuss significant recommendations and updates regarding children's welfare and protection strategies. The meeting, hosted by the Department of Children and Families, covered various critical agenda items as follows:

1. Recommendations Review

- Members were allotted time to read through the comprehensive set of recommendations suggested by members for the SORS report recommendations section. Key topics addressed included improvements in

child welfare services collaboration with the Camden Coalition who is assisting to draft the 2024 SORS report.

2. Timeline Adjustments

- The task force proposed an adjusted timeline for implementing changes, based on feedback, and observed operational needs. The aim is to submit finalized recommendations to be included in the annual report before December 1st to avoid conflicts with holiday schedules.

3. Discussion on Hidden Foster Care

- There was an extended discussion on the topic of "hidden foster care," with clarity in definitions to ensure the correct language is used in the annual report.

4. Subcommittee Focus

- Emphasis was placed on the ongoing work of the Subcommittee on Race, Poverty, and Neglect, assessing calls to hotlines, and ensuring resources are available to families pre- and post-investigation.

5. Community Communication Improvements

- Suggestions for enhancing communication strategies between the Camden Coalition and task force members were proposed to ensure effective dissemination of meeting minutes and related updates.

6. Additional Information and Next Steps

- The task force acknowledged areas requiring further information needed to complete the SORS report. They committed to pulling accurate data together, with follow-ups scheduled concerning final details to complete their reports.

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.