



PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Richard Stagliano, Chair
Liza Kirschenbaum, 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 18, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Liza Kirschenbaum, CASA of New Jersey
Richard Stagliano, Center for Family Services
Commissioner, Christine Beyer, Department of Children and Families
Nydia Monagas, New Jersey Children's Alliance
Greta Anderson, Department of Children and Families
Rachel Silliman-Cohen, NJ CARES Institute
Dr. Martin Finkel, NJ CARES Institute
Lisa Landsman, Deputy Attorney General
Jaqueline Augustine, New Jersey Administrative office of the Courts
Sonia Moticha, Department of Education
Jennifer Underwood, Department of Community Affairs
Mary Coogan, Advocates for the Children of New Jersey
Judy Spinney, Public Member
Lorene Wilkerson, Child Placement Advisory Council
Eileen Caracker, Forensic Nurse Coordinator
Anthony Cameli, Families and Communities Together (CMO)
Joyce Applegate, Catholic Charities
Jayne Reynolds, Forensic Nurse Coordinator for Mercer County

Staff

Bethany D'Amelio, Department of Children and Families

1. **Introduction and Opening Remarks**
 - The meeting was called to order. Public notice was read aloud.
 - Discussion on the new strategic plan and the initiatives for the welfare of children in New Jersey.
2. **Strategic Planning and Task Force Structure**
 - Overview of the new structure focusing on enhancing the safety and welfare of children across New Jersey.
 - Identification of newly formed subcommittees and modernization of current protocols.
3. **Membership and Participation**
 - Emphasis on the expansion and the need for diverse representation on the task force.
 - Encouragement to invite colleagues and potential new members to meetings.
4. **Projects and Initiatives**
 - Discussion regarding ongoing and upcoming projects aimed at improving child welfare and protection systems.
 - A need for increased collaboration among different committees to avoid overlapping of efforts.
5. **Subcommittee Focus and Rationale**
 - The shifts in focus from narrowly defined departmental issues to wider community-serving objectives.
 - Importance of establishing distinct charters or missions for each subcommittee.
6. **Election of New Officers**
 - Announcement of the stepping down of the current chair and discussion on the nominations for new leadership roles.
 - Consideration for appointing new chairs or opening nominations for interested parties.
7. **Future Meetings and Frequency**
 - Proposed schedules for subcommittee meetings to be conducted more frequently.
 - Discussion around creating a consistent calendar for upcoming sessions.
8. **Closing Remarks**
 - Commendations to the committee members for their continued dedication and impactful contributions.
 - Final call for any new suggestions or feedback from all attendees.

Action Items:

- All members to update their calendars based on the proposed schedule for regular monthly meetings.
- Task force members are encouraged to identify and suggest potential new members for subcommittees.
- Current challenges in child protection and welfare policies to be reviewed and addressed in upcoming meetings.

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.