



SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN

Nydia Monagas, Chair
Greta Anderson, 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.*

February 19, 2025

Meeting minutes

Attendance:

Christine Beyer, Commissioner of Department of Children and Families
Greta Anderson, Department of Children and Families
Nydia Monagas, New Jersey Children's Alliance
Amber Floyd, Capitol County Children's Collaborative
Anthony Cameli, Families and Communities Together
Christine Doman-Wells, Rutgers Institute for Families
Lorene Wilkerson, Child Placement Advisory Council
Rachel Silliman-Cohen, NJ CARES Institute
Maureen Donnelly, Cooper Hospital- Safe Kids
Darianne Masticola, School Counselor
Dayna Zatina-Egan, Montclair University
Michelle Renner, Catholic Charities
Jaqueline Martin, Carepoint Health,
Joyce Applegate, Catholic Charities
Juanita Johnson-Brooks, PEI Kids
Judy Spinney, Ginnie's House
Liza Kirschenbaum, NJ CASA 1
Ron Welsh, DAD's Council

Staff:

Bethany D'Amelio, Department of Children and Families

The committee discussed and provided feedback on the presentations from the January meeting, which included the "Pass the Trash" legislation, Department of Education's Office of School Bus Safety and the Department of Children and Families' CARL unit.

1. Review of the committee's charter:

- Language and Terminology: The necessity to revise language to align with action verbs such as "communicative" and "transparent" was emphasized for committee documents.
2. **Workgroup Exploration:**
 - The committee reviewed the existing list of potential members from various sectors including child welfare, law enforcement, and education.
 - There was discussion on the inclusion of representatives from childcare centers and the education sector, specifying superintendents and principals as essential participants.
 3. **Objectives and Goals:**
 - Evaluating current education and training objectives for potential expansion to include all child-serving institutions, beyond out-of-home settings.
 - Alignment with broader child safety goals was considered crucial, ensuring comprehensive protection policies Across institutions.
 4. **Policy and Legislative Updates:**
 - Updates on relevant pieces of legislation were discussed, including working with legislators to explore educational opportunities related to sexual abuse reporting.
 - A strategy was laid out for collaboration with New Jersey's Statewide Advisory Board to enhance outreach and effectiveness.
 5. **Subcommittees and Workgroups:**
 - Proposal of forming workgroups to focus on specific legislative efforts and educational outreach.
 - Integration with existing subcommittee work, particularly in areas of race, poverty, and neglect, and NJ4S was highlighted as essential.

Action Points:

- Review and update membership lists, ensuring alignment with committee goals and tasks.
- Form workgroups dedicated to specific tasks like policy review and legislative outreach.

Conclusion:

- The meeting concluded with an outline of next steps, focusing on enhancing member participation and revisiting objectives at the next monthly meeting.

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.