



- New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

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.*

May 21, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Greta Anderson, Department of children and Families
Jill Pniewski, Department of Children and Families
Christine Beyer, Commissioner of Department of Children and Families
Judy Spinney, LCSW, public member
Lorene Wilkerson, New Jersey Child Placement Advisor Council
Joyce Applegate, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen
Ron Welsh, DAD's Council
Svetlana Spiegel, Montclair University
Anthony Cameli, Families and Communities Together
Christine Doman-Well, Rutgers Institute for Families
Lynette Rente, Office of the Public Defender
Liza Kirschenbaum, CASA New Jersey
Lisa DeLorenzo, CMO of Essex County

Staff:

Bethany D'Amelio, Department of Children and Families

1. Approval of Previous Minutes:

- Previous meeting minutes were reviewed and approved without amendments after a motion was made and seconded by committee members.

2. Reports from Subcommittees:

- **Legislation and Policy Workgroup:**

- Reviewed legislative comparisons between current bills in the State Senate and Assembly; S3485/Bucco and S3054/Gopal assessing penalties and other regulatory measures.

- S3485/Bucco: Revises law requiring school districts, charter schools, nonpublic schools, and contracted service providers to review employment history of prospective employee for allegations of child abuse or sexual misconduct.
- S3054/Gopal: “Safer Students Act”; requires school districts, charter schools, nonpublic schools, contracted service providers, and institutions of higher education to review employment history of prospective employee for allegations of child abuse or sexual misconduct.
- Discussion on the engagement with legislative sponsors for further analysis and potential advocacy.
- **Education and Training Work Group:**
 - Presented a drafted communication guide intended to standardize dialogue with educational districts.
 - Reported on ongoing efforts to evaluate and improve professional development standards.
 - Collected and discussed committee feedback on communication with school districts and the proposed standardized conversation approach. Members offered comments on possible ways to proceed.

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.