



• 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.*

Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2025

Attendance:

- Anthony Cameli, Families and Communities Together
- Caryn Hirsch, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton
- Christine Beyer, Commissioner of Department of Children and Families
- Greta Anderson, Department of Children and Families
- Jill Pniewski, Department of Children and Families
- Christine Doman-Well, Rutgers Institute for Families
- Jacqueline Martin, CarePoint Health
- Jennifer Underwood, Department of Community Affairs
- Juanita Johnson-Brooks, PEI Kids
- Kim Pinto, New Jersey Child Assault Prevention
- Lisa DeLorenzo, CMO of Essex County
- Liza Kirschenbaum, CASA New Jersey
- Lorene Wilkerson, New Jersey Child Placement Advisory Council
- Mary Coogan, Advocates for Children of New Jersey
- Michele Renner, Catholic Charities, Warren, Hunterdon, Somerset
- Nydia Monagas, New Jersey Children’s Alliance
- Ron Welsh, DAD's Council
- Lynette Rente, Office of the Public Defender

Staff:

- Bethany D’Amelio, Department of Children and Families

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved without edit.

2. Work Group Reports

- A. Training and Education: Focused on gathering information from school districts regarding boundary violations training and professional development.
- **Training Standardization:**
 - Discussion around the need for consistent training modules across schools was emphasized. This includes input from the Department of Education on mandated reporter training updates.
 - **Information Gathering Initiatives:**
 - A hybrid approach combining surveys and interviews was proposed to collect district-level data efficiently. This will help in understanding the training gaps and implementing more effective educational policies.
 - Emphasis was placed on seeking community feedback on training needs and aligning them with legislative goals to ensure comprehensive educational support across the state.
 - A proposal to reassess the necessity of extensive data gathering based on current awareness within districts. There may be a pivot towards more focused recommendations if existing training covers key areas adequately.
- B. Legislation and Policy:
- The committee discussed ongoing efforts to meet with Senators to discuss proposed bills to address concerns raised about the current policies regarding CARI checks of educators.
 - Emphasized legislative advocacy for the 'Pass the Trash' legislation impacting employment practices in educational institutions and the idea that a positive CARI check should not automatically preclude employment because there are mitigating factors that should be considered.
 - Tasks were allocated to various members to liaise with specific departments and gather additional input before the next scheduled workgroup meeting.
 - The committee discussed the potential inclusion of higher education staff in the proposed bill due to younger children regularly being on college campuses for camps, classes, and events.

. 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.