



*The Intersection of Race, Poverty,
& Neglect In Child Welfare*

To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Directors of Nonpublic Schools
Route to: Principals, School Nurses, Teachers, Staff Involved with Community Outreach
From: Christine Norbut Beyer, Commissioner
Department of Children and Families
Date: September 18, 2024
RE: New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

The NJ Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect is delving into the issue of mandatory reporting with nationally renowned child welfare experts on **October 7, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Westin, Forrestal Village in Princeton**. Educators play a critical role in the lives of children and families, and we want to hear from you on this important topic.

For context, over 35% of all American children – and over 50% of America’s Black children – will be reported to a CPS hotline before turning 18.* Many jurisdictions across the United States – including New Jersey – are beginning to examine the dynamics surrounding neglect investigations, taking steps to ensure that efforts to help families in poverty do not unnecessarily involve the child protection system, while also ensuring that children are kept safe from harm.

We value your voice in this process of reflecting on current practices and identifying needed areas for change. **Please register at www.stockton.edu/tfcan by September 30, 2024**. We look forward to having you join us for this important dialogue.

* *Lifetime Prevalence of Investigating Child Maltreatment Among US Children*. [Hyunil Kim](#) MSW, [Christopher Wildeman](#) PhD, [Melissa Jonson-Reid](#) PhD, MSW, and [Brett Drake](#) PhD, MSW. *American J of Public Health*. February 2017.