



Patty Mojta, Co-Chair  
Sanford Starr, Co-Chair

**September 1, 2022**  
**10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**  
Virtual Meeting

### **Minutes**

#### **In Attendance:**

Diane Dellano	Advocates for Children of NJ
Nicole Epps	World Childhood Foundation USA
Aldina Hovde	New Jersey Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Corissa Kazar	embrella
Patty Mojta	Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey
Kim Pinto	NJ CAP
Svetlana Shpiegel	Montclair State University
Sandy Starr	NJ Department of Children and Families
Tiffany Tucker	Pediatrician

#### **Guests:**

Michele Safrin	NJ Department of Children and Families
Chante Gunter	NJ Department of Children and Families
Andrea Jackson	NJ Department of Children and Families
Lenore Scott	NJ Department of Children and Families

#### **Staff:**

Daniel Yale	NJ Department of Children and Families
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*"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 is being recorded for the transcription of minutes. Please be sure to state your name prior to making comments, motions and seconding votes.*

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Patty Mojta welcomed members and each member provided a brief introduction.

### **Review March 3, 2022 meeting minutes**

The minutes from the March 3, 2022 meeting were approved without edit.



### **NJTFCAN Updates**

Patty provided Committee members with updates from the previous NJTFCAN meeting which included presentation of the Prevention Committee Charter.

### **Future Meeting Schedule**

Patty informed Committee members that the NJTFCAN meets during the same month as the Prevention Committee, but at the end of the month. Due to this fact, updates from the Task Force are delayed. As a recommendation of an ad hoc meeting to discuss attendance at Prevention Committee meetings, Patty discussed moving the Prevention Committee meetings to the 2<sup>nd</sup> month of every quarter so that they will be held closer to the NJTFCAN meetings. The Committee agreed and voted to change the schedule of meetings. The next meeting will be held on November 3, 2022 rather than December 1, 2022. The Committee also discussed whether the Committee would be able to meet in person. It was agreed that a meeting space would be available for members that wanted to attend in person while also allowing members to attend via Zoom simultaneously.

### **Recruitment Workgroup**

Patty asked if there were any Committee members that would be willing to volunteer to be part of a Recruitment Workgroup that would develop steps to recruit new members. The steps may include writing a recruitment letter, developing a recruitment strategy, etc. At the time of the meeting, there were no volunteers. The Committee will revisit this idea at the November meeting.

### **DFCP Prevention Overview**

*Sanford Starr, Assistant Commissioner, DCF Family and Community Partnerships*

Sandy informed committee members that since 2013, maltreatment rates and the number of maltreatment cases in NJ have steadily declined. A question was raised regarding whether there was an increase in referrals to supportive services in the same time period. Sandy discussed asking staff from the DCF Research, Evaluation, and Reporting office attend a committee meeting to provide a presentation on the data that is available that tracks the information that is being discussed.

The Casey Foundation and Kids Count data devoted an entire monograph to child well-being with a total of 16 indicators including economic, education, health, and family and community indicators. NJ ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the country in overall child well-being, 22<sup>nd</sup> in economic well-being, 1<sup>st</sup> in educational well-being, 9<sup>th</sup> in health, and 16<sup>th</sup> in family and community well-being. The DCF Strategic Plan prioritizes primary prevention of maltreatment and maltreatment related fatalities as a major priority. DCF follows the risk and protective factors model and there are both family and community indicators for both risk and protective factors.



Sandy stated that the Division of Family and Community Partnerships (FCP) has many prevention programs but is not called a prevention division. This suggests a shared responsibility and reciprocity and as DCF looks toward the future, we need to look at how we are forming collaborations and bringing the right people to the table who can shape the environment for families.

Sandy reminded members that a list of programming and descriptions were sent by email but also provided committee members with a list of several prevention programs that are contained within the offices of FCP:

- Office of Family Support Services
  - Family Success Centers
  - Kinship Navigator Program (KNP)
  - School-linked Services
  - Outreach to At Risk Youth (OTARY)
  - NJ Child Assault Prevention
- Office of Early Childhood Services
  - Evidence-Based Home Visiting Program
    - Nurse Family Partnership
    - Healthy Families America
    - Parents as Teachers
    - Universal Home Visiting
  - Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Initiative
  - Parent Linking Program
  - County Councils for Young Children
  - Connecting NJ Hubs
- Office of Housing (OOH)
  - Youth supportive housing
  - Keeping Families Together (KFT)
  - Transitional living programs
  - Street outreach
  - Adolescent housing hub
  - FCP is looking to expand the reach of the OOH beyond foster care youth and families involved with DCP.
- Office of Family Preservation and Reunification
  - Geared toward tertiary prevention
  - Peer to Peer
  - Life Skills
  - Pathways to Academic Career Exploration to Success (PACES)
  - Supportive Visitation Services
  - Family Preservation Services



Sandy spoke about how to put the pieces together. Internally, how do we get synergy from the existing programs that we are currently operating? How do we make better connections for families across that range of services? If families are receiving housing help through KFT because they don't have stable housing and they are engaged with child protective services, how do we make sure that they are linked with Family Success Centers? If a school that the child is involved with a school-linked services program, how do we make sure they are connected? What programs exist in Family Success Centers that will assist families receiving services through KNP? If we are looking at families coming through Connecting NJ hubs and in need of parenting education, does each Family Success Center have a base layer of programming to assist families with young children? DCF is looking at how we get synergy across these programs. Beyond internal conversations, DCF needs to reach out to other state departments to harness the programming and resources that already exist, but make sure that they are actually targeted in the right way so that families that can benefit are aware that they exist.

The Committee discussed data collection in prevention programming. Historically, the focus has been directed to protective services and CSOC. DCF is now looking at how to build an information system that supports prevention programs. One of the priorities that DCF is looking at is social indicator modeling. DCF would like to examine changes over time and understand what programs and services exist in certain areas to be able to determine effectiveness of those programs in those areas. We need to be able to determine which programs are effective and which are not. The committee also discussed the necessity of evaluation for small and medium agencies to be able to demonstrate effectiveness.

### **Agenda for next meeting**

Since the Prevention Plan has been approved, the goal of the Prevention Committee is to begin operationalizing an examination of each component of the plan and put together recommendations for additional work to move the plan forward. Going forward, for each meeting the committee will select a focus area – either a priority area of the plan or a smaller subset of a priority area – to dive a little deeper and bring in some information or presentation for that topic and have a guided, focused discussion that leads to concrete next steps.

Patty asked members which priority or subset they would like to discuss during the next meeting. The committee discussed beginning with the first priority (Promote racial equity/racial justice and reduce disparities across populations in service access, service provision, and retention) and working through them in order. The following suggestions were made regarding discussion topics for the first priority:

- Reasons for disproportionality in NJ and the connection with prevention programming
- How are we providing access to culturally and linguistically appropriate prevention services?
- What are the metrics for race equity?



- Presentation or panel from agencies that have a race equity plan in place or are very proactive about addressing disproportionality in their program or agency.
- Best practices and data. Tangible, action-oriented, client-focused strategies that are not just workforce focused.
- Review policy changes or laws to determine if there are equity issue with implementation.
- What are some effective strategies that have been implemented by agencies or other states.

Patty also asked that member discuss ideas for the February 2023 meeting to discuss the second priority (youth and family participation). Members discussed the following:

- The Annie E. Casey Foundation does great work in terms of youth inclusion.
- Overview of the current youth council programming.
- Ensuring that people with lived experience are involved.
- When possible, compensation for participation.

#### **Announcements**

No announcements.

Meeting Adjourned – Next meeting November 3, 2022