



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

December 2, 2021
10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
Virtual Meeting

Minutes

In Attendance:

Suzanne Conrad
Nicole Epps
Diane Dellano
Jeanne McMahon
Patty Mojta
Svetlana Shpiegel
Sandy Starr
Tiffany Tucker
Wendi White

Cape May County Ace Prevention Partnership
World Childhood Foundation USA
Advocates for Children of NJ
SPAN Parent Advocacy Network
Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey
Montclair State University
NJ Department of Children and Families
Pediatrician
NJ Department of Corrections

Guests:

Mary Coogan
Nya Earrusso
Andrea Jackson
Kim Pinto

Advocates for Children of NJ
Advocates for Children of NJ
NJ Department of Children and Families
NJ CAP

Staff:

Daniel Yale

NJ Department of Children and Families

"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 September 2, 2021 Minutes

The minutes from the September 2, 2021 meeting were approved without edit.



2022 – 2025 Prevention Plan Discussion

Sandy explained that the draft of the Prevention Plan that was sent out prior to the meeting was the result of a workgroup meeting that occurred in November. The workgroup consolidated and synthesized the suggestions and recommendations that were made by Committee members. Sandy explained that, at the Committee meeting in September, there were two major issues that were brought up by members. These issues were funding and ensuring that the plan highlights that program needs to be evidence-based. These issues were addressed in the plan that was presented to members.

Patty drew attention to the items that were added to the plan as a result of the workgroup meeting. The plan lists 6 priorities as well as strategies and goals. As members had a chance to review this draft, Sandy asked if there were any additional comments or modifications to the plan. Sandy explained that this is not meant to be a “static” document. The Committee will be able to review the document at each meeting, listen to presentations that will demonstrate movement (or lack thereof) with the priorities and strategies, and modify the plan if necessary.

Sandy also noted that members were provided with the planning documents that the Prevention Plan made notation of in the plan. These documents included Nurture NJ, the ACEs Plan, and the Pritzger Plan. Sandy offered to have a discussion about any or all of the documents that were provided. Hearing no discussion, Sandy asked that a motion be made to move the Prevention Plan to the NJTF CAN for approval.

The Committee discussed how the plan is implemented once it is approved by the Task Force. Sandy stated that this plan consists of the 6 priorities that the Committee believes are crucial about moving child abuse prevention and child welfare forward. The Committee has also laid out “big picture” strategies that the Committee believes are important in addressing those priorities. Once approved, it is a matter of sharing that information and relying on DCF or other state departments, funders, or groups in the state to assist in implementing various pieces of the plan. The Prevention Committee also has an opportunity to influence the direction of prevention work of other departments and groups to align it more closely with our child welfare priorities. Members will have a list of topics that they can choose from each quarter that will highlight where activities are being undertaken that either support or miss the mark with these priorities. This will provide further opportunity to influence the direction of prevention work.

The Committee also discussed making the plan public. This includes members of the Prevention Committee sharing with their networks and making people aware that it exists. Ideas for public release included social media, a press release, and a webinar. Patty asked if DCF Communications would be able to format and create a design for the plan. Daniel agreed to reach out to DCF Communications with the request. Mary Coogan suggested that meetings be set up with the people that the Committee is looking to for implementation. Mary stated if there is something that is focused on a specific department or entity, somebody should meet with that department or entity to make sure that they are aware of it and see if they have the buy-in and what they can do to support the accomplishment of that



goal. Mary also informed the Committee that she will suggest to the Task Force that different members of different departments could assist by providing information on who to meet with in their departments. Suzanne made a motion to approve the 2022-2025 NJ Statewide Prevention Plan and to move it forward to the Task Force for approval. Svetlana seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Prevention Committee Charter

A draft of the Prevention Committee Charter was sent to all members prior to the meeting. Patty reviewed the document with members and discussed edits that were made since the previous draft. At the conclusion of each section of the document, members were asked to provide feedback and edits for the final draft.

Workgroup Updates

Evidence-Based

There is no update at this time.

Communication & Outreach Workgroup

The Communication Workgroup and the Outreach and Engagement Workgroup have merged. There is no update at this time.

Infrastructure and Resources

The workgroup is in need of more members. The last topic that was discussed was the use of ARPA funds and how those resources can be utilized to support family support services throughout the state. The recommendations that resulted from this conversation were presented to the Task Force at their September meeting.

Updates from the September Task Force Meeting

Patty informed members of the following items that were discussed at the Task Force meeting in September:

- There was an RFP regarding Innovation Grants from the Office of Resilience.
- DCF is looking to allocate additional funds to prevention work and will be looking at the Prevention Plan to guide that decision making.
- DCPD has launched Solution-Based Casework.
- DCF is working with the McGuire Joint Base to investigate child abuse among the refugees on base.



- The Youth Council of the Office of Family Voice is updating the Youth Resource Spot website and working on development of an app for young people.
- DCF is working with an advisory group on fatherhood initiatives within DCPD.
- DCF is working with an advisory group regarding home visiting.
 - Suzanne asked for more information about this topic. Sandy provided a brief summary to the Committee members regarding DCF's planning around universal home visiting.
- The Communication Committee of the NTFCAN has been deactivated. A new committee named the Fundraising & Development Committee has been created.
- NJTFCAN voted to allocate funding to a consulting firm to manage a marketing campaign to raise CTF dollars.

Patty informed the Committee that the recommendations of the Infrastructure and Resource Workgroup regarding the use of ARPA funds were presented to the NTFCAN. Diane mentioned that ACNJ hosted a webinar that discussed how counties and municipalities can utilize ARPA funds. The recording of this webinar can be found on ACNJ's website.

Announcements

Meeting Adjourned – Next meeting March 3, 2022