



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

**December 3, 2020**  
**10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**  
Virtual Meeting

**Minutes**

**In Attendance:**

Jeanette Collins  
Suzanne Conrad  
Nicole Epps  
Mariam Gerges  
Aldina Hovde  
Corissa Kazar  
Patty Mojta  
Svetlana Shpiegel  
Sandy Starr  
Wendi White

NJ CAP  
Cape May County Ace Prevention Partnership  
World Childhood Foundation  
Bergen Family Center  
NJ Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Embrella  
Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey  
Montclair State University  
NJ Department of Children and Families  
NJ Department of Corrections

**Guests:**

Kim Pinto  
Jenira Hill  
Marissa Ventolo

NJ CAP  
NJ Department of Children and Families  
Montclair State University Graduate Assistant

**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**

A brief welcome was provided by Patty Mojta and each attendee and guest briefly introduced themselves.

**Review September 29, 2020 Minutes**



Motion to approve September 29, 2020 minutes was made by Jeanette Collins. The motion was seconded by Nicole Epps. The Committee voted to approve the September 29, 2020 minutes.

### **Networking Activity**

Committee members were broken into groups to participate in a networking exercise for members to become more familiar with other members.

### **Spotlight on Programs: Jenira Hill, Administrator, Office of Family Support Services**

Jenira explained that Family and Community Partnerships (FCP) has programs that range from supporting families from the birth of a child to grandparents helping to care for children. There are partnerships with providers throughout all of the work of FCP.

- Family Success Centers
  - 57 centers across the state, at least one in each county
  - Community-based, family-centered
  - Parent leadership activities
  - Connections to resources
- School Linked Services (SLS)
  - Over 100+ providers
  - School-based Youth Service Programs – approximately 90 sites, one in each county
    - Entry way for students – individual and groups services
    - Healthy youth development workshops
    - Life skills, employment and community service volunteerism
    - Peer support
    - If further support is needed, SLS can connect youth to DCF Children’s System of Care
  - Family Friendly Centers
    - Over 40 programs across the state
    - Involved in elementary and middle schools
    - Promotes family engagement
    - After school tutoring and support
- Health clinics in Essex County
  - 5 centers in Newark Area
  - Connects family to health services
- NJ Child Assault Prevention
  - Statewide bullying prevention program
  - 200 certified instructors
  - Designed for youth ages 3-13



- Provide workshops to youth, families, and school personnel
- Connections Matter
  - Initial cohort - 30 providers – community providers and DCF staff
    - Committed to train at least 100 individuals each on curriculum
  - Healing-centered focus to heal and prevent ACEs
  - Stresses the importance of positive connections and healthy relationships to heal ACEs
  - Over 800 people trained across the state in 2020
- Kinship Navigator Program (KNP)
  - Four agencies partner with parents and grandparents to locate and access services in their areas
    - Kinship wraparound services – one-time stipend to assist with emergency costs

Patty asked Jenira to talk about any steps being taken to be more evidence-based or to discuss programs in use that are already evidence-based. Jenira informed the Committee that, within the KNP, they are using funds to look at the program more closely and to improve the model. They completed a formative evaluation including interviews of DCF staff, providers, and families that received services. They used feedback from that process to enhance the model to include a strength and needs assessment that will help determine how they can use their stipend to reach their goals. They are designing a statewide management information system and are preparing for an evaluation. The intent is that these improvements will allow the KNP model to be added to the clearinghouse. Sandy informed the Committee that there is a strong move to examine data in all of the programs offered by FCP. Historically, the emphasis at DCF has been to examine the data on the protection side of the Department. Moving forward, FCP will be taking a closer look at the data that is collected and how it is utilized to improve the quality of programming and to be able to better serve children and families.

## **Workgroup Updates**

### **Communication**

Corissa informed that Committee that there has not been much movement with the workgroup since the last meeting. Corissa reached out to DCF regarding the WE CAN messaging and is awaiting a response. Daniel agreed to contact the DCF Communications Team to provide an update to the workgroup. Patty added that she would like to discuss using the WE CAN campaign again this year for Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention month. Corissa discussed the possibility of having a synchronized effort in which DCF and community agencies utilize WE CAN.

### **Evidence-Based Workgroup**



Aldina discussed that the data survey that was created by the Evidence-Based Workgroup was reviewed and edited by Svetlana and will be sent to the Task Force on December 18, 2020 for approval. Patty will send the link to the survey to the Committee for final review. The intent is for the survey to be distributed to programs in January. Patty reminded the Committee that the survey will be used to get a sense of what nonprofits are doing with regard to evaluations. If they are not doing evaluations, what the barriers are to evaluation. Svetlana added that the survey will also ask if data is being collected and, if so, how it is being used, if not, why they are not collecting it. The Committee discussed adding a question to the survey regarding whether programs have a CQI process.

### **Infrastructure & Resources**

No updates at this time. Mariam informed the Committee that the workgroup planned to work with the Evidence-Based workgroup.

### **Outreach & Engagement**

No update at this time. Nicole informed the Committee that the workgroup is looking for more members. Nicole also stated that the workgroup could also work with the Communications workgroup as their goals are aligned.

### **Orientation Workgroup Discussion**

Patty discussed the possibility of forming another workgroup to focus on orienting new people to the Committee. Patty spoke about creating bylaws that would hold members accountable to attend meetings and participate outside of meetings to move the work of the Committee forward. Patty volunteered to be a part of the workgroup along with Aldina and Corissa. The Committee will discuss what the mission statement of the Prevention Committee should be as well as what the expectations of members will be.

### **2022 – 2025 Prevention Plan**

Sandy provided a recap of the visioning exercise that was conducted at the previous meeting. The summary of the stories that were created during the visioning exercise was emailed to the Committee members. Sandy asked the members to read through the summaries and identify any themes that emerged. Some of the themes that were found are listed below:

- Collaboration/removing silos
- Funding
- Early childhood focus

The Committee also discussed several other issues that should be addressed in the upcoming Prevention Plan:

- Worker wellness/education/burnout prevention
- Prevention training



- Trauma training
- Continuous training/employer-supervision support after training
- Focus on social determinants
- Removing stigma
- More upstream prevention work
- Availability of services for youth/adults/families not involved with child protection

Sandy explained that part of the reason for the visioning exercise was to determine priorities. Sandy asked that the Committee turn their focus to the CDC recommendations that were discussed at a previous meeting. Sandy asked the Committee to review what was previously recommended to determine what they might want to emphasize, de-emphasize, remove, or add to what should be happening in NJ after completing the visioning exercise.

#### **Announcements**

Patty informed the Committee that she would be sending out an announcement in January about the Connections Matter training. The training will now be open to the community and will be available for anyone that is interested.

The Committee reviewed the dates for the 2021 Prevention Committee meetings.

Meeting Adjourned – Next meeting March 4, 2021