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

March 4, 2021
10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
Virtual Meeting

Minutes

In Attendance:

Jeanette Collins	NJ CAP
Suzanne Conrad	Cape May County Ace Prevention Partnership
Nicole Epps	World Childhood Foundation
Mariam Gerges	Bergen Family Center
Aldina Hovde	NJ Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Corissa Kazar	Embrella
Patty Mojta	Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey
Sandy Starr	NJ Department of Children and Families
Wendi White	NJ Department of Corrections
Jeanne McMahon	SPAN Parent Advocacy Network
Tiffany Tucker	Pediatrician
Dave Seegert	Brick Township SBYSP
Svetlana Spiegel	Montclair State University

Guests:

Amanda O'Reilly	NJ Department of Children and Families
Mai Nguyen	NJ Department of Children and Families

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. Patty asked that each attendee and guest briefly

introduced themselves and provide one positive thing that has occurred recently or one positive thing that each individual is looking forward to.

Review December 3, 2020 Minutes
Motion to approve December 3, 2020 minutes was made by Corissa Kazar. The motion was seconded by Aldina Hovde. The Committee voted to approve the December 3, 2020 minutes.

Workgroup Updates

Evidence-Based
Svetlana discussed the survey that was released by the workgroup that was designed to assess how agencies use and collect data. The survey was sent out at the beginning of February to all DCF prevention partners to over 200 individuals. Svetlana explained that the response rate was very low, with only 30 unique responses that completed the survey in full. Svetlana felt that, because we requested the name on the agency on the survey, agencies may have been hesitant reporting their practices in terms of data collection and analysis.
Svetlana reviewed some of the results of the survey data:
- Federal and state funding sources were the most commonly reported sources of funding.
- Types of data collected:
  - ➢ Client information (most commonly collected)
  - ➢ Patterns of service utilization
  - ➢ Program effectiveness
  - ➢ Feedback from clients or stakeholders
- How data was collected:
  - ➢ Surveys or questionnaires
  - ➢ Interviews or focus groups
  - ➢ Direct entry into data management system
  - ➢ Review of agency files
- How data is stored – data storage for a majority of the agencies presents problems due to issues with analysis.
  - ➢ Majority of agencies store data on paper (hard copies)
  - ➢ Spreadsheets
  - ➢ Survey software
  - ➢ Cloud-based storage
- Analysis of data
  - ➢ 24 agencies reported analyzing data in-house
  - ➢ 3 agencies reported partnering with outside consultant to assist with analysis
- Commonly reported barriers to data analysis

- ➢ Lack of expertise to analyze data
- ➢ Lack of funding
- ➢ Lack of appropriate software or technological resources
- Use of programmatic data
  - ➢ Improve service delivery
  - ➢ Set programmatic goals
  - ➢ Provide reports to funders
- Data that programs would like to collect but are unable:
  - ➢ Program effectiveness

Svetlana felt that more information is needed with bigger response rates and different methods to ensure that the information is valid. Svetlana recommended that, if a decision is made to explore this further, a second survey should not request the agency to list their name which would lead to higher response rates and more candid responses. Svetlana also felt that in-depth interviews with the heads of agencies would be helpful. If a non-DCF, external partner speaks with these agencies, it may assist in getting better information.

Communication & Outreach Workgroup
Corissa explained that they have merged the Communication Workgroup and Outreach & Engagement Workgroup into one workgroup. They have scheduled a workgroup meeting the following day to assess what has been accomplished in each workgroup and where they want to go from this point.

Infrastructure and Resources
Mariam explained that the Workgroup is exploring outcome reports on several DCF initiatives that are linked to the Children's Trust Fund (CTF). Donations to the CTF are considerably less than the previous year and they are looking into ways to promote the CTF to increase donations. They are also looking into identifying evidence-based, sustainable programs that the CTF can fund.

Impacts of COVID-19 on DCF Presentation
Amanda O'Reilly, Director, DCF Office of Research, Evaluation, and Reporting, provided the Committee with a presentation on the Impact of COVID-19 on DCF and the families that they serve.

New Jersey Family, Women, and Children Data Presentation
Mai Nguyen, Ph.D., Eagleton Science Fellow, Rutgers University, DCF Office of Research, Evaluation, and Reporting, provided a presentation on the general demographics of NJ as well as data on the economic outlook, health and healthcare, and intimate partner violence and sexual assault.

Discuss 2022 – 2025 Prevention Plan
Due to time constraints, the Committee was unable to discuss the 2022-2025 Prevention Plan. The Committee plans to discuss further at the next meeting. Sandy Starr informed the Committee that some work may need to be done prior to the next meeting so that the Committee will have strong priorities laid out for the next meeting.

Announcements
No announcements at this time.

Meeting Adjourned – Next meeting June 3, 2021