



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

**June 3, 2021**  
**10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**  
Virtual Meeting

**Minutes**

**In Attendance:**

Suzanne Conrad  
Gerry Costa  
Diane Dellano  
Nicole Epps  
Aldina Hovde  
Patty Mojta  
Sandy Starr  
Wendi White  
Jeanne McMahon  
Dave Seegert

Cape May County Ace Prevention Partnership  
Montclair State University  
Advocates for Children of NJ  
World Childhood Foundation  
NJ Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey  
NJ Department of Children and Families  
NJ Department of Corrections  
SPAN Parent Advocacy Network  
Brick Township SBYSP

**Guests:**

Dodi Schultz NJ CAP  
Kim Pinto 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**

A brief welcome was provided by Patty Mojta. Committee members participated in an “ice breaker” type exercise to introduce themselves and share information about themselves.

**Review March 4, 2021 Minutes**



Suzanne Conrad stated that she spoke about DCF contracts containing requirements to collect information specific data related to prevention data and outcomes. Aldina stated that they spoke about how and what type of data was collected in the past but that the types of data that is collected had changed. Suzanne stated that, in the past, programs for support and protective factors were listed as information that was required to be collected and evaluated in order to receive funding. Suzanne felt that this practice of training requirements and data collection should be included in DCF contracts.

The Committee voted to approve the March 4, 2021 minutes.

### **2022 – 2025 Prevention Plan Discussion – Priorities and Strategies**

Sandy explained that he will ask the members to review the two documents that were sent to the Committee the previous day. The first document that was reviewed was the “Summary of the Visioning Exercises” that documented visioning exercises that were conducted at a previous meeting. Sandy explained that he also asked staff within the DCF Division of Family and Community Partnerships to complete the same visioning exercise. The resulting document is a summary of the themes from the two exercises. Sandy asked committee members to review the document so that they could make their own observations both during the meeting and in the upcoming weeks. Sandy summarized the themes that he recognized as follows:

#### Cross-cutting/Foundational

- Collaboration
- Race Equity
- Family Voice/Family Driven/Family Centered programs/Family leadership
- ACES
  - Trauma informed communities

#### Data and Outcomes

- Measurable Outcomes and outcomes related to family connectedness to community
- Data driven and evidence based approaches
  - Logic model that connects program to prevention of child maltreatment
- Improved use of information/data through technology. Integrated data solutions.
- Monitoring and Surveillance

#### Highly skilled workforce knowledgeable of prevention science

- Workforce Development

#### Connect Family to Community



- Community as change agent/Community Level prevention
- Strength based approaches
- Prevention across lifespan
- Universal prevention strategies
- Improved access to services including childcare
- Intergenerational programming
- Reduce stigma

Sandy explained that he would like the Committee members to review the document on their own time over the course of the following two weeks, using “track changes” to make comments and identify what they think is most important. Once that is complete, members can email the documents to Daniel Yale. Sandy asked for a small group of members to go through the documents to consolidate the ideas. Suzanne Conrad, Gerry Costa, Aldina Hovde, and Jeanne McMahon volunteered to be a part of the group.

Sandy then directed the Committed members to the 2<sup>nd</sup> document, “Priorities and Strategies”. Prior to reviewing this document, Sandy explained that this was only an initial draft of priorities as he saw them and asked that members comment on the priorities as well. The comments made by members were noted on the document as it was being reviewed. Sandy also informed the members that some of the priorities are taken directly from the previous plan as they are still relevant. Sandy felt that it may not be necessary to create a new plan every three or four years, but rather build onto what has already been done. The next step for this document will be similar to the previous document in that members should review and make changes based on what is important to them either by adding or removing content. As this is a qualitative process, the Committee needs to be sure that there is consensus among members.

Sandy also informed the Committee that the Human Services Advisory Councils (HSAC) data is in the process of being compiled by DCF. Sandy stated that there will be presentation for members of the Prevention Committee so that the needs assessment data can be incorporated into the plan.

## **Workgroup Updates**

### **Evidence-Based**

Aldina informed that Committee that there is no update for the workgroup as they have not had the opportunity to meet. They plan to meet shortly and will provide an update at the next meeting.

### **Communication & Outreach Workgroup**

No update provided.



### **Infrastructure and Resources**

Diane stated that the work that was previously discussed cannot happen without adequate resources. The infrastructure will be critical and we need to make sure that there are adequate investments and multi-faceted funding streams to make this prevention plan a reality. So many prevention programs do not have adequate funding to function, retain staff, and continue to provide vital services. The workforce needs to be built up for this work and they need to be well-compensated. With the funding that is coming to the state, now is the opportunity to make sure that prevention receives the attention that is necessary.

Diane felt that family voice and community input will be critical as well, so that the state is aware of what people need. Suzanne spoke about collaboration with other state departments to pool funding to provide resources to families. Aldina stated that the funding should be made available for intentional collaboration so that all of the unique skillsets of all of the organizations can be brought together. There also must be enough funding to support adequate evaluation of programs.

Diane and Mariam are in the process of developing a list of recommendations that will be presented to the Task Force. The recommendations will address how funding should be used to be able to support sustainable prevention programming, rather than providing one-time funds without a plan for how programs will be successful in the future. The recommendations will speak to how the infrastructure can be built to utilize funding in a meaningful way.

The Committee discussed how they can influence state decision makers to provide funding for prevention work. Patty suggested informing the Task Force that the Committee has a conversation around the one-time pandemic relief funding that the state will receive and the Committee is requesting that some consideration be given towards investing in prevention programming, infrastructure, and evaluation. Suzanne also requested that the Task Force be made aware that, although they are only asking for consideration for this one-time funding, there is also a need for longer term funding to support the infrastructure. Patty stated that she will also look into Gerry's suggestion regarding the Family Success Institute and converting distress funds into success funds.

### **Announcements**

Diane informed the Committee that on June 8, 2021, ACNJ will hold their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Strolling Thunder event to raise awareness of the needs of infants and toddlers in NJ. Traditionally, the event has been held in front of the statehouse but, due to COVID-19, it will be a virtual, parent-led event where ACNJ will facilitate workgroups so that parents can voice their opinions on where the funds coming into the state can be utilized to help support services. Patty asked that the outcomes of the event be shared with the Prevention Committee. Diane stated that the information will be compiled into a document that will be posted on their website, ACNJ.org.

Patty informed the Committee that on July 21, 2021, PCA-NJ will have a film screening of "Spare the Child". The film deals with corporal punishment, specifically spanking. The film highlights the



personal stories of several people, including Reverend Darrell Armstrong. Patty stated that the flyer for the event will be sent out as soon as it is available.

Jeanne McMahon informed the Committee that on June 24, 2021, SPAN is hosting a women's health summit focused on lead poisoning prevention and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). The event will include discussions about mental health as well as mindfulness.

Meeting Adjourned – Next meeting September 2, 2021