



New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

PREVENTION COMMITTEE

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

September 29, 2020
10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
Capital Center Building
Virtual Meeting

Minutes

In Attendance:

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

NJ CAP
Cape May County Ace Prevention Partnership
Advocates for Children of New Jersey
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
Pediatrician, Advocare Pediatric Urgent Care
NJ Department of Corrections

Guests:

Kim Pinto
Karen Kenney
Cecelia D'Elia
Randy Bell
David Seegert
Francesca Cangeloso
Kathleen Bress
Kim Glazer
Laura Lillian
Lauren Balkan
Michelle Davis
Noel Hiers
Brook Reinhardt
Valerie Colletti
Lynn Mallory
Desiree Saab

NJ CAP
Pinelands Regional School District SBYSP
Hoboken High School SBYSP
Brick Township SBYSP
Brick Township SBYSP
Hoboken High Scholl SBYSP
Clayton Middle School/High School SBYSP
Gloucester County Institute of Technology SBYSP
Millville High School SBYSP
Well Spring Center for Prevention
Phillipsburg Middle School SBYSP
Cape May SBYSP
Phillipsburg High School SBYSP
Passaic High School SBYSP
Passaic Preparatory Academy SBYSP
Barringer High School SBYSP



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 June 4, 2020 Minutes

June 4, 2020 minutes were approved without edit.

Discuss DCF Prevention Budget and Programs

Sandy Starr, Deputy Director of DCF Family and Community Partnerships (FCP), provided a brief introduction to the Committee. Regarding the Prevention Budget, Sandy explained that the Legislature had restored many of the budget cuts that affected prevention programming, including school-linked services, in FCP and that the budget is awaiting Governor Murphy’s approval.

Sandy informed the Committee that rather than providing an overview of the prevention programming provided by DCF, it would be more beneficial to put the discussion in the context of a plan. The Prevention Committee is tasked with developing the statewide Prevention Plan. Sandy explained that when he thinks of planning, he thinks of the five key questions: where are we now, where are we going, how do we get there, who do we take with us, and how do we know we got there? Sandy stated that he would like to turn the discussion to the members to describe some of the strengths and limitations of the state of child welfare prevention in NJ.

Strengths:

- Many organizations doing a lot of great things.

Limitations:

- All competing for the same funding pools. A lot of competition and not a lot of focused collaboration. Instead of working together, often working in silos.



- In NJ, we only have five protective factors when there should be six. NJ is missing nurturing and attachment. Focus on helping mothers earlier on.
- Lack of communication between state departments as well as frontline and state level work.
- Lack of interdepartmental collaboration.

Sandy felt that the theme that emerged was the need to have a more organized and thoughtful approach to service provision that is not siloed, not fragmented, ensures collaborations across systems, and takes a “first things first” approach. Patty stated that in addition to the idea that prevention work is raising awareness and early intervention, we need to remember that supportive services, non-stigmatizing support and being a natural support to families is also prevention. Svetlana stated that we also need to figure out how we can measure if programs are working. In prevention science, there is a specific way to measure prevention and the effectiveness of prevention programs. We have to be mindful of those definitions. Measurement is critical for the “how do we know we got there” piece of planning.

Workgroup Updates

Evidence-Based Workgroup

Aldina informed the Committee that she created the survey and shared it with the Committee for review. The survey is intended to determine what programs around the state are collecting in terms of data. This includes what type of data they are using, how they are tracking it, what types of software is available, how the data is being stored, what the budget is, etc. There have been a few responses to date, but the workgroup is hoping more members will respond. Aldina and Svetlana will review and discuss the survey prior to submitting to the Task Force for approval to be sent to outside agencies.

Outreach & Engagement

No updates at this time. Nicole Epps has agreed to chair the workgroup and to re-engage members.

Communication

Corissa explained that the group left off discussing COVID-19 and prevention messaging. They will be discussing collaboration with the Outreach & Engagement Workgroup.

Infrastructure & Resources

No updates at this time. Mariam Gerges has agreed to chair the Infrastructure & Resources workgroup and to re-engage members.

Visioning Exercise – Small Group Discussion for Strategic Prevention Plan

Sandy explained that, over the next several meetings, they would like the Committee to undertake a planning process to develop a strong Prevention Plan for 2021. Sandy state that he hoped the results of



this visioning exercise will result in obtaining the priorities of what the Prevention Plan will be focused on. The visioning exercise will allow members to think beyond the budget and think about where we would like prevention to be 10 years from now.

Patty informed the members that they would be split up and randomly put into breakout rooms. They were asked to envision reading a feature article in Newsweek 10 years into the future about the amazing prevention programming in NJ and what makes it amazing. The members were given 30 minutes for this exercise. Those that took notes during the small groups were asked to forward their notes to Patty. At the conclusion of the small group exercise, each of the groups provided a short summary of what they discussed. The notes will be compiled and presented to the group at a later date.

Networking & Announcements

Patty asked the members to provide updates and announcements as well as to share what their organization is doing regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion. Each member provided updates and announcements to the Committee as well as what their organizations have been and will be doing in regards to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Meeting Adjourned – Next meeting December 3, 2020