



**Protection Committee**  
**Richard Stagliano, Chair**  
**Liza Kirschenbaum, Esq, Vice-Chair**  
**September 21, 2022**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**Minutes**

**In Attendance:**

Joyce Applegate	Catholic Charities - Diocese of Metuchen
Jacqueline Augustine	NJ Administrative Office of the Courts
Eileen Caraker	Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office
Mary Coogan	Advocates for Children of New Jersey
Martin Finkel	Professor Emeritus, Rowan University
Marilyn Gorney-Daley	NJ Department of Health
Scout Hartley	National Foster Youth Institute, NJ Chapter
Liza Kirschenbaum	CASA of New Jersey
Lisa Landsman	Consultant
Nydia Monagas	NJ Children's Alliance/Montclair State University
Sonia Moticha	NJ Department of Education
Jane Reynolds	Mercer County Forensic Nurse Coordinator
Debbie Riveros	Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office
Rachel Silliman Cohen	CARES Institute
Judy Spinney	Therapist
Richard Stagliano	Center for Family Services
Jennifer Underwood	NJ Department of Community Affairs
Lorene Wilkerson	NJ Child Placement Advisory Council

**Staff:**

Daniel Yale	NJ Department of Children & Families
-------------	--------------------------------------

**Introduction and Welcome**

The meeting was called to order and the Open Public Meetings notice was read. A brief welcome was provided by Richard Stagliano.

**Review and Approve March 16, 2022 Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes from the March 16, 2022 meeting was made by Jennifer Underwood. Nydia Monagas seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the March 16, 2022 minutes without edit.

**Areas of Focus and Topics for Future Meetings**

Richard asked members to discuss what the Committee should like to focus on for future meetings. The following topics/initiatives were discussed:

- Sexual abuse specific training that was historically funded through DCF. The training included several days of training followed by a year-long supervision period.



**Protection Committee**  
**Richard Stagliano, Chair**  
**Liza Kirschenbaum, Esq, Vice-Chair**  
**September 21, 2022**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**Minutes**

- The Committee discussed completing an assessment across the state to determine who is trained, where they are located, and the types of training they possess in order to create a resource guide. This assessment would also serve to determine where there are gaps. Richard discussed creating a workgroup to look further into completing an assessment and possibly making recommendations on training to DCF. Joyce, Nydia, Scout, and Richard agreed to work on this workgroup.
- The committee discussed doing more work in the online exploitation area to include online bullying, sextortion, child sexual exploitation in the metaverse, etc. One idea was to create a series of short webinars for parents to teach them how to have conversations about the different areas of vulnerability to sexual victimization through social media and the internet.
- Topics for updates from DCF:
  - Solution-Based Casework
  - Parental substance use and the DCF response
  - DCF strategic plan and prevention priorities
  - Well-informed and capable workforce, higher
- Recruitment for Committee members and/or workgroup members.

## **Committee Initiatives**

### **The Digital Realm of Child Abuse Workgroup**

Sonia informed members that the Online Safety materials were released in June during Online Safety Month. Sonia included a link in the chat for members to visit the Department of Education webpage that includes the material. The workgroup is currently discussing ways to share the information to increase awareness.

### **Youth with Problematic Sexual Behaviors Workgroup**

Nydia informed the Committee that the workgroup is on a brief hiatus. Nydia explained that there is currently a larger, statewide workgroup discussing child-on-child sexual abuse response. The workgroup consists of key stakeholders from across the state representing many disciplines and state agencies. The goal of this group is to create a coordinated statewide response to child-on-child sexual abuse cases so that all children that are affected by problematic sexual behaviors can access the appropriate medical and mental health services that they need regardless of whether their case is open by law enforcement or child protective services.

One of the subgroups of the workgroup created an MDT/CAC partner survey that was sent to all 21 counties to get an idea of the “state of the county” with respect to how they are responding to these cases, what the barriers are to addressing issues with these cases, connecting children with services, discussing ideas about what the response should be, where are the barriers with accessing services, etc. 14 of the 21 counties responded and the County Prosecutor’s Office Association responded on



**Protection Committee  
Richard Stagliano, Chair  
Liza Kirschenbaum, Esq, Vice-Chair  
September 21, 2022  
Virtual Meeting  
Minutes**

behalf of the 21 county prosecutor's offices and law enforcement. There are a group of volunteers that will compile the data so that it can inform the process moving forward.

There is a funding subgroup of the workgroup which is examining funding structures are locally, statewide, and nationwide that may be used to provide services for these children. The subcommittee is also looking at what others are doing nationally.

There is a training and treatment subgroup that is looking at what providers are currently available throughout the state, where the services are located, and their level of training. They will also be looking at what treatment programs are available nationally that can be brought to NJ to train people who are interested in this training and who have the infrastructure and capacity to take on the training that is required for working with this population.

There is a caregiver survey subgroup that created a survey for caregivers that have been affected by problematic sexual behaviors. The survey will determine if they have accessed and completed services or if they are doing outreach to obtain services. DCPP is working with their Resource Development Specialists (RDS) to get the survey to clients that have been impacted by this issue. There are 2 programs that are working with school aged children that have problematic sexual behaviors – WISE and Catholic Charities. CACs are also looking to determine if the survey can be shared with their clientele as well.

The Committee discussed the need for expanded training in problematic sexual behaviors in school age children and adolescents as there is currently not a lot of expertise in the state. Nydia informed members that the next meeting of the workgroup will be scheduled in October to discuss how the training will be rolled out, funding sources, etc.

### **Medical Evaluation and Referral Workgroup**

Dr. Silliman Cohen reminded the Committee that the intent of the workgroup is to discuss how to increase access to medical evaluations in the context of sexual abuse and physical abuse. It also includes education initiatives for all providers that the children may interact with so that there is shared language about what RDTA doctors do, what a medical evaluation entails, and to ensure that medical providers are aware of what the needs are. Going forward, they would like to have those conversations with other stakeholders including child advocacy centers, prosecutor's offices, law enforcement, etc.

Dr. Silliman Cohen and Dr. Debellis have been working with the DCF Office of Training and Professional Development to examine and improve the curriculum for new DCPP workers and provide input on the child sexual abuse training piece. They have also been able to provide resources and education for the training.

### **Announcements**

Dr. Silliman Cohen announced that in January 2023, the CARES Institute will be holding a quarterly lecture featuring two experts, a pediatrician, and a representative from a non-profit, to discuss human trafficking and focusing on the pandemic, LGBTQIA+ youth, and indigenous populations.



**Protection Committee  
Richard Stagliano, Chair  
Liza Kirschenbaum, Esq, Vice-Chair  
September 21, 2022  
Virtual Meeting  
Minutes**

On October 11, 2022, Wynona's House is having a conference that will include speakers on sextortion, online child sexual abuse, a survivor story, and Detective Mike Johnson.

**Meeting adjourned – Next Meeting December 14, 2022.**