



New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

## **STAFFING AND OVERSIGHT REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE**

Marygrace Billek, Chairperson  
Lisa Chapland, Vice Chairperson

**June 13, 2023**  
**3:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.**

### **In Attendance:**

Marygrace Billek  
Lisa Chapland  
Mary Hallahan  
Gina Hernandez  
Laura Jamet  
Corinne LeBaron  
Joshua Levy  
Linda Porcaro  
Garnet Roberts-Batson  
Katie Stoehr  
Traci Telemaque  
Robyn Veasey  
Angie Waters

Mercer County DHS  
Kinship Resource Parent  
Foster and Adoptive Kinship Parent  
Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey  
NJ Department of Children and Families  
embrella  
Fatherhood Engagement Committee  
Somerset County Office of Youth Services  
Fatherhood Engagement Committee  
NJ Department of Children and Families  
Office of the Law Guardian  
Office of the Public Defender  
CASA of New Jersey

### **Guests:**

Abbie DiMeo  
Erin O’Leary  
Ali Jawetz  
Judith Meltzer  
Amanda O’Reilly  
Martha Raimon

NJ Department of Children and Families  
Office of the Attorney General  
Center for the Study of Social Policy  
Center for the Study of Social Policy  
NJ Department of Children and Families  
Center for the Study of Social Policy

### **Staff**

Angela Phillips  
Daniel Yale

NJ Department of Children and Families  
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.”*



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*\*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 Marygrace Billek and the meeting was called to order. Each member and guest provided a brief introduction.

### **Review May 9, 2023 Minutes**

A motion to approve the May 9, 2023 minutes was made by Mary Hallahan. Corinne LeBaron seconded the motion. The minutes were approved without edit.

Marygrace informed members that DCF has been in conversation with a prospective partner agency to assist with examining data and preparing the annual SORS report. Once the details of this partnership have been finalized, Marygrace will provide further information to the Committee.

### **Review May 2023 Commissioner's Report**

*Amanda O'Reilly, Assistant Commissioner, DCF Office of Analytics and Systems Improvement*

*Abbie DiMeo, Lead for Special Projects, DCF Office of Analytics and Systems Improvement*

Marygrace explained that Amanda and Abbie will be assisting the Committee by walking members through the report and answering questions about the information. Marygrace encouraged members to ask questions about the data to be able to feel more comfortable with the information. This meeting is a learning opportunity to discuss what data metrics are important to the Committee and what the focus will be moving forward.

Amanda and Abbie explained each page of the report and provided members with time to ask questions.

- Sustainability and Exit Plan Summary - intended to support the sustainability and exit plan. The information contained in the May 2023 report is the most recent overall look at the various process, outcome, and quality measures as of December 2021. On a monthly basis, this information does not change. The intention of adding this information into the report is to have a summary of all of the lawsuit measures in one place, which includes DCF's progress and status in each category. A question was raised about the "To Be Achieved" section and the "To Be Maintained" section. Katie explained that when the Sustainability and Exit Plan was governing the lawsuit, these were the metrics on which DCF was being measured. The federal monitor would review the data and decide which measures had met the target and were to be maintained and which measures had not yet met the target. Katie added that DCF is no longer governed by



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the Sustainability and Exit Plan as a renegotiation took place and a subsequent document was issued. For those participating in the meeting that might not be familiar with the types of staff listed on this page, Katie and Laura provided descriptions/responsibilities of the different types of staff.

Katie noted that the “Foundational Elements” section of this page match the expanded responsibilities of SORS. This was done intentionally as these were the measures that were important to the plaintiff as core elements of a child welfare system. They were foundational changes that DCF made as they began to reform the system. They were intended to identify the progress that the state made structurally, but the idea was that these elements must remain in place for an effective child welfare system.

- Sustainability and Exit Plan Key Performance Indicators - A question was raised regarding the “lag time” for receiving data. It was explained that different types of data are available on different schedules. Depending on what the data is measuring, it is available at different times. This section of the report includes the month from which the data was collected and provides an example of “lag times”.

Another question was raised regarding when to become concerned about numbers dropping in specific data points. Judy Meltzer explained that as federal monitors, they did not become concerned about month-to-month fluctuations; however, if the downward fluctuation continued over several months, it may raise a red flag. Katie explained that certain data points are consistently lower in NJ and are being addressed through long-term improvement initiatives – through federal performance improvements plans, plans that are worker through the Children in Court Improvement Committee (CICIC), etc. Data is also reviewed by DCF on a regular basis so if an issue arises, it is addressed quickly.

- DCF at a Glance Dashboard - provides the most up to date “point in time” data. This section includes data from several different populations within DCF including CPP, Family and Community Partnerships (FCP), Division on Women (DOW), etc. by both individual and family level. This section also includes footnotes with additional information about the data being reported. A question was raised regarding whether children who are receiving multiple services are counted more than once in the total number of children data. Abbie explained that there may be children that are served by both CPP and CSOC, but they will only be reported once. Katie noted that for certain data, families may be counted twice due to the nature of the services they are receiving and privacy/safety issues, i.e. domestic violence services.
- Section I: Child Protection and Permanency - contains similar data about DCP but is shown in both table and graph format. Many of the graphs that are included in this section are individual key performance measures - shown over time. A question was raised about re-entry data. Katie suggested that this was a good example of data that is of interest to the group and can be



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discussed with the consultant. Abbie also noted that there is a lot of data, including re-entry data, that can be located on the Rutgers Data Portal.

- Section II: Adolescent Services - contains data regarding older youth (18-21). The data includes the number of youth served, where they are located if they are out-of-home, and independent living assessments.
- Section III: Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit (IAIU) - contains data regarding these units that are part of DCF but not a part of DCP. IAIU investigates abuse and neglect in licensed settings.
- Section IV: Children's System of Care (CSOC) – contains data in a combination of ways in which DCF is looking at children in CSOC. Timeframes for this data may be different depending on the particular measure. Data regarding number of children in certain measures may be duplicated depending on what is being measured, i.e. Mobile Response dispatches, I/DD related calls.
- Section V: Family and Community Partnerships – data related to programs within FCP may be counted in different ways, i.e. Family Success Centers record number of families, School Based Youth Services record number of new and ongoing clients. Katie explained that there are many more programs in FCP than what is shown in this report. FCP has launched an information management strategic plan which will result in better data collection and reporting. Over time, there will be more data available to report.
- Section VI: Division on Women (DOW) – includes information related to the Sexual Assault, Abuse and Rape Care (SAARC) programs, residential domestic violence programs, and domestic violence services.
- The final sections of the report include data regarding CP&P local office caseload compliance and a 6-month view of key performance indicators by local office. A question was raised regarding low numbers in local office caseload compliance. Laura explained that DCP&P is constantly monitoring caseloads and tailors specific interventions depending on the needs of each office. Members also discussed trends in data through several 6-month periods to determine if issues that arise are a one-time issue or whether it is a theme that has been a challenge for a longer period.

Katie discussed that DCF is working to gain deeper information regarding qualitative data. The new Collaborative Quality Improvement (CoQI) process that was discussed at the previous meeting will produce different information than what is contained in this report. As the data evolves, both quantitative and qualitative, the committee may change what data they are interested in based on what information is available. Katie also addressed CoQI training for SORS members. DCF is actively working to determine the best way to bring SORS members into the CoQI training process and is hopeful that there will be more information at the next meeting.



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**Announcements**

No announcements.

Meeting Adjourned – Next meeting July 11, 2023.