

**New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect
Prevention Committee
Maura Somers Dughi, Esq, Chair
Diana Autin, Esq, Vice-Chair
November 7, 2013
9:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
Minutes**

In Attendance:

Diana Autin	Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Maureen Braun-Scalera	Rutgers School of Social Work
Carol Clark	DCF-DFCP-Office of School Linked Services
Suzanne Conrad	Consultant
Diane Dellanno	Advocates for Children New Jersey
Anthony DiFabio	Robins Nest, Inc.
Maura Dughi Somers	Child and Family Advocacy
Sunday Gustin	DCF-DFCP-Office of Early Childhood Services (OECS)
Cheryl Mojta	Child Assault Prevention Program
Michelle Rupe	DCF-Family & Community Partnerships
Rush Russell	Prevent Child Abuse-NJ
Lenore Scott	DCF-DFCP-Office of Early Childhood Services

Introduction and Review of Minutes

Introductions were made and Michelle Rupe informed the committee that Lisa von Pier would not be attending the meeting.

The September minutes were approved.

Home Visitation Presentation – Sunday Gustin and Lenore Scott

Sunday and Lenore distributed handouts for the presentation. There are 40 grantees that are involved with the partnership in collaboration with the Department of Health (DOH). DOH is the lead agency for the statewide initiative and the funding is implemented through Department of Children and Families (DCF). There is also a funding partnership with Department of Human Services (DHS) TANF, Medicaid, Addictions, Juvenile Justice, Department of Education (DOE), model developers (which includes Nurse Family Partnership (NFP), Home Visitation Models (Healthy Families), Parents as Teachers (PAT)). There is a small visitation program in Bergen County which is the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPO) program. The models are evidence-based models being used in New Jersey. The current funding (state and federal) totals \$22 million dollars. All the models are research driven, strength based, family centered and start in pregnancy or before. The programs are voluntary, long term and all the enrollment criteria are the same except for NFP. NFP graduate at age 2 and they are linked to an early head start program or a quality preschool program. All the staff is at the bachelor's level and there is a cap on caseloads because of the intensity of the work.

There is a partnership with the early head start throughout the state for the home based option. Division of Family and Community Partnership (DFCP) does not fund them directly

but work in partnership as far as providing technical assistance in making sure that they are included in the network of the home visitation services. This ensures families are receiving the same information.

In New Jersey, the home visitation programs include three models (HF, PAT, and NFP) in all 21 counties. The capacity has grown from reaching 3,000 families to now reaching 5,000 plus families, which represent each county needs. The funding, which comes from competitive grants and the partnership with Prevent Child Abuse-NJ, allowed for the capacity increase. There was discussion around the sustainability of the funding. The \$9 million of the federal funding will need to come up for reauthorization, which is critical because if it does not happen there will be a dramatic reduction of service. The committee discussed different efforts to increase funding in addition to working with ACNJ to figure out what education efforts need to take place to encourage support for reauthorization and looking at other avenues to explore for funding in the changing health care environment.

DOH has taken the initiative of central intake to the next level. There will be central intake units in 15 counties. Sunday informed the committee about the "Race to the Top" application. If received, the remaining counties will also have a central intake unit. This system will link health care, early intervention services, home visiting, child care, preschool, social services, FSC and any other supports that families need. DCF should hear in December 2013 or January 2014 about "Race to the Top" grant and if received, New Jersey will receive \$45 million dollars for four years to expand the Quality Rating Improvement (QRI). There were two components that were worked on, the Health Standards and the Family Engagement Standards. The other key concept is the "County Counsels for Young Children". There is a pilot that is funded in Cumberland County where the parents' voice is at the table along with other different agencies and community folk. A question was asked regarding the entities that were just funded by the DOH to do central intake in the new counties and if they will be surveying around home visitation. The response is that it will be connecting families to the same full range of services, which will still come through the Perinatal Risk Assessment (PRA). DOH and several of the Medicaid managed care organizations now require it. The southern consortium still manages the PRA data system, the single point of entry (SPE) for client tracking. There will be additional funding for training for providers to use this tool. Rush discussed putting together a forum/group to talk about different opportunities involving technology, what this would mean in terms of funding and future rollout as the models are built moving forward. Sunday stated that for the early childhood education, the NJ Council for Young Children is restructuring, and the data workgroup is looking at the data to see how kids are doing by third grade.

Sunday stated that DCF is the lead agency for the Early Childhood Comprehensive System (ECCS) grant. DOH was the lead agency prior and funds were used to support the NJ Parent Link. Due to the category changes with Help Me Grow, Dr. Lakota Kruse encouraged DCF to apply as the lead agency. Dr. Kruse, MD is one of OECS main contacts in DOH and oversees the federal Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV). Help Me Grow is a system that helps to link other systems of care – e.g. health, behavioral health, child care education, through a "central intake" hub. . It looks at making sure kids have a pediatrician and expanding the developmental routine screening using the standard screening tools.

The Office of Adolescent Health grant is a systems grant and the funds are specifically meant to expand and strengthen parent to parent linking programs to become more of an evidence-based program. There will be three new parent linking programs as a result. An application was submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) under the prevention priority. If received in January, it will be looking at sustainability and how to strengthen the concept of central intake of the single point of entry. Diana will reach out to the new director of the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) and get a sense from them about what they are hearing regarding home visitation. It was also discussed that meetings should take place with New Jersey representatives regarding home visitation. In the past, Senators have signed legislation for home visitation.

Maura mentioned the home visiting workgroup; a coalition of over 70 agencies, organizations, individuals, state public and private in New Jersey who are interested, practicing or researching home visiting. This is a group that the committee needs to keep informed moving forward to ensure that the message is unified.

The committee was informed that Sunday, Lenore and others are working on an Infant/Toddler policy agenda to meet within the next couple of weeks and to determine where to move this forward on the state and federal level.

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) of Home Visiting - Lenore Scott

Lenore discussed the CQI process. It has been developed to ensure funding, to show results, and to demonstrate that the work being done is actually working. Work is being done with DCP&P and NJ SPIRIT data to see and match the information on home visiting and align it with some of the child protection data of the six targeted areas (Improved Maternal and Newborn Health, Child Injuries, Child Abuse and Neglect, and Reducing Emergency Department Visits, Improvements in School Readiness & Achievement, Domestic Violence, Family Economic Self-Sufficiency and Coordination & Referrals for Community Resources). With looking at the data, 20% of the moms have been involved with child protection at one point in their lives. In the CQI subcommittee, more analyses are being done to see what else is needed moving forward.

Old Business

Standards Workgroup Update - Maura Dughi Somers

The committee sent out the last draft of the standards and no comments were received. Kerrie Ocasio has the first draft of defining prevention and Maura is almost done with the draft of an introduction and background information. It was discussed to have the final meeting on December 5th at 9:00am before the final presentation to the full committee in January 2014 and then to the Task Force. Maura will check with the other members to see if they are available. The Prevention Plan meeting will start at 10:30am on December 5th.

Prevention Plan Steering Committee Update

The committee was informed of the twenty interviews that will take place on November 12th and 13th as well as three additional focus groups. This will conclude the interviews and focus groups. The surveys will be closing out on November 8th. This will come to a conclusion by the end of the November 2013. The next step will be an all day retreat at the end of January

and a couple of decisions need to be made around that as far as who should be involved and what date to host the retreat, probably the Lafayette Yard Hotel and Conference Center formerly the Trenton Marriott. The agenda will include a look at all the data and information that has been gathered and to plan and set strategic goals and priorities for the next three to five years. The committee is looking to get a small group together to plan the agenda and talk about the conceptual framework for the plan for December 2013 or early January 2014.

Diana informed the committee of the prevention plan committee sub workgroup which will focus on the feedback from families, providers, key stakeholders and the harder data. Diana, Maura, and Rush have been working on the feedback piece and meeting with DCF and the consultants. An email will be sent out seeking people to be a part of the small workgroup. Rush will reach out to Lisa to get a timeframe on getting the data back, as well as taking a look at national data that we have access to that tells us the correlation risks around child abuse, and compare it with other states and countries in terms of best efforts. It was stated that some of the plan may include strengthening the data system with data fields that we can use specifically to make precise correlations related to abuse and neglect. The committee needs to stay focused on the resources available on the risk factors that lead to abuse and neglect and develop strategies to address the risk factors. It was stated that the committee's ability to pull data, target initiatives, track, and improving in the process will determine how successful the prevention efforts will move forward. Rush also stressed that the child sexual abuse needs to be looked at as its own set of factors and strategies going forward to include in the current plan.

Family Success Centers (FSC) – Diana Autin

The committee discussed getting a better sense of the evaluation of the impact of the FSCs. There was a presentation done less than a year ago about the work that was being done with surveys, interviews and work that is being done externally to DCF. The committee is requesting the final report and what kind of measures the FSCs were using to document their effectiveness.

Maura informed the committee that Kerrie's study will be done with her dissertation around the beginning of the year and will be made available. Part of the study will focus on five particular FSCs to see what kind of impact they can have when things go well. The National Institute through the Family Intervention Services (FIS) is working on a broader study. A report was received on July 1, 2013 from FIS which will be shared with the committee.

Head Start collaboration is a twelve month study at five sites. The committee discussed the head start collaboration with regards to the FSCs using the Family Development Matrix to measure the family progress and the impact of the program. The committee is requesting follow up information on this collaboration.

Sunday stated that DFCP has started a yearlong process with Friends Training and Technical Assistance Center. There are twenty-two programs within DFCP and all the Program Administrators are going to be doing a draft project models for the programs. On December 12th, DFCP will be meeting with a consultant from Friends Training and Technical Assistance Center to do a logic model for the DFCP. The next step will be evaluation plans, based on the logic models. The Office of Performance Management and Accountability will be working with DFCP to figure out how to evaluate the outcomes and this will be happening along with DFCP acquiring an information system. Then an implementation assessment will be done for

the FSCs based on the criteria established in the logic models. The training and technical assistance plans will be built on those efforts. The end result is to have a system of continuous quality improvement to align with the national standards.

Maura stated that she is interested in receiving data from the FSC in terms of who they are serving and how the funding gets allocated. The committee was informed of an evaluation/reporting system that was recently implemented that should be available to give the committee some data about who the FSC are serving. Rush discussed primary prevention and how work should be done with people before situations arise by providing resources and support where it might not really be needed.

New Business

Every two years, New Jersey Child Assault Prevention (CAP) hosts a luncheon to celebrate folks who work with children to highlight their hard work and dedication on child abuse and/or bullying prevention. Human trafficking will be highlighted as well. The application deadline is January 10, 2014 and fifteen winners will be selected. The luncheon will be on March 28, 2014 and about 400 people will be in attendance. The Commissioners usually attend and an invitation will be sent to the Governor. The committee members were asked to put this event on their calendars.

Next Meeting & Announcements

Workgroups Convened – next meeting January 9, 2014 – Trenton, NJ