

## Minutes of the Meeting of the NJSNCC

January 18, 2013

The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center, New Brunswick

### In Attendance:

Rebecca Benjamin (DoAS, DHS), Sharon Budka (DCF), Shellyann Dacres (Boggs Center), Juliana David (AAP, NJ Chapter), Pamela Gaston (CBVI, DHS), Bill Gaventa (Boggs Center), Janet Gwiazda (DHS), Ines Lecerf (DCF –Office of Early Childhood), Shakira Linzey (NJ Early Intervention System, CJFHC), Nick Montalto (Diversity Dynamics, LLC), Amruta More (DDD), Safiyyah Muhammad (Mom2Mom Peer Support Helpline of UBHC @ UMDNJ), Yvette Murry (YRM Consulting Group, LLC), Maria Pellerano (UMDNJ), Jennifer Rodriguez, Stephanie Rodriguez (Amerigroup), Sophia Rossovsky (Diversity Experts, Inc.), Zenaida Steinhauer (DOH), Jagdish Vasudev (United Way), Maritza Williams (Disability Rights, N.J.).

**Luncheon and Introductions:** A special luncheon was ordered to celebrate the Network's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to thank Bill Gaventa for his invaluable work and his insightful leadership, moving the Network into its present state. Bill announced in an earlier email to the Network that he will be leaving in the summer of 2013 to relocate to another State.

Attendees introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their roles in their respective agencies.

**Post Conference Results:** Zenaida provided copies of the evaluation results of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference. This was a Summary Tabulation of responses and feedback submitted by 50 respondents. Over-all, the conference was highly rated and provided useful and meaningful information to the participants. There were many positive comments offered, a list of additional topics to be covered at a future conference, as well as some suggestions to improve the next one. It was suggested that future dates be looked at to prevent holding simultaneously related conferences by other agencies and further increase the attendance rate. A more detailed copy of the Evaluation results can be obtained by emailing Zenaida Steinhauer at: [zenaida.steinhauer@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:zenaida.steinhauer@doh.state.nj.us).

**Conference Financial Reporting:** Jag Vasudev provided a report on the financial aspects of the Conference. A major part of the funds came from 2 major sponsors (Amerigroup & United Health Care). A major portion of this was used to pay for food. There was a small surplus, and United Way of Central Jersey agreed to hold the monies until the Network could decide on where to deposit it. Jag stated that United Way could only hold the monies until March 31, 2013 before it would have to be reported in their agency's tax statements. There was a lengthy discussion about the housing of these funds. Sophia Rossovsky volunteered to hold the Network's funds within her agency until members decided on how the Network should handle this. Transfer of the funds and its use will be discussed at the next meeting.

**Future Steps for the NJSNCC:** With Bill Gaventa's impending transition, it was discussed how the Network would move forward as a Coalition. A lengthy discussion on changing the status of the Network to a non-profit corporation under the NJ State law ensued. Jag stated that the process would not be complicated, and that the requirements for filing as a non-profit have become less of a challenge. He also pointed out that a non-profit corporation can charge a fee to attend a training workshop, much like the NJSNCC charging participants for its Conferences. The objective of this is to recover costs, and not to make a profit. He further explained that it does not make any changes to the mission and vision of the Network. Those would be the positive steps for moving toward a non-profit corporation. The down-side raised by participants included the fact that many State agencies stated that if the Network would become either a non-profit corporation or a 501 (c) (3), they would not be able to continue their membership in the Network. Attendance at meetings would then have to be on their own time. Further discussion on this was tabled for the next meeting. Bill Gaventa encouraged other members to step up to lead the Network in its future endeavors before he leaves.

Bill's role as the listserv 'guru' would be transitioned to Shelleyann Dacres from the Boggs Center.

**Next Meetings:** The next 2 meetings will be held on March 19 and May 21, 2013, to discuss the Network's status and to approve a "charter" for the Coalition that would include mission, vision, and organizational structure. Bill Gaventa volunteered to write a draft for circulation. Tentative plans to hold the March 19 meeting at the Central Jersey Family Health Consortium in North Brunswick were made. Shakira Linzey will let Zenaida Steinhauer know if this is confirmed.

Submitted with revisions by:

Zenaida Steinhauer