

## Executive Summary

The Citizen Review Panel (CRP) of the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse prepared a survey for distribution at the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) convention. The intent of the survey was to gather information from teachers, principals, administrators and other education personnel regarding their understanding and knowledge of child abuse and neglect policies and procedures and their actions based on that understanding and knowledge. The survey was distributed and collected at the convention on November 10-11, 2005. Data entry began in late November and was completed before the end of December. A total of 610 surveys were collected and entered for analysis. Data was compiled and analyzed for a preliminary draft presentation at the January 4, 2006 meeting of the CRP. This report examines response frequencies to all of the survey questions and also looks at the relationships between responses to selected questions. Where appropriate, statistical tests of significance were applied to the data.

To assist your review of the enclosed survey results, I have highlighted key points of the survey analysis, which include:

- Statistically, this analysis primarily reflects the responses of teachers, in that 66.7% of respondents, or 407 out of 610, were teachers.
- The county in which a teacher (or, other school employee) was employed did not have any significant correlation to whether the respondent received training, knew of the dual reporting requirement, etc.
- 53.4% of survey respondents indicated that they have received training on recognizing child abuse and neglect.
- 49.3% of survey respondents indicated that their training on recognizing abuse and neglect was conducted by school personnel.
- 23.3% of survey respondents indicated that they had not been advised of their school's child abuse and neglect reporting policy.
- If suspecting child abuse and/or neglect, 33.1% (valid percent) of survey respondents indicated they would first contact the school nurse, 28.6% (valid percent) indicated they would first contact the school principal, while 18.9% (valid percent) indicated they would first contact Statewide Central Registry (SCR) directly.
- 53% of survey respondents indicated they were unaware they could obtain limited feedback from DYFS about their report.
- Of the number of respondents who left written suggestions for improvement (# = 175), 25.1% suggested in-service education/training/workshops in schools by DYFS and 15.4% suggested training on procedures/policies.

To be certain, this survey and its results, do not answer all of the questions the CRP has concerning the connection between child protection and education in New Jersey; this is in part due to the fact that the survey missed asking some key questions and also in part

due to the fact that this is the first survey, related to this topic, that this panel has issued. Hindsight is 20/20. What is also certain, however, is that these results raise critical concerns. For example, it is clear, and very significant that of the 600+ respondents, only 53.4% indicated that they had been trained on recognizing abuse and neglect. Ought all educators to receive training on recognizing child abuse and neglect? Further, it is significant that 23.3% of the respondents were unaware of their schools' reporting policy.

Expert training on child abuse and neglect detection and clarity of school reporting policies and procedures are critical in the effort to protect New Jersey's children.

We invite you to review the enclosed materials.

Respectfully submitted,

Keeva Kase, Chair