

Eastern Citizens Review Panel  
Meeting Minutes  
September 19, 2014

*Attendees:*

Angela Baris	Lance Jackson	JoAnn Merriman
Edward Blatt	Mary McCarthy	
Sharon Chesna	Maureen McLoughlin	

*Guests:*

OCFS:	Kristin Gleeson	
WRI:	William Dorr	Evelyn Butler

*Absent:* Carrie Jefferson Smith Hector Ramirez

*Handouts:*

Agenda

Eastern Panel Meeting Minutes April 30, 2014

Joint Panel Meeting Minutes June 13, 2014

Child Welfare and Children of Incarcerated Parents

National Association of Social Workers - NASW Standards for Social Work Practice in Child Welfare  
Protocols for Case Review for CPS Panels

The Office of Children and Family Services' Response: New York State's Citizen Review Panels 2013  
Report and Recommendations

Child Welfare Workforce

A Public Health Approach to Child Welfare

Department of Education Letter May 30, 2014

GAO Report to Congressional Requesters May 2014 – Foster Care: HHS Needs to Improve Oversight of  
Fostering Connections Act Implementation

Heroin Epidemic Sending More Kids to Foster Care by Joe LoTempio, Press-Republican, Sunday, June 22,  
2014

Number of Homeless Children Explodes in State, *Albany – Times Union*

The meeting began with a welcome and introductions. Mary McCarthy chaired the meeting in Carrie Smith's absence.

**Protocols for CRP Reviews of Cases and Reports (Angela Baris)**

The panel expressed concern that it did not have protocols for case specific reviews. The issues of confidentiality and the process by which a referral to the panel would be handled were discussed. The Panel will invite OCFS to participate in the next meeting to continue this discussion.

OCFS Response to 2013 Panel Report (Kristin Gleeson)

**Preventive Services**

Local districts plan within their budget for the provision of Preventive Services. The panel would like to see funding at 75% (current funding is 62% state and 38% local). Preventive services are seen as having

a positive impact since foster care rates are going down. Successful programs such as Home Visiting, Healthy Families NY and Public/Private partnerships (fund 18 programs) are noted by the panel as critically important and need to be continued. These programs are operated state-wide. The panel will be provided with a list of those Public/Private Programs which are funded by OCFS.

### **Family Assessment Response (FAR)**

OCFS supports 22 local social services districts (LDSS) that practice Family Assessment Response (FAR). Support includes OCFS funding, training and coaching to LDSS' and state conducted case reviews to look at current practices and trends. OCFS continues outreach to additional LDSS' to assist them pre and post implementation. A focus of NYS is maintaining consistency when implementing programs and doing so through training and ongoing case reviews. The panel encourages NYS to expand The FAR program where possible and it is encouraged by the positive impacts of FAR.

The panel is interested in financial incentives to local districts becoming FAR counties.

The next meeting should include a presentation on the Child Welfare Practice Model being developed by OCFS.

### **Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality (DMR)**

Research data indicates that children of color are over represented in the child welfare system. Racial equity and cultural training for staff is still an ongoing effort for OCFS and LDSS staff. The challenge also is determining how to be most effective in creating systematic change.

OCFS brought in national experts and looking to find out how FAR can reduce DMR.

The Panel supports the work and effort by OCFS to create opportunities for change that will build stronger families for the future.

### **State Education Department (SED) Data on Educational Outcomes**

Memorandum of Agreement has been approved by SED and OCFS. The goal is to use the relevant data as an assessment tool to look at kids in care first and expand to kids in the entire CW system.

The panel supports the use of data in decision making and moving toward change in the system.

### **KinGap**

The panel is interested in whether kinship funding can be removed from the foster care block grant. The adoption subsidy model was cited as an example of a funding stream that could be duplicated for kinship funding. Within this discussion, the panel expressed concern about the increase in drug use, in particular, the spike in heroin and how this is impacting families.

The panel discussed the mental health urgent care centers as a model for treatment.

### **Workforce**

The Panel supports the "1 pager" on Child Welfare Workforce. The panel believes that the workforce continues to be a priority. There was discussion about the educational background that is relevant to case work roles and responsibilities. The panel would like to know more about the OCFS training plans

for child welfare supervisors. OCFS will be asked to update the panel on the supervisory training model, BASSICS/KEYS.

### **Incarcerated Parents**

There was discussion and concern expressed about children of incarcerated parents. The Panel believes this may be a larger issue in other parts of the state where incarceration may be more prevalent and there are more prisons. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting since several panel members who may have more information on the topic were not able to attend today.

The Panel would like to find out if there are data sources linking number of SCR reports to children of incarcerated parents.

### **Undocumented Children**

The Panel is interested in knowing more about the impact of undocumented children here, as well as other parts of the state. A request was made for further discussion about undocumented children at the next meeting.

Thanks to Kristin Gleeson from OCFS and all panel members who could attend and participate and to Mary McCarthy for chairing the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

The next meeting for the Eastern Panel is December 12, 2014 at OCFS, Room 200 South.