

Eastern Citizen Review Panel for Child Protective Services

Meeting Summary September 19, 2019 • 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Attendees:

Eastern Panel Members

Eunju Lee
Sharon Chesna
Kathy Halas
JoAnn Merriman
Carrie Smith

OCFS

Shelly Fiebich-Aubertine

Welfare Research, Inc.

Jennifer Goldman
Ariela Perez-Wallach

Handouts

Draft Recruitment Flyer
Eastern Western Joint Meeting Minutes 5.2.19

Welcome – *Sharon Chesna, Eastern Panel Chair*

Recruitment Flyer – *Jennifer Goldman*

- Ms. Goldman shared the draft recruitment flyer for prospective members with the Panels and asked that any feedback be sent via email. It was also suggested that the Panel Members start to think about new recruitments, specifically in rural counties to diversify representation.

Annual Report

- The Panel Members will focus on the annual report on child welfare workforce improvement, specifically retention and recruitment. Recommendations included improving supervision and training, scholarships and loan forgiveness funds, and the reinstatement of Title IV-E money. Partnerships with local schools of social work was also discussed. The report will be released to the public in January 2020.

OCFS Updates – *Shelly Fiebich-Aubertine*

- Current Workforce Initiatives – OCFS re-convened a workgroup to focus on the child welfare workforce, developing data driven strategies to improve retention and recruitment.

- Family First Act Implementation – Another webinar happened in July which introduced county specific data packets in regards to foster homes. This webinar also stressed the importance of the role of Home Finders within the Family First Act. The next webinar will be held on October 3rd, focusing on administrative review teams.
- Raise the Age Implementation – As of September, all 13 agencies have opened their Raise the Age programs and that the data is being tracked very carefully. Phase 2 will be approaching in October, which will allow 17-year olds to be eligible.
- Implementation of Erin’s Law – Erin’s Law is specific to the State Education Department, and that the curriculum will be created within the State Education Department.
- CFSR PIP Updates – OCFS passed the first case review and that all planned activities are ongoing.
- Other Updates – The MAPS data for foster care admissions and CPS reports for the first 6 months of 2019 are being compiled and will be distributed to panel members when completed. At first glance, it was reported that there was a decrease in admissions to foster care and the number of reports decreased slightly, but the types of reports did not change. Shelly reported that OCFS is in the process of developing the framework application and budget for a parent advisory board.

October Roundtable Event

- Panel members discussed the purpose will focus child welfare workforce issues. Panel members discussed potential stakeholders to invite.

Next Steps

- Next CRP Event – October 10th, 2019
- Roundtable planning call with Chairs
- Strategy for panel member recruitment