

Eastern Citizen Review Panel for Child Protective Services

Meeting Summary

March 22, 2019 • 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Zoom Conference

Attendees:

Eastern Panel Members

Mary McCarthy

Sharon Chesna

Welfare Research, Inc. (WRI)

Ariela Perez-Wallach

Ellen Unruh

Guests

Bridget Walsh, Schuyler Center for Analysis
and Advocacy (SCAA)

Alicia Peet, Social Media consultant

Anya Mukarji-Connolly, State Central Register
(SCR) Coalition

Lisa Gordon, Office of Children and Family
Services (OCFS)

Jennifer Maurici, OCFS

Handouts

Agenda

Eastern CRP Meeting Minutes -9.20.18

Home Visiting letter signed by Fahy

NYS CRP Social Media overview

Article – Fostering Change

SCR Bill memo

SCR One Pager 2019

SCR Proposed Bill Draft 2019

Welcome – *Mary McCarthy, Panel Chair*

First 1,000 Days on Medicaid Home Visiting Pilot – *Bridget Walsh, SCAA*

- Ms. Walsh provided an update on the First 1,000 Day on Medicaid Home Visiting Pilot, which is still in the initial development phase. The charge of the workgroup is examine and make recommendations as to how Medicaid funding can be used to fund home visiting services, potentially increasing the reach of programs to more families in need.
- The pilot workgroup is teaming up with Medicaid, OCFS and the NYS Department of Health to create community systems that will support home visiting and expanding those services, along with increased funding from Medicaid.
- The workgroup's next meeting is in early April 2019, where they will further discuss the challenges and opportunities of the pilot.

Social Media Update – *Alicia Peet, Social Media Consultant*

- Ms. Peet reported on the status of the CRP Facebook and Twitter pages, and discussed how the panel members can interact with the pages. She also reviewed how the panel members can share content to increase awareness of the work of the CRP.

Proposed SCR Legislation – *Anya Mukarji-Connolly, SCR Coalition*

- Anya, a member of the SCR Coalition, reported on proposed legislation to reform the State Central Registry. The proposed legislation would:
 - 1) Remove unnecessary and unfair employment barriers for parents by automatically sealing indicated reports of neglect after 5 years.
 - 2) Ensure that SCR reports are amended and sealed when a Family Court Judge determines there is not sufficient evidence of abuse or neglect.
 - 3) Allow Fair Hearing judges to consider evidence of a parent's rehabilitation whenever considering whether to seal an indicated report. The panel members agreed to sign onto a letter of support for the new proposed legislation.

OCFS Updates - *Lisa Gordon and Jennifer Maurici, OCFS*

- Ms. Gordon and Ms. Maurici updated the panels on the OCFS Training Center, which will be officially opening shortly.
- They also provided an update on County Plans. Themes from the plans included: quality of CPS investigations, developing informed decision making process, enhancing youth voice in the permanency planning process, improving process of foster care, and increasing engagement of community support.
- On Raise the Age implementation, 13 voluntary agencies submitted requests to provide programming. The voluntary agencies have been asked to bring in local law enforcement in order to collaborate better on this issue. OCFS continues to offer learning collaboratives for agencies to improve implementation.
- OCFS continues to provide monthly webinars and update the Family First readiness page on the OCFS website, which provides checklists to agencies on what to do to prepare for implementation.

Debrief and Next Steps

- Panel chair and co-chair elections will be held at next meeting.
- Panel members decided to focus on child welfare workforce issues.
- Next meeting:
 - Thursday, May 2, 10:30am-11:30am, Zoom Conference