

Eastern Citizen Review Panel for Child Protective Services

Meeting Summary

March 5, 2020 • 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

OCFS Home Office, 52 Washington Street, Rensselaer, NY

Participants:

Eastern Panel Members

Mary McCarthy

Sharon Chesna

JoAnn Merriman

Carrie Jefferson Smith

3 for 5 Campaign

Bill Gettman

Glenn Liebman

NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)

Shelly Aubertine-Fiebich

Rensselaer County Department of Social Services (DSS)

Cara Brown

Welfare Research, Inc. (WRI)

Jennifer Goldman

Handouts

Agenda 3.5.2020

Joint CRP Minutes 1.28.2020

3 for 5 Campaign Handout

Family First Prevention Services Act PowerPoint

Welcome – Mary McCarthy, Panel Co-Chair

3 for 5 Campaign

- Bill Gettman, CEO of Northern Rivers, and Glenn Liebman, CEO of Mental Health Association in NYS, joined the meeting to discuss the 3 for 5 campaign, supported by the Panels in the 2019 Annual Report. The 3 for 5 campaign is asking for a 3% increase on state contracts with human service agencies for each of the next five years. Forty to fifty groups have signed on to the campaign in support, including the NYS CRPs.
- The Panel Members, Mr. Gettman, and Mr. Liebman then discussed how the Panels can be more supportive of the campaign, including being active participants in the 3 for 5 social media campaign.
- Panel Co-Chair Mary McCarthy thanked Mr. Gettman and Mr. Liebman for joining the meeting.

Preparation for Family First in Rensselaer County – *Cara Brown*

- Cara Brown, Children and Family Services Manager at the Rensselaer County DSS, joined the meeting to discuss Rensselaer County's preparation for implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act. Rensselaer County is utilizing preparation funds to work with a consultant to identify implementation strategies and develop a work plan. Some of the strategies of focus include partnering with a service agency to increase kinship placements, weekly meetings to discuss placements of children in congregate care settings, recruiting more foster homes willing to accept teens, increasing supports for foster parents, and increasing cross-system meetings with other county departments.
- Panel members expressed interest in inviting Ms. Brown back to the September meeting to discuss Rensselaer County's progress, successes, and challenges in the implementation of the work plan.
- Panel Co-Chair Mary McCarthy thanked Ms. Brown for joining the meeting.

NYS OCFS Updates – *Shelly Aubertine-Fiebich*

- The workforce workgroup last met in September 2019 and is examining strategies for improving NYS' child welfare workforce such as revising civil service testing and candidate qualifications, a statewide recruitment media campaign, agency-university partnerships, and improving racial equity and representation in the workforce.
- OCFS continues to prepare NYS for the implementation of the Family First Act. Information about available funding and resources is on the OCFS website.
- Notification of case outcome letters for mandated reporters continue to be generated through CONNECTIONS.
- Raise the Age placements for juvenile justice involved youth ages 16 to 17 continues to slowly grow as the State completes the transition.
- The implementation team for the Statewide Parent Advisory Group has recommended membership for 15 applicants and 2 alternatives. The Parent Advisory Group members; comprised of birth, kin, or adoptive parents with lived experience in the child welfare system; will provide the State with guidance on programs and policies and each serve a two-year term.
- OCFS will be initiating a start-up meeting for the newly formed Statewide Child Fatality Review Team.
- Panel Co-Chair Mary McCarthy thanked Shelly Aubertine-Fiebich for providing the OCFS updates.

Debrief and Next Steps

- Panel Members discussed recruitment efforts and meeting topics/guests for upcoming meetings.
- Panel Co-Chair Mary McCarthy adjourned the meeting.
- Next Eastern Panel Meeting – Friday May 8th 9:30 am to 11:00 am