

Eastern Citizen Review Panel for Child Protective Services

Meeting Summary September 20, 2018 • 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Attendees

Panel Members

Edward Blatt, Panel Chair
Carrie Jefferson Smith
Kathy Halas
Sharon Chesna
Joann Merriman

OCFS

Amy Papandrea

Welfare Research, Inc.

Jennifer Goldman
Ellen Unruh

Handouts

Agenda
Minutes 5.3.18

Debrief From August Advocacy Day

Jennifer Goldman and Kathy Halas

- Panel members in attendance included Stan Capela (NYC), Mary McCarthy (Eastern), Kathy Halas (Eastern), and Jennifer Goldman (WRI)
- Panel members met with Assembly Member Fahy, Senator Amedore's Chief of Staff, Republican Senate Finance Committee Staff, Staff from the Division of Budget
- All meeting participants were supportive of home visiting but also discussed challenges with competing demands in the State budget.
- Feedback from meetings was to keep focusing on a singular issue and align with other advocacy groups

Welfare Research, Inc. Update

Jennifer Goldman

- Planning for the CRP Fall Home Visiting Symposium, tentatively scheduled in October.
- A letter recommending changes to CONNECTIONS to automate notification letters to mandated reporters was sent to OCFS on the Panels' behalf.

NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) Updates

Amy Papandrea

- Family First Act – OCFS hosted a webinar, available on the OCFS homepage, and continues to host convenings to determine NYS course of action regarding implementation.
- Raise the Age – Thirteen agencies have been certified to serve the Raise the Age population. OCFS holds monthly learning collaboratives with the certified agencies to discuss plans and barriers
- Family Assessment Response (FAR) – OCFS continues to support counties that have implemented FAR and work with counties considering the implementation of FAR. OCFS

has also been examining data from FAR cases to look for program fidelity and lessons learned. OCFS is considering hosting a gathering of FAR counties to share best practice ideas.

- Child and Family Service Review – The Program Improvement Plan has officially been approved by the federal government. Staff at OCFS are meeting quarterly to monitor implementation timelines. Implementation is currently on target.
- The new caseworker training center is still on target to open in January 2019. OCFS is hiring an additional 30 trainers to staff the training center.
- No new home visiting report.

Local Advocacy Planning

- Panel members discussed using template letters, emails, and social media posts to increase advocacy efforts.
- Some panel members offered to meet with legislators in person after the November election.
- Panel members discussed having a virtual “advocacy camp” for those members new to advocacy.

Next Steps

- Eastern panel will hold Panel Chair elections at the next meeting in March 2019
- Jennifer Goldman will send out a survey for 2019 meeting planning.
- Panel members will continue to maintain contact with legislators
- Next meetings
 - Joint Panel Symposium – October 11, 2018