

Joint Citizen Review Panels for Child Protective Services

Meeting Summary October 14, 2021 • 10:00-11:30a.m.

Attendees:

Eastern Panel Members

Mary McCarthy
KellyAnn Kostyal-Larrier
Eunju Lee
Carrie Jefferson Smith

NYC Panel Members

Stanley Capela
David Lansner
Marion White
Mathea Rubin
Karen Steinberg
Wayne Ho

Western Panel Members

Ellen Kennedy
Sarlyn Tate

Welfare Research, Inc.

Jennifer Goldman
Ellen Unruh
Jason Tessolecki

Guests

Professor Anna Arons, NYU School of Law

Handouts

Meeting Agenda 10.14.21
Joint CRP Planning Meeting Minutes 6.10.21
History of Parental Neglect
Reports during COVID-19/Journal of Race & Law
Summary of an Unintended Abolition/Family Reporting
During the Covid-19 Crisis

Welcome – Mary McCarthy, Eastern Panel Co-Chair

Mary McCarthy welcome Panel members and guest and reviewed the agenda. She then introduced Professor Anna Arons.

Discussion with Professor Anna Arons, NYU School of Law

Professor Anna Arons is an Acting Assistant Professor of Lawyering at the New York University School of Law. Her research focuses on the government's regulation and policing of families and the intersection of parental rights and race, gender, and poverty. Prior to joining the Lawyering faculty, she was a public defender in the family defense practice of Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, where she represented parents in cases where the government was attempting to remove their children from their care or otherwise impinge on their rights. She received her bachelor's degree from Barnard College and her law degree from Yale Law School. After law school, she clerked for Judge Andrew L. Carter on the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Professor Arons provided highlights from her research on the impact of COVID-19 on children's safety and child welfare cases. According to NYC Administration for Children's Services data, the size of the child welfare system shrunk to half its normal size during the height of COVID-19, and yet children remained safe. While there was less observation from mandated reporters such as teachers, community supports increased allowing families to meet their needs without intervention from the child welfare system.

The Panels and Professor Arons discussed anonymous vs. confidential reporting and the trauma caused by unnecessary CPS investigations. The Panels talked about utilizing the findings of the report to advocate for a better child welfare workforce and reshaping the child welfare system to be less investigatory and more supportive for families.

The Professor committed to sharing a more updated report and summary to Ms. Goldman, who will share with the Panels.

The Panel continued the discussion of anonymous/confidential reporting and ways to improve the mandated reporter system (improved training, especially for teachers, etc.).

Finalize 2021 Annual Report Recommendations

Jennifer Goldman launched a poll on topics to possibly be included for the 2021 Annual Report. After discussion, the Panel Members on the call agreed that it was best to send the poll to all members to further scale down the recommendation list.

Ms. Goldman will send out a survey to all Panel members with the edited annual report topics, members are to pick three or four and return within a week's time. Ms. Goldman reviewed the outline of the process for creating/processing the Annual Report.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:40 a.m.

Next CRP Meetings: TBD