

NYS Citizen Review Panels (CRP) for Child Protective Services

Home Visiting Symposium Summary
October 11, 2018 • 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Moderator: Mary McCarthy, Eastern Panel Co-Chair

Opening Remarks: NYS Assemblymember Patricia Fahy

Panelist: Jenn O'Connor, Prevent Child Abuse NY
Kari Siddiqui, Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
Bernadette Johnson, NYS Office of Children and Family Services
Dr. Kirsten Kirkland, NYS Office of Children and Family Services
Heather Daly, Healthy Schenectady Families

Approximately 50 attendees in the audience

Handouts

Agenda

CRP 2017 Annual Report

CRP Overview

Healthy Families NY Study

Symposium Evaluation Form

Welcome and Introductions – *Mary McCarthy, Eastern CRP Co-Chair*

Eastern Panel Co-Chair Mary McCarthy welcomed the participants and provided a brief overview of the purpose, goals, and work of the CRPs. She then introduced NYS Assemblymember Patricia Fahy, who provided opening remarks.

Opening Remarks – *NYS Assemblymember Patricia Fahy*

NYS Assemblymember Patricia Fahy provided opening remarks for the Home Visiting Symposium. She acknowledged home visiting as a promising strategy for strengthening families and improving quality of life for children, the cost-saving potential, and the need for more funding to support and expand programs across the State. However, Assemblymember Fahy also discussed the challenges facing the NYS budget and many competing priorities requiring funding. Assemblymember Fahy would like to encourage her colleagues to learn more about home visiting and connect the work of home visiting programs to larger issues, such as improving maternal health, to increase chances for expanded funding. Assemblymember Fahy then thanked the Panels and advocates for their efforts to strengthen NYS' families and children.

Panel Discussion

Ms. McCarthy thanked Assemblymember Fahy for her remarks and then asked each panelist to introduce themselves and provide an overview of the work they are doing in relation to home visiting.

Jenn O'Connor, Director of Policy and Advocacy at Prevent Child Abuse NY (PCANY), shared updates on the status of the Home Visiting Coordination Initiative. PCANY received funding in the current state budget to develop a website and webinar series. The purpose of this initiative is to develop a core training across all

home visiting models as well as improve coordination between programs. Ms. O'Connor will be seeking additional funding in the next budget cycle to expand the initiative.

Kari Siddiqui, Policy Analyst at the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy (SCAA), talked about the work of the Home Visiting Workgroup. The workgroup has been convening for approximately 12 years and explores issues impacting the delivery of home visiting services. The workgroup is comprised of advocates, representatives from different home visiting program models, and staff from the state agencies that administer home visiting funds. Ms. Siddiqui also discussed the First 1000 Days on Medicaid Initiative, led by the SCAA, among other organizations. The First 1000 Days Initiative will pilot the use of Medicaid money to fund home visiting sites. If successful, this funding strategy has the potential to improve the sustainability of home visiting programs across the State.

Bernadette Johnson, Healthy Families NY (HFNY) Program Coordinator at the NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), provided an overview of the HFNY programs in NYS. Her overview included funding sources for HFNY, program eligibility, and the program model. Ms. Johnson also shared that there are currently 43 HFNY programs across the State, including 15 in NYC.

Dr. Kirsten Kirkland, HFNY Research and Evaluation Coordinator at the NYS OCFS, summarized a recently completed longitudinal study on the impact of participation in the HFNY program. According to the seven-year results, researchers saw a reduction in low birth weights; increased access to care and services; increased school success; and most notably, a 50% reduction in child maltreatment.

Heather Daly, Program Director at Healthy Schenectady Families, provided insight on local level implementation of HFNY.

Discussion/Q&A

Ms. McCarthy thanked the panelists for their overviews and then invited the attendees to ask questions and engage in discussion with the panelists. Discussion themes included the use of qualitative data to improve service delivery and outcomes; the impact of staff turnover and retention strategies; the increase of immigrant and refugee families participating in programs; and how to best make home visiting funding a priority for the NYS Governor and the Legislature.

Closing

Ms. McCarthy thanked everyone for participating in the Home Visiting Symposium and announced that panelists' materials will be available on the CRP website at www.citizenreviewpanelsny.org.