

# Joint Citizen Review Panel for Child Protective Services

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## Planning Meeting Summary January 29, 2019 • 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

### Attendees:

#### Eastern Panel Members

Edward Blatt  
Mary McCarthy  
JoAnn Merriman  
Carrie Jefferson Smith  
Kathleen Thornton Halas

#### Western Panel Members

Ellen Kennedy  
Sarlyn Tate  
Karl Wiggins

#### NYC Panel Members

David Lansner  
Stanley Capela  
Marion White  
Wayne Ho

#### Welfare Research, Inc.

Jennifer Goldman  
Ellen Unruh  
Ariela Perez-Wallach

### Handouts

Agenda  
Phone Call Script template  
Talking Points template  
Email template  
Letter Writing template  
2018 CRP Meeting Topics Survey  
Results summary

### Welcome and Introductions

#### **Update on Annual Report Distribution** – *Ariela Perez-Wallach, WRI*

- Ms. Perez-Wallach reported on the distribution of the Annual Report, which was sent to the following:
  - OCFS Regional Offices
  - ACS
  - DSS Commissioners
  - Voluntary Agency directors
  - Legislators
  - DOB
  - Various news outlets across NYS
- Panel members suggested additional recipients.

## **Update on Social Media Consultant – Jennifer Goldman, WRI**

- Ms. Goldman reported that Alicia Peet, the Social Media Consultant, is in the process of creating proposals for Twitter and Facebook accounts for CRP.
  - CRP Twitter account is up and running (@nyscrp).
  - CRP Facebook page is forthcoming.

## **Home Visiting Awareness Planning**

- Templates and the online tracker were reviewed and discussed.
- Panel members agreed to the goal of contacting one person (legislator, committee member, etc.) by March 1, 2019.
- Panel members discussed upcoming meetings with NYS Legislators.

## **Priorities for 2019**

- The 2018 CRP Priority Survey results were reviewed and discussed. The main priorities continue to be:
  - Workforce development in child welfare
  - Home visiting
  - The current opioid crisis and its effect on the foster care system
  - Homelessness and poverty

## **Next Steps**

- Panel members agreed to the following:
  - Continue to champion expanding funding for home visiting, including examining how home visiting can potentially address the opioid crisis in NYS.
  - Focus on workforce development issues in child welfare.
  - Contact one person (legislator, committee member, etc) by March 1, 2019.
  - Send February availability to Miss Perez-Wallach or Mrs. Goldman to schedule legislative meetings.
- Next In-Person meetings:
  - Eastern – March 7, 2019
  - Western – March 15, 2019
  - New York City – March 19, 2019