

NYC Citizen Review Panel for Child Protective Services

Meeting Summary

March 19, 2019 • 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Administration for Children's Services, 150 Williams Street, NYC

Attendees:

NYC Panel Members

Stanley Capela
David Lansner
Marion White
Jocelyn Brown
Jorge Saenz de Viteri

Welfare Research, Inc. (WRI)

Jennifer Goldman
Ariela Perez-Wallach

Guests

Alicia Peet, Social Media Consultant (by phone)
Chris Gottlieb & Joyce MacMillan, State Central Register (SCR) Coalition
Lisa Gordon & Jennifer Maurici, NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) (by phone)

NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS)

Aysha Schomburg
Sonia Gonzalez
Rachel Natelson
Andrew White
Tim Roche
Eric Brettschneider
Alyson Grant
Derrick Hinds
Roslyn Norrell-Fleming

Handouts

Agenda
NYC CRP Meeting Minutes 9.18.18
Assembly Fahy Home Visiting letter
Article – Fostering Change
NYSCR Social Media overview
ACS Budget Function 2019

Welcome – *David Lansner, Panel Chair*

Social Media Update – *Alicia Peet, Social Media Consultant*

- Ms. Peet reported on the status of the CRP Facebook and Twitter pages and discussed how the panel members can interact with the pages and share the content to increase awareness of the work of the CRP.

ACS Updates – *ACS Staff Members*

- *Implementation of Raise the Age (RTA) – Tim Roche*
Mr. Roche reported that RTA implementation is underway. ACS is in the process of hiring additional youth development staff. RTA will be fully implemented by October 1st, 2019.
- *Data and Trends on Removals – Derrick Hinds & Roslyn Norrell-Fleming*
Mr. Hinds and Ms. Norrell-Fleming reported a significant reduction in court ordered supervision and removals due to strengthened assessment and removal oversight.
- *Workforce - First Deputy Commissioner (FDC) Eric Brettschneider*
FDC Brettschneider reported that caseloads and worker turnover are both decreasing. Recently, tablets were distributed to field workers to increase connectivity with the office and efficiency in the field. He also shared that ACS has created an office focusing on employee wellness. Preliminary feedback is quite positive.
- *Educational Policies/Services – Sonia Gonzalez & Rachel Natelson*
ACS is expanding education data sharing practices in an effort to better coordinate across city agencies. For example, the early intervention monthly data match helps identify children, who may need early intervention. A task force has been created to focus on youth with absenteeism challenges. ACS is working with the NYC Department of Education to create comprehensive guidance on the educational rights of students in foster care. In 2017, ACS entered a partnership with CUNY to provide college success support, a 24-hour wrap around service including advisement, tutors, and general support. This program has shown positive outcomes such as increasing GPA's of students.
- *Predictive Analytics – Andrew White*
Mr. White reported that ACS continues to explore the use of predictive analytics to flag at risk cases for further review. Panel members again requested to be representatives on the Predictive Analytics Advisory Board.
- *Trends in Length of Time in Care and Preventive Services – Andrew White*
Mr. White reported that, in general, 1 out of 29 cases results in a removal, with a significant number of those cases involving domestic violence. Re-entry into care has been decreasing. This can be attributed to the availability of services at home, frontline

staff obtaining structured decision making tools, , and an increased focus on improving safety assessments.

Proposed SCR Legislation – *Chris Gottlieb and Joyce MacMillan, SCR Coalition*

- Chris Gottlieb and Joyce MacMillan, members of the SCR Coalition, reported on proposed changes to State Central Register. The proposed legislation would:
 - 1) Remove unnecessary and unfair employment barriers for parents by automatically sealing indicated reports of neglect after 5 years.
 - 2) Ensure that SCR reports are amended and sealed when a Family Court Judge determines there is not sufficient evidence of abuse or neglect.
 - 3) Allow Fair Hearing judges to consider evidence of a parent’s rehabilitation whenever considering whether to seal an indicated report.

The panel members agreed to sign onto a letter of support for the new proposed legislation.

OCFS Updates - *Lisa Gordon and Jennifer Maurici, OCFS*

- Impact of Executive Budget on OCFS – Funds are included in the budget for Family First and Raise the Age implementation. Most other program areas received flat funding.
- Family First implementation – New York has requested a delay to fully prepare all stakeholders for implementation.
- Notification of mandated reporters through CONNECTIONS – OCFS continues to develop an automated process where mandated reporters will receive notification of a case outcome.

Chair Elections and Next Steps

- The panel members elected Stanley Capela as chair and David Lansner as co-chair.
- The panel members discussed the recruitment of new panel members and requested a recruitment packet.
- Next meeting
 - Tuesday, April 30, 10:00am-11:00am, Zoom Conference