

**New York City Citizen Review Panel (CRP)
Meeting Summary
March 20, 2018
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Attendees:

Panel Members: David Lansner, Stanley Capela, Jocelyn Brown, Marion White, Mathea Rubin (by phone)

Guests: Sandra Davidson, ACS
Eric Ferrero, ACS
Jennifer Fellman, ACS
David Nish, ACS
Aysha Schomburg, ACS
Stephanie Gendell, Citizens' Committee for Children (by phone)
Lisa Gordon, OCFS (by phone)
Jenn O'Connor, Prevent Child Abuse New York (by phone)

WRI Staff: Jennifer Goldman, CRP Coordinator and Program Specialist
Darlene Ward, Executive Director (by phone)

Handouts:

- Agenda
- NYC CRP Minutes 12.5.17
- CRP Meeting Topic Survey Results
- ACS letter to Governor Cuomo
- ACS Youth Survey
- Foster Care Unprepared for Drug Epidemic article
- Cliff notes on Family First Act
- COA article
- HV Coordinator Proposal
- If We Had a Crystal Ball article
- Injury Mortality
- Senator Pamela Helming letter
- SCAA First 1000 Days on Medicaid handout

Agenda Item: Welcome and Introductions

David Lansner, Panel Chair

Panel Chair David Lansner convened the meeting.

Agenda Item: CRP Advocacy Day Debrief

Stanley Capela, Panel Co-Chair

Panel Co-Chair Stanley Capela debriefed CRP Advocacy Day held on February 13, 2018. Mr. Capela shared that Panel Chairs met with legislative staff from both political parties as well as staff from the NYS Division of Budget, and Committee on Children and Families staff (from both the Senate and Assembly). The CRP proposal for additional home visiting funding was well received. However, the current budget climate and many competing budget asks from other organizations makes full funding for home visiting unlikely, despite general consensus on the effectiveness of the program. Staff appreciated the Panels' clear and singular budget ask for home visiting funding as well the provided district specific data. Staff also conveyed that the Panels should consider starting advocacy earlier in the budget process.

Agenda Item: WRI Updates

Jennifer Goldman, WRI

CRP Coordinator Jennifer Goldman provided brief updates from Welfare Research, Inc. (WRI) as well as a summary of the recent Home Visiting Workgroup meeting. At the meeting, Kate Breslin, Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy CEO, shared updates on the First 1000 Days on Medicaid initiative which include a proposal for a pilot program to examine the use of Medicaid money to fund home visiting program slots.

Agenda Item: NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) Updates

ACS Staff

ACS staff joined the meeting to provide various updates. Eric Ferrero, Deputy Commissioner External Affairs provided an overview of the current state budget proposals from both the NYS legislature and Executive office and the potential impacts on child welfare services in New York City. He also described ACS efforts to advocate for restoration of the proposed budget cuts.

At the request of panel members, Jennifer Fellman from the ACS Office of Accountability discussed concerns regarding outreach to voluntary agencies by the NYC Department of Investigation (DOI). Ms. Fellman shared that the DOI is taking an interest in how ACS monitors voluntary agencies and will be issuing a report of potential recommendations.

Associate Commissioner David Nish delivered updates on ACS training initiatives. He described new initiatives at the Workforce Institute including the addition of various courses, the development of training simulation space and new e-learning opportunities.

Sandra Davidson, Director of Program Development with the Division of Child Protection, discussed the expansion of Family Assessment Response throughout NYC. ACS is methodically implementing the use of FAR in Queens, Brooklyn and North Bronx to build on the existing competencies of staff and hopes to have citywide implementation by the end of 2020.

Panel members inquired about the implementation of the new protocol for taking photographic evidence of abuse in schools. Aysha Schomburg shared that ACS is looking into how well the implementation is going and will provide updates at a future meeting.

Agenda Item: NYS Child Welfare Coalition Update

Stephanie Gendell, Citizens' Committee for Children

Stephanie Gendell, Associate Director of the Citizens' Committee for Children, joined the meeting via phone to provide an update on the status of child welfare funding in the proposed NYS budget and also as the advocacy work of the NYS Child Welfare Coalition. She urged the panel members to continue to call their legislators and participate on social media. Panel Chair David Lansner thanked Ms. Gendell for her time.

Agenda Item: OCFS Updates

Lisa Gordon, OCFS

Child and Family Service Review

OCFS is working with the federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to finalize approval of the New York State Program Improvement Plan. OCFS has added the Healthy Families New York efforts into the plan and will continue to work on the initiatives contained in the plan while awaiting final approval.

Family Assessment Response

One county recently suspended the FAR program due to staffing issues but will readdress using FAR once those issues have been resolved. Otherwise, OCFS has been applying FAR techniques to various training sessions and integrating FAR principles into other areas of training and practice.

Home Visiting

OCFS received the Panels' report including recommendations to increase funding for home visiting programs. The agency supports the recommendation and will increase funding whenever possible. An official response to the report is forthcoming.

CPS Caseload Roundtable

No update.

Raise the Age

OCFS issued a RFA to voluntary agencies for programs interested in adding beds to accommodate youth impacted by the Raise the Age legislation. Thirteen agencies submitted a response. OCFS is currently making plans to distribute a planning guide for implementation.

Family First Act

OCFS recently offered a webinar to explain the major aspects of the new federal legislation and is awaiting further guidance on implementation from ACF.

Agenda Item: Updates from Prevent Child Abuse New York (PCANY)

Jenn O'Connor, Director of Policy and Advocacy

Jenn O'Connor, Director of Policy and Advocacy at PCANY, joined the meeting via phone to provide an update on the home visiting training coordinator proposal as well as discuss initiatives at PCANY. Ms. O'Connor began her update by thanking the panel for focusing on increasing home visiting funding in the most recent CRP Annual Report and reminded the Panel that funding in the current proposed budget remains flat. She then summarized the home visiting workgroup's proposal of \$200,000 to fund a statewide home visiting training coordinator with the belief this coordinator would help build the capacity of home visiting workers, increase staff retention and increase referrals amongst programs. Ms. O'Connor then reviewed some initiatives going on at PCANY including sexual abuse identification training, home visiting worker training, community awareness training, and curriculum development. Ms. O'Connor hopes to

work more closely with the panel in the future. Panel Chair David Lansner agreed and thanked her for her time.

Agenda Item: Closing Business

David Lansner

Mr. Lansner adjourned the meeting. Next NYC CRP meeting is May 1, 2018.