

NYC Citizen Review Panel for Child Protective Services

Meeting Summary

May 1, 2018 • 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Attendees

Panel Members

David Lansner

Stan Capela

Wayne Ho

Mathea Rubin

Marion Shields

WRI

Jennifer Goldman

Ellen Unruh (by phone)

OCFS

Lisa Gordon (by phone)

ACS

Eric Ferrero

Selina Higgins

Derrick Hinds

Jose Mercado

Susan Morely

Aysha Schomburg

Sara Workman

Handouts

Agenda

Caseload Taskforce

CCWIS article

CPS Protection Order

Child Welfare Opioid Study

Family First Act

Family First Act

Minutes 3.20.18

PAT study

Pregnant Woman Subsidy Program

Prevention Taskforce

Welcome – David Lansner, Panel Chair

Updates from the NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS)

- Aysha Schomburg shared that ACS continues to develop the Predictive Analytics Advisory Committee, which is intended to support thoughtful implementation of predictive analytics into ACS practice. The committee is comprised of representatives from many stakeholder groups, and is currently developing guidelines for implementation.
- Susan Morely described a newly developed ACS program where retired detectives are providing consultation and support to Child Protective Service (CPS) workers to help CPS with more complicated or serious cases. Detectives are typically assigned to cases where the alleged victim is younger or the case involves allegations of serious injury or sexual abuse.
- Eric Ferrero spoke about ACS' work on plans to better engage the media on a more frequent basis, not just during a crisis, and is also examining how they can be more transparent to help the media better understand how child welfare works.

- Sara Workman discussed current trends in CPS cases, including an increase in intakes.
- CRP members inquired about mandated reporters receiving feedback on the outcome of cases. Derrick Hinds communicated that mandated reporter notification is generated if the caseworker checks a box to prompt CONNECTIONS to generate the letter; however, this prompt must be initiated by action from the case worker. In addition, notification to mandated reporters is not on the workers' events checklist. Panel members agreed to pursue this issue with OCFS.
- CRP members requested a briefing on child welfare financing in NYC. Jose Mercado described how rates and reimbursements are determined and also reviewed spending in major child welfare categories.
- Aysha Schomburg shared that ACS is working through ongoing compliance issues with the new CPS photograph protocol.

ACS Anti-Human Trafficking Initiatives – Selina Higgins, ACS

- ACS' Anti-Human Trafficking program was initially financed through Safe Harbour funding. The grant has since ended, but ACS continues to self-fund.
- ACS works with specially trained social workers from Safe Horizons to speak with alleged trafficking victims at Children's Advocacy Centers.
- ACS contracts with GEMS to provide train-the-trainer trainings on human trafficking with ACS staff.
- ACS has been a partner in a tattoo eradication program in NYC, as trafficking victims are commonly tattooed by their perpetrators.
- ACS has also provided increased training and awareness of staff to trafficking through the internet.
- Every child must be screened for potential human trafficking. This screening is included in the Family Assessment Service Plan, as mandated by NYS.

NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) Updates - Lisa Gordon, OCFS (via phone)

- Child and Family Service Review – NYS has still not heard back from the federal Administration for Children and Families regarding the approval of NYS Program Improvement Plan. OCFS continues to implement strategies in the plan while awaiting approval.
- Family Assessment Response (FAR) – A strategic planning workgroup is working on revisions to the FAR curriculum and surveying counties to identify needed updates in FAR protocols. OCFS is also looking at county plans to identify new counties that could benefit from FAR implementation.

- Home Visiting – OCFS is looking for ways to expand existing programs and also identify potential sites for new programs through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funding.
- CPS Caseload Study – OCFS is still interested; however there is no update.
- Raise the Age – A Request for Applications to develop Raise the Age related programs was released. Thirteen sites were selected, and the foster care model contract for these sites will be revised to include Raise the Age programming. OCFS is also convening a Raise the Age taskforce to work out implementation details.
- Family First Act – OCFS has been convening weekly meetings to assess the potential impact of this new federal law and is awaiting additional guidance from the federal government.
- Mandated Reporter Notification – Panel members inquired about the mandated reporter notification issue previously raised during the meeting. Ms. Gordon agreed to check on the issue with CONNECTIONS staff.

Debrief and Next Steps

- Panel members agreed to continue to champion expanding funding for home visiting, including examining how home visiting can potentially address the opioid crisis in NYS.
- Panel members agreed to pursue the mandated reporter notification issue with both ACS and OCFS
- Next meetings
 - Joint Panel Meeting – June 14, 2018
 - NYC CRP Meeting – September 18, 2018
- Panel Chair David Lansner adjourned the meeting.