

**NYC Citizen Review Panel**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**Tuesday, May 2, 2017**  
**10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**Attendees:**

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

*Guests:* Eric Brettschneider, First Deputy Commissioner, NYC ACS  
Brian Clapier, Associate Commissioner, NYC ACS  
Dr. Angel Mendoza  
Tamara Steckler, Legal Aid Society  
Stacy Charland, Neighborhood Defender Services  
Amy Papandrea, OCFS (by phone)

*WRI Staff:* Jennifer Goldman, CRP Coordinator and Program Specialist  
Ellen Unruh, Associate Executive Director  
Lee Lounsbury, Executive Director (by phone)

**Handouts:**

- Agenda
- Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, Inc.: Summary of the NYC Fiscal Year 2018 Executive Budget
- Children's Bureau Child Maltreatment 2015: Summary of Key Findings
- Children's Bureau Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities 2015: Statistics and Intervention
- Cost Savings from Reasonable Child Welfare Workloads
- Center on the Developing Child: Applying the Science of Child Development in Child Welfare Systems
- SCAA: Schuyler Center's Last Look at the NYS 2017-18 Final Budget as it Intersects with our Policy Priorities
- March 7, 2017 CRP Meeting Minutes

**Agenda Item: Welcome and Introductions**

*David Lansner, Panel Chair*

Stanley Capela, NYC Panel Vice Chair, convened the meeting and welcomed all participants.

**Agenda Item: Updates from NYC ACS staff**

*Eric Brettschnieder, First Deputy Commissioner*  
*Brian Clapier, Associate Commissioner*  
*Dr. Angel Mendoza*

Brian Clapier, Associate Commissioner ACS, joined the meeting to continue the discussion of ACS' use of predictive analytics. Mr. Clapier stressed that ACS is exploring the use of predictive analytics slowly and cautiously so they are implemented in an appropriate manner. Mr. Clapier then reviewed some of the data that can be generated from predictive analytics, and described

how ACS is testing the accuracy of the models. He also explained the difference between precise and actionable models and that specific models could be applied for specific phases of a child welfare case. Mr. Clapier again stressed that models are meant to provide managers with additional information in order to focus resources and will not replace caseworkers' clinical judgement.

Mr. Clapier reiterated that ACS is forming an advisory committee on predictive analytics, and that he will be in contact with Panel members who volunteered to join (Stan Capela and Dr. Jocelyn Brown).

Panel Chair David Lansner thanked Mr. Clapier for joining the meeting and welcomed Dr. Angel Mendoza, ACS' incoming agency medical director. Dr. Mendoza discussed challenges with tracking children's health in the current child welfare system. Panel members and Dr. Mendoza then discussed potential strategies for improving ACS' access to child health records. Panel Chair David Lansner thanked Dr. Mendoza for his time. Dr. Mendoza then agreed to return to the panel meeting to continue the discussion at a later date after he has officially started working at ACS.

**Agenda Item: Discussion with advocates**

*Tamara Steckler, Legal Aid Society*

*Stacy Charland, Neighborhood Defender Services*

Panel Chair David Lansner introduced the guests from NYC advocacy groups and invited them to provide requested updates. Stacy Charland, from Neighborhood Defender Services, updated the Panel on the work being done by the advocacy workgroups established by the previous ACS Commissioner, Gladys Carrion. Ms. Charland shared that some groups, such as the committee to keep more children safely at home and the committee charged with improving housing assistance have had success while other groups, such as improving school stability, continue to struggle. Workgroup chairs will be meeting with the new ACS Commissioner, David Hansell, to discuss how to address workgroups that are struggling. Workgroup member are also concerned that workgroups do not address disproportionate minority representation and an existing disconnect between policy and implementation at the ground level.

Tamara Steckler, from the Legal Aid Society, provided an update on the federal class action law suit filed against the State and NYC in relation to lengths of stay in foster care, *Elisa W. v. The City of New York*, Case No: 1:15-cv-05273, U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York. The original settlement offered by the State was rejected by the Courts. The Legal Aid Society is opposing the lawsuit. Both the State and NYC have made motions that are currently being considered.

*ACS First Deputy Commissioner Eric Brettschneider* then further discussed the lawsuit and implementation of the State selected monitor for ACS, Kroll Associates, which was one of the

goals of the lawsuit. ACS has been working with Kroll Associates for a number of weeks and has been compliant with monitoring requests.

**Agenda Item: WRI Updates**

*Jennifer Goldman*

Mrs. Goldman shared updates from the Home Visiting workgroup, including topics covered at the most recent meeting. She then referred panel members to the NYS Budget Summary from the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy and updated the panel regarding additional bills proposed by the New York Initiative for Children of Incarcerated Parents that would aim to increase the proximity of placement between incarcerated parents and their children. Mrs. Goldman then reminded panel members of the joint panel meeting in June and the next NYC meeting in September.

**Agenda Item: OCFS Updates**

*Amy Papandrea*

**Child and Family Service Review/ Program Improvement Plan (CFSR/PIP) Submission**

OCFS submitted the first draft of the CFSR/PIP to the federal Administration for Children and Families on March 27, 2017. OCFS is still waiting for comments or official approval but is moving forward with implementing the strategies described in the plan.

**Family Assessment Response (FAR)**

Panel members asked why OCFS could not mandate the use of FAR. Ms. Papandrea responded that she would ask legal and get an answer. She also shared that OCFS established the goal of 30% of cases tracked to FAR as that percentage reflected the data presented by counties that were well established in the use of FAR. OCFS is constantly examining the use of FAR to determine how to overcome barriers to usage.

**Home Visiting**

OCFS recently received federal funds to expand and establish new home visiting programs across the State, including one site in Brooklyn. SUNY Albany Center for Human Services Research will be completing a study in 2019 to determine the impact of home visiting on the reduction of child abuse and maltreatment.

**Workload Study**

Ms. Papandrea shared that OCFS is working to implement requests made by the Governor in his Caseload Bill veto message and will share information as it comes.

**Raise the Age Bill**

The bill to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 18 (A4935, S4121) passed both the NYS Assembly and Senate and was signed into law by the Governor. OCFS is just in the initial planning stages of how to begin implementing the law.

Statewide Kinship Implementation Team

Kinship information packages were sent out to local districts. Panel members requested a copy of the kinship package.

Additional topics

Panel members requested an update on OCFS' MOU regarding adoption subsidies and support from families.

**Agenda Item: Closing Business**

*David Lansner*

Panel members discussed potential topics for the next NYC meeting in September, including a presentation about the impact of human trafficking on the child welfare system.

Mr. Lansner adjourned the meeting.