

NYC Citizen Review Panel for Child Protective Services

Meeting Summary
May 17, 2021 • 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Attendees:

Eastern Panel Members

Carrie Smith

Western Panel Members

Linda Brown

Guests

David Haase, NYS Office of Children and
Family Services (OCFS)

Dave Bach, OCFS

Camellia Anders, NYC Administration for
Children's Services (ACS)

Julie Farber, ACS

Stephanie Gendell, ACS

Phoebe Rubenstein, ACS

Andrew White, ACS

Winette Saunders, ACS

NYC Panel Members

Stanley Capela

David Lansner

Mathea Rubin

Marion White

Jocelyn Brown

Karen Steinberg

Welfare Research, Inc. (WRI)

Jennifer Goldman

Handouts

NYC Meeting Agenda 5.17.21

Minutes 3.2.21

Anonymous vs. Confidential: Abolishing Anonymous Reporting
to Child Abuse Hotlines

Welcome – Stanley Capela, Panel Chair

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

Mr. Capela welcomed Winette Saunders, ACS First Deputy Commissioner. Julie Farber provided an update on the Foster Care Strategic Blueprint. ACS is focusing on training mandated reporters on implicit bias and reinforcing the potential outcomes of initiating a report. ACS is working with hospitals and other agencies/organizations to expand ways in which families can access services Ms. Farber also updated the Panel on Family to Families and the Parent Supporting Parents initiatives.

Andrew White shared intake trend data in relation to the Pandemic as requested by the Panel members.

Camellia Anders gave a detailed update on current Provider Agency Measurement System (PAMS) results. This system is an important monitoring and outcome improvement tool, jointly developed by ACS and service providers. ACS alerts and supports agencies if an issue is identified through PAMS results.

ACS also provided updates on the impact of the Pandemic has had on the following: work to reduce the backlog of child welfare cases in the Courts; adjustments in practice and policies; and staff recruitment, hiring, and retention.

Updates from NYS Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS)

OCFS discussed the proposed statewide expansion of Family Assessment Response (FAR). FAR was removed from the Governor's final budget, but is now up for debate in the NYS Legislature.

The OCFS-led workforce workgroup reconvened for the first time after the Pandemic started. They revisited goals and are hoping to revise testing and hiring procedures. OCFS continues to strive for equity in the hiring process as well as diversity in the child welfare workforce.

OCFS provided an update on the implementation of the Families First Prevention Services Act. Grants from a transition fund will help with enhanced ongoing technical support, family search and engagement, enhanced search for foster parents, and improved recruitment of foster families/kingivers. A review system will also be put in place for cases of children that are placed in congregate care.

WRI Updates and June Meeting Planning

CRP Coordinator Jennifer Goldman and Consultant Amanda Bailly will present the CRP advocacy video on a panel at the upcoming national CRP virtual conference. The CRP video has received national attention and organizers asked that they be on a panel of success stories to share with other states. Panel members should contact Ms. Goldman if interested in participating in the conference. Ms. Bailly is currently working on a second video, which will describe the purpose and work of the Panels.

Panel members continue to have small group meetings with Prevent Child Abuse NY and Assemblymember Hevesi to talk about the successful statewide expansion of FAR. He is interested in making this a priority for the next legislative session.

Ms. Goldman reported on the results of the Annual Report feedback survey.

NYC Panel Chair Stan Capela and CRP Coordinator Jennifer Goldman submitted a workshop proposal on the work of the CRPs to the Council on Accreditation for their fall conference. They will let the Panels know if their proposal has been accepted.

Ms. Goldman asked Panel members to send her ideas for guests for the upcoming Joint Panel Meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 10:45a.m.

Next meeting: Joint – June 10, 2021
NYC – September 14, 2021