

Western Citizen Review Panel for Child Protective Services

Meeting Summary September 27, 2019 • 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Western Panel Members

Linda Brown

Todd Sage

Paula Mazur

Melissa Cavagnaro

Sarlyn Tate

OCFS

Shelly Fiebich-Aubertine

Vajeera Dorabawila

Welfare Research, Inc.

Jennifer Goldman

Ariela Perez-Wallach

Handouts

Draft Recruitment Flyer

Eastern Western Joint Meeting Minutes 5.2.19

Welcome – *Linda Brown, Western Panel Chair*

Recruitment Flyer – *Jennifer Goldman*

- Ms. Goldman shared the draft recruitment flyer for prospective members with the panel and asked that any feedback be sent via email.

Annual Report

- The panel members decided the focus of the annual report will be on child welfare workforce improvement, specifically looking at retention and recruitment. Recommendations included improving supervision and training, scholarships and loan forgiveness funds, and the reinstatement of Title IV-E money.

OCFS Updates – *Shelly Fiebich-Aubertine and Vajeera Dorabawila*

- Current Workforce Initiatives –OCFS has reconvened a workgroup to focus on child welfare workforce issues, developing data driven strategies to improve retention and recruitment.
- Family First Act Implementation – Another webinar happened in July which introduced county specific data packets in regards to foster homes. This webinar also stressed the importance of the role of Home Finders within the Family First Act. The next webinar will be held on October 3rd, which will focus on administrative review teams.

- Raise the Age Implementation – As of September, all 13 agencies have opened their Raise the Age programs and that the data is being tracked very carefully. Phase 2 will be approaching in October, which will allow 17-year olds to be eligible.
- Implementation of Erin’s Law – Erin’s Law is specific to the State Education Department, and that the curriculum will be created within the State Education Department.
- CFSR PIP Updates – OCFS passed the first case review and planned improvement activities are ongoing.
- Other Updates – The MAPS data for foster care admissions and CPS reports for the first 6 months of 2019 are being compiled and will be distributed to panel members when completed. At first glance, it was reported that there was a decrease in admissions to foster care and the number of reports decreased slightly, but the types of reports did not change. OCFS is in the process of developing the framework application and budget for a parent advisory board.

October Roundtable Event

- Panel members discussed that the purpose of the event will focus on child welfare workforce issues and to work with other stakeholders. Panel members discussed potential stakeholders to invite. The annual report will be released to the public in January 2020.

Next Steps

- Next CRP Event – October 10th, 2019
- Roundtable planning call with Chairs
- Strategy for panel member recruitment