

# Western Citizen Review Panel for Child Protective Services

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## Meeting Summary

March 13, 2020 • 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, 742 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY

### Participants:

#### Western Panel Members

Linda C. Brown

Todd Sage

Sarlyn Tate

Ellen Kennedy

#### 3 for 5 Campaign

Glenn Liebman

#### NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)

Shelly Aubertine-Fiebich

#### Erie County Department of Social Services (DSS)

Catie Gavin

Hannah Holden

#### Welfare Research, Inc. (WRI)

Jennifer Goldman

### Handouts

Agenda 3.13.2020

Joint CRP Minutes 1.28.2020

3 for 5 Campaign Handout

Family First Prevention Services Act PowerPoint

**Welcome** – Linda C. Brown, Panel Chair

### **3 for 5 Campaign** – *Glenn Liebman*

- Glenn Liebman, CEO of Mental Health Association in NYS, joined the meeting to discuss the 3 for 5 campaign, supported by the Panels in the 2019 Annual Report. The 3 for 5 campaign is asking for a 3% increase on state contracts with human service agencies for each of the next five years. Forty to fifty groups have signed on to the campaign in support, including the NYS CRPs.
- The Panel Members and Mr. Liebman then discussed how the Panels can be more supportive of the campaign, including being active participants in the 3 for 5 social media campaign.
- Mr. Liebman then shared strategies the campaign is utilizing including social media, meetings with NYS legislators, calls to action, and a rally day in Albany.
- Panel Chair Linda C. Brown thanked Mr. Liebman for joining the meeting.

## **Preparation for Family First in Erie County** – *Catie Gavin and Hannah Holden*

- Catie Gavin, Erie County DSS Deputy Commissioner, provided an update of work done on a grant from the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute (NCWWI) through the federal Children’s Bureau to improve the child welfare workforce in Erie County. Erie County DSS is partnering with the University of Buffalo to complete an agency self-assessment and implement a work plan to address areas needing improvement. Some of the areas of focus in the work plan include increasing kin placements, addressing staff secondary trauma, and attracting new caseworkers by issuing scholarships for MSW students that include internship placements at Erie County.
- Ms. Gavin then discussed efforts to prepare Erie County for Family First Prevention Services Act implementation. Erie County is accessing transition funding to implement several strategies including increasing kinship placements and kinship foster home certifications.
- Ms. Gavin offered to provide a tour of the new Erie DSS facilities to Panel Members.
- Panel Chair Linda C. Brown thanked Ms. Gavin and Ms. Holden for participating in the meeting.

## **NYS OCFS Updates** – *Shelly Aubertine-Fiebich*

- Panel members had inquired about the recent placement of a monitor for child protective services in Monroe County, precipitated by the highly publicized death of a child known to the department. Ms. Aubertine-Fiebich reported that an initial monitoring meeting occurred and OCFS is expecting quarterly reports. She will provide additional updates at future meetings.
- The workforce workgroup last met in September 2019 and is examining strategies for improving NYS’ child welfare workforce such as revising civil service testing and candidate qualifications, a statewide recruitment media campaign, agency-university partnerships, and improving racial equity and representation in the workforce.
- OCFS continues to prepare NYS for the implementation of the Family First Act. Information about available funding and resources is on the OCFS website.
- Notification of case outcome letters for mandated reporters continue to be generated through CONNECTIONS.
- Raise the Age placements for juvenile justice involved youth ages 16 to 17 continues to slowly grow as the State completes the transition.
- The implementation team for the Statewide Parent Advisory Group has recommended membership for 15 applicants and 2 alternatives. The Parent Advisory Group members, comprised of birth, kin, or adoptive parents with lived experience in the child welfare system, will provide the State with guidance on programs and policies and each serve a two-year term.
- OCFS will be initiating a start-up meeting for the newly formed Statewide Child Fatality Review Team.
- Panel Linda C. Brown thanked Shelly Aubertine-Fiebich for providing the OCFS updates.

## **Debrief and Next Steps**

- Panel Members discussed recruitment efforts and meeting topics/guests for upcoming meetings.
- Panel Chair Linda C. Brown adjourned the meeting.
- Next Western Panel Meeting – Friday May 15<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am to 10:00 am

