

**Western Citizens Review Panel
Meeting Summary
September 29, 2017
9:00 a.m.-12 noon**

Attendees:

Panel Members: Linda C. Brown (by phone), Melissa Cavagnaro, Ellen Kennedy (Chair), Danny Sklarski, Sarlyn Tate (co-Chair), Karl Wiggins

Guests: Kathy Cardilli, Monroe County Department of Social Services (by phone)
Lisa Gordon, OCFS (by phone)
Sharon Kollar, National Child Welfare Workforce Institute (NCWWI) (by phone)

WRI Staff: Jennifer Goldman, Citizen Review Panel Coordinator
Ellen Unruh, Associate Executive Director (by phone)

Handouts:

- Agenda
- May 12, 2017 Western CRP Meeting Summary
- ACE Response Team
- Bills to Watch in Child Welfare
- Caseload Veto Message
- Home Visiting Whitepaper
- NCWWI Racial Equity Team Overview
- NCWII Brochure
- OCFS CPS Workload Roundtable
- Promoting Racial Equity

Welcome and Introductions

Ellen Kennedy, Panel Chair

Panel Chair Ellen Kennedy welcomed meeting attendees and convened the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM: Summary of meeting with OCFS Executive Staff

Ellen Kennedy

Ms. Kennedy provided a summary of a recent meeting with OCFS Executive staff. Ms. Kennedy shared that OCFS discussed the Governor's veto message on the Caseload Standards Bill, expansion of home visiting sites and the current status of the State's response to the results of the federal Child and Family Services Review. Ms. Kennedy also shared that the CRP chairs discussed the Panels' plan to focus on one recommendation of expanded funding for home visiting.

AGENDA ITEM: Summary of meeting with Buffalo Region Directors of Service

Ellen Kennedy, Linda C. Brown, Sarlyn Tate

Ms. Kennedy, Ms. Brown and Ms. Tate provided a summary of the Western CRP presentation at the Buffalo Region Directors of Service meeting. Directors in the Buffalo Region shared concerns such as caseload, training schedules, the impact of the opioid crisis on child welfare caseloads, and the lack of domestic violence services in the area. Ms. Kennedy, Brown and Tate

noted that the Directors of Services were clearly committed to keeping families intact and supportive of the Panels' home visiting recommendation.

AGENDA ITEM: Monroe County Department of Social Services (DSS) Updates

Kathy Cardilli, Monroe County DSS

Kathy Cardilli, Monroe County DSS, joined the meeting via phone to provide an update on initiatives and concerns in Monroe County. Ms. Cardilli described the array of services in Monroe County including family preservation centers, youth family partnerships for children with mental health crises, and refugee centers. Ms. Cardilli then shared that Monroe County is experiencing an increase in children addicted to opiates at birth.

Panel members thanked Ms. Cardilli for her time and then discussed inviting guests for a panel discussion on the opioid crisis in the region at the next Western Panel meeting in December 2017.

AGENDA ITEM: WRI Updates

Jennifer Goldman, WRI

Jennifer Goldman provided an update on the recent statewide Home Visiting Workgroup where Anne Heller, Power of 2, presented an overview of the innovative home visiting program based in NYC. Mrs. Goldman also reminded panel members to complete an updated confidentiality agreement form and provided a summary of the recent Caseload Stakeholder Roundtable Discussion convened at OCFS. Ms. Goldman then asked panel members to consider making recommendations for potential new panel members. Sarlyn Tate was re-elected co-chair.

AGENDA ITEM: Advocacy Plan for CRP Annual Report

Ellen Kennedy

Western Panel members briefly discussed potential regional advocacy plans after the release of the 2017 Annual Report including partnering with other local advocacy groups. Panel members agreed to continue the discussion at the next Western CRP meeting in December.

AGENDA ITEM: Racial Equity Workforce Initiatives

Sharon Kollar, NCWWI

Sharon Kollar from the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute (NCWWI) joined the meeting via phone to share race equity work being done through NCWWI. Ms. Kollar explained that the project is funded through the federal Children's Bureau and is comprised of a network of professionals at universities across the country. After initially focusing on leadership training, the team redirected efforts to exploring race equity related issues. Through thorough assessment and research, the Race Equity Team developed tools such as webinars and infographics to share with the child welfare community. Although this project is time limited, with funds ending at the end of 2018, they hope that the work will "plant seeds" to further improve racial equity in child welfare. Ms. Kollar concluded the discussion by referring Panel Members to useful resources on the NCWWI website.

AGENDA ITEM: OCFS Updates

Lisa Gordon

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

OCFS is working on revisions to the NYS Program Improvement Plan, based on feedback from the Administration for Children and Families and will be re-submitting shortly.

Family Assessment Response (FAR)

No additional counties have agreed to implement FAR; however, no counties have discontinued the use of FAR. OCFS is in the process of transitioning contracted work on FAR implementation from the Butler Institute to the Center for Development of Human Services at SUNY Buffalo. OCFS is examining FAR data to identify FAR case outcomes and missed opportunities to track more cases to FAR.

Home Visiting

OCFS continues to use available funds to expand home visiting programs, especially in the NYC region.

Workload Study

OCFS convened a Statewide CPS Workload Roundtable per Governor Cuomo's veto message the 2016 Caseload Standards Bill. Next steps from the roundtable are unknown at this time.

Raise the Age Bill

OCFS will convene information sessions around the State once an implementation plan for the Raise the Age initiative has been developed. Panel members raised concerns related to the perception that Person In Need of Supervision services will be phased out and also consideration for the voluntary agencies in the implementation timeline. Ms. Gordon agreed to bring back concerns to the appropriate staff at OCFS.

Statewide Implementation Team

The Statewide Implementation Team is taking on improving supervision as its next priority. OCFS is piloting a new training foundations plan and will be looking for feedback.

AGENDA ITEM: Closing Business

Ellen Kennedy

Ms. Kennedy reminded panel members of upcoming meeting dates:

Joint CRP meeting – October 30, 2017

Western CRP meeting – December 15, 2017

Meeting was adjourned by the Panel Chair.