

## Washington County Citizen Review Panel

Minutes: September 20, 2011 meeting  
Attending: Members: Aine, Gina, Maggie, Guy, Marty, Anita, Don, Rick  
Guest: John Nalezny. Washington County Community Social Services, Children's Services supervisor, Forest Lake Office

- I. Minutes of August meeting approved.
- II. Update from Washington County Community Social Services:  
Rick said that business is picking up and historically, this time period is the busiest time of the year.  
The cases for the Foster Care Reentry Review have been selected. The sample was drawn from cases where children were placed between January 2010 and December 2010 and a child re-entered foster care within the last twelve months from first placement. John N. will work with the Review panel on the case review project. He oversees the Quality Assurance Case Review process for Children's Services. The sample was drawn from all cases not just those cases active in Child Protection. The cases match the criteria used by the State to evaluate the county's re-entry rate. Rick said that re-entry into foster care due to re-occurrence of maltreatment is very low in Washington County but the percentage of re-entry into foster care within 12 months for other reasons has remained consistently above 20% over the years in Washington County. They are very interested in having a review of these cases to see if there may be some factors in these cases that could be addressed in order reduce the re-entry percentage below 20% goal in the County's Program Improvement Plan.

It will take some time to review these cases – at least an hour or more should be allowed for each case. Because of the time involved, we may need to limit the number of cases in the sample to 10 or 12 rather than the 20 discussed at last meeting. We discussed whether or not this review could be completed by the end of the year. It may be possible to complete the review of the cases by the end of the year, but it isn't necessary. This project will likely continue to be the key work of the panel into the next year as well.

- III. Update from DHS: Review of the Foster Care Reentry Tool Draft  
Anita, Don, and John N. developed the tool to be used for the case review. The tool includes factors drawn from the Hennepin County Re-entry to Foster Care Report of February 17, 2010. The group discussed the tool and the process for reviewing cases. Based on John's experience with Quality Assurance Case Reviews, it will be a challenge for reviewers to stay focused on the key factors for the review. It was decided that review members interested in testing this tool would meet with John N. on Tuesday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm at the Stillwater Community Services office. John will bring two cases for review using the tool. We discussed the logistics of having two panel members review a case but not having each case reviewed by all the reviewers in order to maximize the total number of cases we can complete.

Anita will send a copy of the tool via email to the committee.

- IV. Old Business: Rick said there is a citizen from the Forest Lake area potentially interested in joining the panel. He will follow up with the citizen.
- V. New Business/ Committee Work and Discussion: No new business was identified and since the bulk of the meeting focused on the Case Review project, the Panel adjourned at 6:20pm.

Submitted by: Marty Gerkey