

Washington County Citizen Review Panel Minutes: October 20, 2009

Present: Jolene Abelson, Bob Benson, Rick Backman, Don Pelton, Anita Keyes, Melissa Charley, Maggie Hart, Sue Lewis, Jan Snell

Absent: Ann Bibeau, Guy Sederski, Marty Gerkey

Approval of September minutes: Motion by Bob Benson, seconded by Jolene Abelson

Washington County Update from Rick Backman & Don Pelton:

- ✓ Technology grant approved to install recording equipment to assist in gathering information for sexual abuse cases. Forest Lake and Oakdale buildings will get the equipment. The new technology is very user friendly.
- ✓ Also through the grant, training will be provided for Corner House. The King of Kings church donated 60 booster seats to social services.
- ✓ The Children's Division is projected to be over budget this year due to higher than budgeted/projected out of home placement costs for youth with a serious emotional disturbance. The majority of expenses of the children's division consist of staff costs and out of home placement costs.
- ✓ Reconsiderations have increased 11-12% this year.
- ✓ The per diem was mentioned for the new members of the panel.
- ✓ Caseloads in September were high – 70 cases. Referrals are always high in September, school starts up again.
- ✓ 72% of the time the county is contacting victims in less than 24 hours (time to contact). The state average is 56%.

DHS Update from Anita Keyes:

- ✓ New members Maggie, Jan, Marty & Guy attended CRP orientation at DHS. Hennepin County had 20 new members, Ramsey 4 new members and 4 new members for Washington Co.
- ✓ Anita handed out a draft of the 2009 annual report and discussed what needed to be completed such as activities and what are plans are for the future for the panel.
- ✓ Infant mortality was suggested for future committee work.

New Business:

- ✓ Melissa brought up the Children's Justice Initiative and Foster Care Eligibility Guidelines with handouts.
- ✓ Melissa also mentioned the possibility of utilizing the Washington County newsletter to send out information on the panel and our projects.
- ✓ Sue volunteered for the November minutes.

Old Business:

- ✓ Ann volunteered to complete the activities for the 2009 annual report and Melissa volunteered to complete the Looking Ahead piece.
- ✓ Sue volunteered to write something for the Washington County newsletter.

Committee Work:

- ✓ The panel agreed that we would like to be more proactive in 2010 vs. gathering data. The panel agreed to consider looking at infant mortality/SIDS, anonymous reporting and father involvement in our future committee work.
- ✓ Rick mentioned that the state will conduct a Child and Family Service Review of counties in March, 2010.

Adjournment