

## Washington County Citizen Review Panel August 16, 2011

Present: Melissa, Rick, Anita, Sue, Don, Gina and Maggie

Gina is a new member of the CRP and she introduced herself, telling us that she is the Director of a Day Care Center in North St. Paul. She is the mother of three boys and step-daughter. She saw the ad in the local paper. She has been approved by the WC Board of Commissioners.

June minutes were reviewed and corrections made. Sue made the motion to approve the minutes with Melissa 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Melissa will send the corrected minutes to each of us.

\*Update from Washington County SS;

The state shutdown had slight impact on the county SS. Some payments to providers were suspended/delayed but were resolved. Assessment phone intake is down by one person.

2 reconsiderations were recently completed. Rick makes the final decision. One recon the county attorney's office did not support SS finding due to lack of evidence. This was/can be a learning tool. Reconsiderations were discussed in general (mainly for new member).

Grant money of \$3,000 was again received from DHS. Unspent money each year is returned to DHS.

Father's Resource Guide is placed in the entry of the bldg. Contact with absent parent is now part of protocol.

\*Update from DHS:

Administrative budget reduction will be examined in the next several weeks and Anita read from the Commissioner's Office where the reductions will be. Overall a 3% reduction will be made versus the initial talked about 15%. The Commissioner stated that the main goal is to protect the most vulnerable.

Rick indicated that county wide out-of-home placement budget is down so that is where the reduction in budget cut will fall.

**\*New Business:**

Our project topic for this year will be Reduce Foster Care Reentry Rate. In 2010 there were 30 children that will be the focus. We will examine why placed initially, why did they leave foster placement and why then were they replaced in foster care. We will explore what services were provided and what could have been done for prevention. We will need face sheets and checklists. We will need to see what conclusions can be drawn if any. We could interview the social workers on those cases or form a focus group. We could have someone do literature research. We might contact other counties with better rates to see what they do.

Our annual report will be due at year end.

**\*Old Business:**

Co-chairs will continue as is.

Melissa reported that Super Hero walk sponsored by Prevent Child Abuse took place and it was advertised on TV prior to the walk.

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes submitted by Maggie Hart