

Washington County Citizen Review Panel

Minutes: October 18, 2011

Attending: Aine Bebeau, Rick Backman, Marty Gerky, Maggie Hart, Anita Keyes, Gina Kuchenmeister, Sue Lewis, Don Pelton, Guy Sederski

Absent: Laurie Aaronson, Melissa Ronos

I. The meeting was called to order by Aine Bebeau, co-chair.

Approval of Minutes: Guy motioned, Maggie seconded, approved.

II. Washington County Update

Aine reported on the interview of a potential new member that took place prior to the meeting. The candidate is Doreen Weber from Forest Lake and the interviewing group (Aine, Maggie, Rick, Don and Sue) recommended her to the whole panel, so the process of checking references, etc., will now begin.

Rick said that work is progressing nicely on the re-entry study. So far 4 panel members (Aine, Marty, Maggie, Melissa) have been involved and 6 of the 14 cases are done. Next week there will be two sessions: Tuesday, October 25 (2:30-5:00) and Thursday, October 27 (5:00-7:30), as well as one on Tuesday, November 1 (2:30-5:00). Be sure and let John Nalezny know if you are planning to attend. When the case review is completed, John will put all the data on a spread sheet for further analysis. An added option to the process is the possibility of talking with the case social worker. Under discussion is whether each case should be reviewed by a second panel member.

Rick passed out a newspaper article about a mother who was charged by police with child endangerment after her young child was found wandering alone. He asked us to review the article and give him feedback.

Don reported that his unit had a retreat that included a 3 hour training session on autism. He also reported that he has done Mandated Reporter Training in 7 schools in the last two weeks.

III. DHS Update

Anita told us that the Winona County CRP is planning on expanding mandated reporter training to CEO's of non-profits and hospitals.....quite an interesting project.

The time has come to start working on our Annual Report. Anita handed out several sheets pertaining to this process:

1. How to Talk So Child Protective Services Will Listen
2. County Citizen Review Panels Annual Committee Report Form
3. Citizen Review Panel Project Planning Form

She emphasized using the SMART goals and recommendations framework:

S(specific) M(Measurable) A(Accountable) R(Reasonable) T(Timely)

She suggested that by the November meeting each one of us should come with a statement of purpose, desired outcome(s), and at least one recommendation.

We also need to generate a list of 2011 activities, which can be done from the minutes of all the meetings. Aine asked for a volunteer but no one responded.

IV. New Business

Holiday Gathering – the consensus was that the Dock Café in Stillwater has worked well for us and Sue will try to reserve the room again. The date of choice is Tuesday, December 13, although if that is not available, we may need to consider December 12, or possibly the week before.

V. Old Business

Sue brought up the subject of appearances before the County Board.....whether we should try to schedule one before February, when we will present the Annual Report. Rick felt that February would be a good time to go and review our activities for 2011.

VI. Other Comments

Guy is quite interested in the Winona project and encouraged us to think about that or another project to start on in January, if the case studies are complete. He feels that starting at the beginning of the year gives us plenty of time to accomplish things before summer comes.

Marty had some comments and observations about how foster care re-entry cases are identified and counted in Minnesota; she particularly wondered whether or not children in foster care less than 8 days would be included in re-entry figures. Since the meeting, she has found out that the answer is "Yes." Anita says DHS will take a look at how Minnesota documents these cases in SSIS to be considered for the foster care re-entry numbers.

Meeting Adjourned – 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Lewis