

Washington County Citizens Review Panel Minutes- Tuesday, May 15, 2011

Members present: Aine Bebeau, Rick Backman, 1Marty Gerkey, Maggie Hart, Sue Lewis, Don Pelton, Guy Sederski, Jan Snell

Absent: Anita Keyes, Melissa

1. Approval of Minutes: Guy moved, Aine seconded, all approved.

Aine reported that 2 new board candidates were interviewed; Don sent the applications in and Anita is doing the background checks. It is hoped that the candidates will be appointed by June.

June 21 meeting: Marty: treats Maggie: Minutes

Update from Washing County Social Services (Don and Rick)

Rick thanked Jan Snell for her service.

2010 placement was under budget by almost 1 million dollars.
Foster care was budgeted correctly for the need.

Budget Process for 2012:

In the 2012 budget, the budget for out of home placements will be significantly reduced because the need is not there.

The budget has also been impacted by the fact that individual's insurance plans have paid for some residential treatment, which has had a positive effect on the budget.

The intent is to allow a cushion for youth over 18 who elect to remain in the foster care system as allowed by law.

It was reported that more cases of abuse/neglect are coming in, which is common in the spring.

The board will probably recommend a 0 levy

It is important to note that kids are still being kept safe despite the fact that many are not in out of home placement.

Don Pelton reported that on the quarterly child mortality meeting. In 2010 there were 14 Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Cases. It was noted that SUID is not the same as SIDS.

The risk factors for death:

- children under the age of 2 or who have special needs
- ⑩ living with an unrelated adult
- ⑩ unemployment in the family
- ⑩ child is left with a male caregiver when the mother is out of the home
- ⑩ caregiver has substance abuse or mental health issues

Committees, Focus Group Discussion

Getting Dads Involved:

- Approach must be multi-faceted
- One idea is to have fathers be sought out by public health nurses to provide birth/parenting education; involve fathers early
- campaign to bring consistency regarding family education to all districts at the junior high level
- Once dads are located provide resources for fathers that encourage them to be involved as parents

Marty provided a pamphlet called Safe Sleep: A Parent's Guide to the panel members for information and review.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.