

## WASHINGTON COUNTY CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL MINUTES – TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2011

Members present: Aine Bebeau, Rick Backman, Marty Gerkey, Maggie Hart, Anita Keyes, Sue Lewis, Don Pelton, Guy Sederski

Absent: Jan Snell      Visitor: Angie Rosse

1. Approval of March minutes: Guy moved, Sue seconded, all approved.

2. Update from Washington County (Rick and Don):

\*Rick thanked those involved in the April 9<sup>th</sup> event at the Central Park Library in Woodbury. Even though the group was small, all seemed engaged with the program.

\*Rick shared copies of the Child Welfare Issue from the University of Minnesota's School of Social Work.

\*The 2012 budget process is just getting underway.

\*The department is busy right now with referrals, which often happens in the spring before school is out.

\*Several reconsiderations are "on hold" right now.

\*Two applications for new CRP members are in hand and two others are with possible applicants. These applicants will be interviewed on Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, from 5-7PM. Don will contact those who volunteered (Marty, Maggie, Melissa, Aine) as to place.

3. Update from DHS (Anita):

\*Anita shared a booklet on the Administrative Review process, which was put together by the Ramsey County CRP and subsequently presented to the Ramsey County Board.

\*Anita will be taking our CRP "Fathers Presentation" folder to the National Conference.

\*She mentioned the article about the Winona CRP and their presentation to the Winona County Board.

\*She also passed around the Minnesota Father and Families Network Linking Fathers, Child Welfare Sector Analysis, 2011 report.

4. New Business

\*The Volunteer Recognition Event is Tuesday, April 26. Register by April 20 if you are going.

5. Old Business

\*The April 9<sup>th</sup> event had 11 children in attendance and all received a book. We had a wide-ranging discussion about the event, possible ways to involve more people and to publicize more. Involving community groups such as Rotary or Kiwanis was mentioned, as was the possibility of visiting each story hour. Transportation can be a problem.....should we go to areas of the county that typically generate more child protection referrals? Should we work more closely with ECFE? Linking the event to Child Abuse can be a turn-off.

\*Committee Work: Is the Father's Group done? Sue will contact John Nalezny to see if further help is needed. Child Mortality committee is really just beginning. SID has now been changed to SUID (Sudden Unexpected Infant Death). Marty said that Public Health has many brochures on infant death and other areas of concern – she will bring the brochures to the May meeting for us to look at as we consider which way to go. Maybe we need to focus on dissemination. Aine suggested a theme of "Reducing Risks to Children." Another area of concern is post-adoption services, especially for high-risk and international adoptions. After some discussion, Guy asked if we could make a difference if we took this on. Anita asked what would be the outcome.....encouraging both the adoption agency and the family to make a long-term commitment. The general consensus seemed to be that we would use May and June to tie up the Fathers Project and see what we could do with Child Mortality and then in August (when new members are with us), we would define a new project that we could all start on together.

6. Meeting Adourned at 6:30.