

Washington County Citizen Review Panel Minutes: February 17, 2009

Present: Jolene Abelson, Rick Backman, Ann Bebeau, Bob Benson, Dani Horan, Melissa Charley, Anita Keyes, Mary Nelson, Gail Peavey, Don Pelton

Approval of Minutes From the January Meeting

Motion by Mary Nelson; seconded by Melissa Charley.

Ann Bebeau reported CRP presentation to County Board well received: Highlighted Seventh Annual National Citizen Review Panel Conference in St. Paul in May 2008 and work of: Shared Family Care Committee and Independent Living Skills Committee.

Update from Washington County Community Social Services

- On-going concern for homeless youth aging out of foster care with no resources available
- County fair booth: committee may want to consider handouts on positive parenting
- Consider inviting County Board Chair Myra Peterson and District 5 (Woodbury) Commissioner Lisa Weik to committee meeting
- 4 vacant positions currently frozen due to budget restraints- number of current employed staff is equal to calendar year 2006
- Citizens Review Panel supported by DHS and allocated in DHS budget
- Less number of investigation cases perhaps due to less staff reporting
- Children's mental health problem as many children/youth seriously disturbed and care/safety of special needs kids is concern; safety plan critical for the children
- Parent-child conflicts make up a large number of day time and after hours child protection crisis response contacts.

Update from Minnesota Department of Human Service

- April project: flyer "It's Not Safe for Kids Under Eight" for school distribution
- Editorials in newspapers as public awareness for April as Child Abuse Prevention Month – include local statistics
- Recruitment for new Citizens Review Panel members
- Don will be talking to police chiefs
- Washington County Citizen Review Panel 2008 Annual Report distributed
- Minnesota Citizen Review Panel Involving Father Project—2009- volunteer assignment of panel members:
 - Team One: "Assess agency's capacity to include non-custodial fathers in child protection cases"—Ann and Melissa
 - Team Two: "Assess workers' capacity to involved non-custodial fathers in child protection cases" –Bob and Dani
 - Team Three: "Assess service provider capacity to provide service to non-custodial fathers in child protection cases"—Sue and Bob

New Business

- None

Old Business

- All Panel Project
 - 2009 Fathers Project
- Panel's Project for April
 - Flyer Distribution and Letters to Editor

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm