

WASHINGTON COUNTY CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL

MINUTES 08-18-2009

Present: Ann Bebeau, Anita Keyes, Don Pelton, Rick Backman, Bob Benson, Sue Lewis, Melissa Charley

New members: Guy Sederski, Marty Gerkey, Jan Snell

Excused: Jolene Abelson

Approval of Minutes From June Meeting

- Bob Benson made motion for approval, Bebeau seconded.

Update from Washington County Social Services-Rick Backman

- Backman explained to new members the process of appointment by the Washington County Commissioner
- Welcome to new members
- Governor's unallotment process discussed. Unallotment of one million from July to December 2010. No layoffs so far, re-hired one. Positions open but not filled.
- Lull in child protection referrals until spring when it picked up/ economy.
- July reports are up, two roll-overs resulting in death
- Rick and Don discussed the importance of getting out information to public about the dangers of co-sleeping.
- 16 deaths from maltreatment a year. We are already up to 18 this year. Reports of severe physical abuse up (Don). These cases take heavy toll on staff
- Article in Star Tribune a few days ago reporting child deaths up (Rick)
- Rick discussed per diem
- Biennial service agreement Public Notice posted on internet
- Rick discussed roles of various members of the Washington County Child Service System

Update from Minnesota Department of Human Services-Anita

- Orientation is October 15, 2009 at Minnesota Department of Human Services. At least 8 from Ramsey, 4 from Washington, and 16 from Hennepin
- Hennepin County CRP (our 5th CRP) is not up and running yet. Still in the interview process
- Discussion of On-going Quality Assurance Report
- Father's resource center is open again (Don)
- Recommendations: Develop and implement formally written policies...when would that be accomplished? (Anita) By the end of 2010 (Rick)
- Pamphlets for fathers have been ordered for service center (Rick)
- Question has been added for case summary, "How has non-custodial father been involved in case?" And, "Where is the non-custodial parent?" (Don)

- All CRPs have recommended policies for involving non-custodial parents. No protection agencies with CRPs have these in place. This will be a state recommendation (Anita). Scott County has a formal policy
- Anita showed NCRP logo. Anita discussed creating a Washington County CRP logo if anyone has artistic ability and is so inclined.
- Minnesota child welfare practice model document was shown by Anita. This is the last call for this document/input for changes. Rick was part of the group who created the document.
- 60% of child protection cases are family assessments: non-adversarial and police are not involved. Most kids are in foster care six months at most. Most kids go home. Parents are most often the best placement for kids. Families for the most part are able to raise their own children with some training and support (Rick).
- Document should have precise language (Sue Lewis)
- We are thinking more about engaging extended family as options for placement rather than relying on foster care (Don)
- E-mail Anita with any changes to discussed documents post haste
- In March 2010 Washington County will under go a Children and Family Services Review (Don)
- State-wide, there are approximately, 16 deaths from maltreatment a year. Minnesota is already up to 18 this year. Reports of severe physical abuse up (Don). These cases take heavy toll on staff.

New Business

- September 12 is the walk. We have \$550 in donations so far. We need people to staff the table. Melissa has pamphlets and book marks. Melissa will bring some candy. Sue will pick up the display boards. Anita will bring recruitment sheets and general board. Melissa will bring table cloth. Please remind people of the need for donations. Melissa will resend the e-mail and Anita will forward to other panels.

Old Business

- Sue Lewis shared information about a place in Minneapolis where child abuse victims are sharing their art work.

Committee Work

- Committee work suspended for the time being. In September we will finalize our "father's reports" and then work on our annual report. We will take a look next month on where we are with our previous committee work. Anita will provide a summary of where we are.

Adjournment

- Sue made motion and Bob seconded