

**Washington County Citizen Review Panel for Child Protection
Meeting Minutes June 21, 2016**

“Citizens partnering with Child Protective Services to keep children safe.”

Members Present: Ralph Pennie, Mike Laughton, Deb Eckberg, Bonnie Treacy, La Juan McIntyre, Jennifer Dailey, Julia Welter, Jan Hayne, John Kiedrowski, Terry Bottum, Nancy Zupfer, County Representatives Sarah Amundson and Nissa Knutson

Approval of May Minutes

Mike/Bonnie

Old Business

Discussion of Foster Care article from Star Tribune. Changes in North Star funding and increase in complexity of cases impact families, as well as trauma and inability of services to keep pace.

Breakfast/Brunch/Coffee treats with social workers updates:

All group visits were met with enthusiasm and members came away with a better understanding of roles and system. Some of the needs raised by workers included alarm clocks and potential phone bank to reduce truancy. There are also needs for transportation and cab fare for families and children. Shortage of foster families could possibly be addressed with information and sign-up at County Fair in August, as well as reaching out to faith communities. Members would be interested in making these visits and annual event.

Shadowing updates:

Discussion about the amount of resources involved in system and importance of caring adults to reduce truancy. Challenges in system discussed.

Courthouse bookshelf update:

Bonnie to make sign for juvenile waiting area at courthouse. Donations to be discussed at later date. Julia will ask husband to make boxes for younger children's books.

Washington County Fair table update:
Sarah will connect to see if there is interest in staffing table. Mike volunteered.

August meeting update:
Dashboard presentation by Mary Doyle
Presentation by Mike's group Bikers Against Child Abuse.

Brochure update:
Deb to have new members bios and photos included in updated version at cost of \$118.

New Business

No meeting in July. Suggestion to begin planning for next year.

Washington County Update

Sarah to invite Licensing Supervisor Becky to September meeting as well as foster parents.

Child Protection is nearly fully staffed, with the exception of one part-time position.

Child Welfare Disparity Grant meeting attended by La Juan and Jennifer.

Grant looks at entire system and involved discussion on how to reduce number of kids of color in placement. Focus on good data to analyze disparities. Action plan to be developed and shared with CRP. Intercultural Developmental Inventory (IDI) to be completed by staff.

Discussion regarding demographics of County. 50 percent of placements are with relatives. Need for constant recruitment of foster parents and for intensive and ongoing training, skills and support.

Motion to Adjourn:

Julia/La Juan