

**Washington County Citizen Review Panel for Child Protection  
Meeting Minutes January 17, 2017**

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

**Members Present:**

Bonnie Treacy, Dawn Hyland, Deb Eckgerg, Jan Hayne, Jennifer Dailey, John Kiedrowski, La Juan McIntyre, Mike Laughton, Nancy Zupfer, Ralph Pennie, Teri Bottum, County Representatives Sarah Amundson and Nissa Knutson, DHS Representative Mary Doyle

**Absent:** Julia Welter

**December Minutes Approved**

**Old Business**

- Annual Report
  - The CRP will present its Annual Report to the County Board on February 14, 2017, at the 9:00 a.m. meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, 5<sup>th</sup> floor County Board Room. Sarah will give a quick introduction and Deb will present the report. All are welcome to attend and Mary hopes to be there, too.
- 2017 Planning – see Sarah’s handout on Needs from Child Protection
  - Foster care task force (Nancy and Dawn)
  - Foster care re-entry file review (Jennifer, Mike, Terri, John)
  - Permanency guidelines file review (La Juan, Jennifer)
  - Safe Harbor/Sex Trafficked Youth Workgroup – possibly meeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. at 8:30, Stillwater Government Center (Deb, Jan, Julia)
  - Mentorship resources resource list/framework such as Mpls Familywise Services (Ralph, Bonnie)
- Star Tribune article discussion
  - There was recently a Star Trib article on sex trafficking victims. The panel discussed the factors that make this a challenging population to work with, the many needs the victims have, and the resources

currently available to assist, including an East Metro Regional Navigator through Tubman (Katherine) and the Passageways Program in Prior Lake.

- The average age of sex trafficked victims is 13 and the child can be part of the child protection system until age 18 (or 21 if they are already in the system by age 18).
- A recent focus group with past victims demonstrated the importance of relationship skills and a team member has seen the importance of educating peers on warning signs. Washington County has also had some success in educating the hotels.

### **New Business**

- **Forming committees to tackle 2017 projects**
  - Nissa handed out Planning Toolkits for everyone.
  - Individuals were identified (above) who expressed interest in the various projects. We will continue to explore later if we need workgroups or committees.
- **New Chair**
  - The CRP will need to elect a new chair next meeting. Chairs generally serve at most two terms. Anyone can volunteer and, if more than one person is interested, we will take a paper vote.

### **Washington County Update**

- **Reconsiderations**
  - The numbers of reconsideration requests continue to increase. 2016 saw the most ever.
  - Recently one reconsideration was granted based on what Sarah and the CRP discovered, which provided a great learning and teaching opportunity comparing the maltreatment finding to other options such as family assessment and safety planning.
  - Sarah will check and see what percentage of cases request reconsideration.
  - There are three upcoming reconsideration requests. The CRP will generally only do three max at a time, as more got unwieldy.
    - **Next reconsideration will be on Thursday, January 26, at 3:30, in Cottage Grove. Ralph and Nancy will be there.**

## **Update from DHS**

- The State Child and Family Services is not yet complete. The State then has 60 days to create a Performance Improvement Plan. The current Governor's Budget request is under embargo.
- Mary will send us the Screening Guidelines. A Workgroup is constantly tweaking them to avoid unintended consequences.
- There has been an increase in child protection cases statewide, which stresses all resources, requiring more social workers, more foster families, and more training. Increases are partly due to the changes in screening guidelines but also to the increase in opioid misuse.

## **Meeting Adjourned**

*Minutes by JCD, approved \_\_\_\_\_*