

**Washington County Citizen Review Panel for Child Protection
Meeting Minutes May 16, 2017**

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

Members Present:

Bonnie Treacy, Deb Eckgerg, Jan Hayne, Jennifer Dailey, Dawn Hyland, John Kiedrowski, Mike Loughton, La Juan McIntyre, Ralph Pennie, Terri Bottum, County Representatives John Nalezny, DHS Representative Mary Doyle

Absent: Nancy Zupfer

Jan chaired the meeting, starting at 5:00 p.m.

April Minutes Approved

Old Business

- **Truancy group donations:** The CRP donated a number of \$5 Starbucks/Caribou Coffee gift cards to the Truancy Group. Additional donations would be welcome next month.
- **Foster Care Re-Entry File Review:** John Nalezny gathered the emails of interested CRP members and will get the project set up.
- **Foster Care Task Force:** The last meeting was brainstorming/idea poppers, seeing what is affordable and what we can do now, such as create a more user friendly website and adding some more personal contacts.
- **Permanency Guidelines:** Not starting until after the file review is complete.
- **Safe Harbor Workshop:** Check with Sarah about this group and the CRP’s role.
- **Mentorship resource list/framework:** Follow up with Sarah and Nissa for guidance.

What is the need and value to be gained from this project? Is this the best way to serve that need? Will this be a referral list? Are there liability concerns for referrals? Are there groups already doing this locally or in other states? Could the CRP provide a trauma training component to inform other programs? Or meet with faith groups to raise awareness and train members to serve the need? Where are there already resources and what is lacking? What do social workers wish they had if they only had time to match and refer? Is peer mentoring or family mentoring happening locally? Are MCCC/PCAM mentors a possibility to

help families through the system? Are there better ways to match needs and mentors/mentees?

- **Plans to visit social worker meetings over the summer with treats:** Follow up with Sarah and Nissa.

New Business

- **Annual calendar.** Deb will create a list of yearly tasks/projects.

Washington County Update (John)

- **Race Disproportionality Tool.** La Juan and Jen attended the initial group discussion. The County has its third training with the YWCA tomorrow. Action steps have been identified and the YWCA will review forms and documents. Current issues include seeing how best to serve
- **Extended Foster Care.** There will be a new State Law that says youth that are in the Foster Care System and youth that are not in the system can stay in the Foster Care System until they are 21 years of age. This law mirrors a Federal Law. Even youth that leave the system at 18 years of age, can come back into the system if they find that it is too hard to live on their own.

The requirements for this program is the youth have to be in school, working part-time, or have a medical condition that prevents school or work.

Washington County has always provided this for all children, not just those who were Wards of the State at age 18.

Update from DHS (Mary)

- Mary has a letter from Governor Dayton responding to the budget that was given to him and he discusses all of the budget cuts. There is a proposed 8.5% cuts from DHS. All funding for DHS has been denied except the Sex Trafficking position.
- DHS has major increases in cases reflective in the diversity program.
- DHS has completed the PIP (Performance Improvement Plan) and the Feds have accepted it.
- On May 29, 2017 Sex Trafficking will change to “Report of a known or highly Suspected Situation of Sexual Abuse” and a case will be opened.
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned 6:21 p.m.

Minutes by JCD/LM