

**Washington County Citizen Review Panel for Child Protection
Meeting Minutes February 20, 2018**

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

Members Present:

LaJuan McIntyre, Teri Bottum, Jennifer Dailey, Deb Eckberg, Key-C Green, Dawn Hyland, John Kiedrowski, Mike Laughton, Ralph Pennie, County Representative Nissa Knutson, State Representative Mary Doyle

Absent: Jan Hayne, Sarah Amundson

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

January Minutes Approved

Old Business

- **CRP Recruitment** – Continue talking with people who might be interested. We have one person from education who may be interested in joining. The DHS no longer allows background checks and may suggest some additional questions to ask.
- **National CRP Conference** – Panel members are welcome to go to the National CRP Conference, but members would pay their own way.

New Business

- **Trainings/Webinars** – Opportunities are emailed when they come up
- **2017 Annual Report** – Jan is working on a draft. Nissa will check with Sarah about presenting to the County Board.
- **Possible Projects for 2018**
 - **Social Worker/Staff Appreciation Month in March** – Thanks to Mike, John, Ralph, and Dawn for agreeing to attend the various child protection meetings in Cottage Grove and Stillwater. Nissa will email details on the meetings members have agreed to attend. Members will bring treats to the meeting. Save receipts to be reimbursed. Mike created a nice thank you letter that we all signed to be taken to the meetings.
 - **Child Abuse Prevention Month in April** – We will pilot a “family bonding” poster coloring contest. We may use the pictures for displays at libraries in April and also at the Washington County Fair in August. Hillside Elementary Kids Club in

Cottage Grove has agreed to participate, with posters due by the end of February. If another school or Kids Club is interested, please invite them. Members are welcome to talk to librarians about displays for April and invite other schools/kids clubs to join in. (Future idea: Another CRP has done displays explaining that "Hands are for.....not hurting.")

- **Washington County Fair in August** - tbd

Update from Washington County (Nissa)

- Child Protection is fully staffed, but may request a temporary/special projects worker as there have been some employee health issues.

Update from DHS (Mary)

- DHS is starting to generate its budget request and legislative agenda. DHS is hiring 4 ICWA workers (with a supervisor already hired), 4 MAPCY workers, and is working on a large computer redesign. Last year no DHS statutory changes were passed by the Legislature, which is unusual, as they are generally statutory fixes, not requests for funding. Note: MAPCY is the MN Assessment of Parenting for Children and Youth tool used to determine Northstar Care for Children adoption benefits.
- Mary will send an update on not using background checks for potential CRP members.
- The federal government passed the "Families First Prevention Services Act" which will restructure federal IV-E reimbursement dollars. This was a surprise to many and so far no implementation timelines have been announced. Some states who rely primarily on congregate care will be greatly impacted, but it is a major change for the whole country. Members are encouraged to read the synopsis handed out and come with questions next meeting. The "Families First Act" will provide additional monies for substance abuse, mental health, parenting classes, and in home parenting skills, but adequate resources/staffing might be an issue. There are currently IV-E scholarships for 5-6 who attend social work in child protection and agree to work in child protection for a number of years. Similar scholarships or grant opportunities might exist.
- New member training/confidentiality forms will be done soon.

Meeting Adjourned about 6:20 p.m.

*Minutes by Jen and Mike
Snacks by Jen*