

**Washington County Citizen Review Panel for Child Protection
Meeting Minutes June 19, 2018**

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

Members Present:

Jan Hayne, Amy Berge, Teri Bottum, Jennifer Dailey, Deb Eckberg, Dawn Hyland, Mike Laughton, LaJuan McIntyre, County Representatives Nissa Knutson and Sarah Amundson, State Representative Mary Doyle

Members Absent: Key-C Green

Members Resigning: John Kiedrowski, Ralph Pennie

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

May Minutes Approved

Guest Speaker

DHS Division Director Jamie Sorenson spoke about the big picture issues in child protection. The system needs improvement, but is filled with talented workers who have heart. Minnesota is #5 in child well-being for some children. The main risk factors for families stem from mental health, substance abuse, having 5+ children, disabilities, and lack of transportation. Mr. Sorenson personally reviews all child maltreatment fatality cases. There were 22 in 2016 – 4 with previous child protection involvement and 18 who were the first time in the child protection system, although they may have had contacts with the education system, health care system, or economic support system.

Since the Governor’s Task Force, there has been a focus on child safety and a shift from wellness, permanency, early development, adverse childhood experiences (ACES), and what families need to stay intact. Some of the Governor’s Task Force recommendations are unimplemented because of lack of funding. See power point for statistics.

There is still some uncertainty surrounding the new federal Families First legislation, including what programs will qualify for reimbursement funding through the new federal clearinghouse. Programs that are studied and proven may be funded, but there are also quality programs based on theory and experience. New programs will need to be accredited (such as through the Joint Commission) and provide trauma philosophy, family engagement, independent assessment, and discharge planning. We know removal causes trauma to families so we need to work with them to keep them intact. We also need more information on why there are disparate outcomes for some children.

The main challenges facing the system include the number of children in placement, the disparate outcomes for children of color/Native children, the shortage of Guardians ad Litem, the rate of reentry into foster care, the opioid crisis and prenatal exposure, and workforce issues (right sizing caseloads and training/development).

New Business

- **CRP membership** – Thanks to Deb for six years of membership and service, including Chairing the CRP. Be on the lookout for new potential members.
- **CRP brochure** – Updates received from everyone.
- **2018 projects**
 - **Washington County Fair in August** – Members should email Sarah or Nissa as to their availability for shifts for the Washington County Fair August 1-5. Staff will be using SignUpGenius to fill shifts.
 - **Other projects** – There are many opportunities for projects including book drives or including joining in the Ramsey County prevention initiatives. Jan will attend the Ramsey County Wakanheza training and the Connect Washington County meeting on youth homelessness (youth being ages 18-26).
- **2018 meetings**
 - July – no meeting
 - August – Lexi from Hope Network on the opioid crisis
 - September – someone from DHS on ICWA, perhaps Kelly Knutsa
 - October – Glynnis Shea on framing and reframing (1 hour minimum)

Update from Washington County (Sarah and Nissa)

The County passed around two new Foster Care Recruitment brochures. The workgroup meets next on Tuesday. They have lots of giveaways and were at the Strawberry Fest in Cottage Grove. They will be at the County Fair and may be at the Lumberjack Days in Stillwater.

Update from DHS (Mary)

Mary will email any updates

Meeting Adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

*Minutes by Jen
Snacks by Dawn*