

**Washington County Citizen Review Panel for Child Protection
Meeting Minutes May 21, 2019**

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

MEETING LOCATION: Woodbury Stafford Library, Lower Level Meeting Room

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER:** 5:00PM, opened by Chair, Jan Hayne.
- 2) **Members Present:**
Mike Laughton, Teri Bottum, Amy Berge, Jan Hayne, Dawn Hyland, LaJuan McIntyre, Susanna Barnes, Pam Clifton, Jodie Cook, County Representative Nissa Knutson, County Representative Sarah Amundson, State Representative Mary Doyle, (New Member) Ann Mozey

Members Absent: Gracie George
- 3) **APPROVAL OF APRIL’S MINUTES:** Pam Clifton moved to approve April’s minutes and the motion was seconded by Jody Koch; approval was unanimous by all present.
- 5) **SEEKING NEW BOARD MEMBERS:** Members introduced themselves including indicating the length of their service and discussed the need to recruit new board members for the purposes of diversity, including male representation. Members were encouraged to reach out to recruit from past clients and the community. The County will be updating the CRP brochure for social media circulation.
- 6) **SUPPORT SOWASHCO CARES TO EXPAND MODEL TO OTHER SCHOOLS:** Amy will be meeting with Cheryl from SoWashCo CARES next week and will report back with her findings. Community donations are impressive and coordinating these opportunities where needed is a goal of SoWashCo CARES. How do we emulate this success in other school districts in Washington County? One suggestion was to coordinate with the County’s major recycling days in various cities, including Hugo, Woodbury, Stillwater, and Mahtomedi. There are other notable organizations in our community, including Care In Action working with churches. Including Stillwater and Forest Lake school districts would be great.
- 7) **SPEAKERS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS, SUGGESTED TOPICS:**
 - a. SEX TRAFFICKING – Two suggested sources for speakers were: Citizens Against Sex Trafficking and East Metro Human Trafficking Taskforce (Amy Schroeder is their criminal analyst). Both these organizations work out of Washington County. In 2017, a prior speaker was from Tubman, but this contract has since lapsed. MCRC may have a contact. Sarah Lad or Imran from the County Attorney’s Office may be good choices, or Sheriff Starry, if he isn’t too busy, or Chris Murphy from CPS.
 - b. DRUG USE/LIFE CHOICES – Gathering information on drug use and adolescent issues in the county would be helpful. The National Youth Data Base has information through 2010. There is data in the foster care system every two years, 2017, 2019, and 2021,

where they track drug use, school achievement, homelessness and employment for foster children. MN Student Survey data is tracked every three years and can be searched at the county level. Newest data is 2016. Will be administered again Fall 2019.

- c. FOSTER CARE SYSTEM – Looking at the foster care system is an important measure of success. Children are permitted to stay involved in the foster care system through age 21 for additional support. At age 14, transitioning out of the system starts with a care plan moving towards increased independence, including choosing school courses, getting jobs, balancing a checkbook, and some funding. In some cases, children transitioning out of foster care are eligible for \$800-\$900 per month in aid. Overall foster care numbers in Washington County are low in part because we are good at finding permanent placements, according to Sarah. Foster Care Recognition Night will be held to provide awards and recognition for families in the area that have helped, some as many as 30 years.
- d. HOMELESSNESS/AFFORDABLE HOUSING - Amy was concerned that homelessness is more prevalent than the numbers indicate because people are not coming forward for help. Some shelters in our area include, Tubman, Hope House, Youth Bureau Services, and St. Croix Family, but the concern is that we have few dedicated and available shelters compared with the needs of the area. Having a felony on one's record is an additional hurdle. Face-To-Face provides support, but no overnight options. The question of how to encourage the County to create more affordable housing options is another goal.
- e. CHILD CARE LICENSING IN THE NEWS – In Cottage Grove there was a referral to Washington County CPS because a child was injured. It turned out the day care was not licensed. Currently the programs have been shut down. Protecting children from maltreatment and following the law remains the goal. Educating parents to do their research is key.

4) **ADJOURN:** At 6:30PM the meeting was adjourned.

Upcoming Meeting:

June 18, 2019, 5:00PM, Woodbury Library Services Office, Lower level

Submitted by: Ann Mozey.