

**WASHINGTON COUNTY CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL FOR CHILD PROTECTION**  
*"Citizens partnering with Child Protective Services to keep children safe."*  
Woodbury Stafford Library, Lower Level Meeting Room

**Meeting Minutes, November 19, 2019**

- **CALL TO ORDER** 5:00 pm by Chair, Jan Hayne
- **IN ATTENDANCE**

Amy Berge	Nissa Knutson, County Representative
Ann Mozey	Pam Clifton
Jan Hayne, Chair	Sarah Amundson, County Representative
Jody Koch	Susannah Barnes
Laurie Gravelle	Teri Bottum
Mary Doyle, State Rep., DHS Liaison	Intern Annie

Snacks: Nissa  
Minutes: Pam

- **APPROVAL OF OCTOBER'S MINUTES**
  - Jody moved to approve October's minutes and the motion was seconded by Susannah. Approval was unanimous.
- **OLD BUSINESS** Updates regarding 2019 Projects/Workgroups/Project Planning Toolkit
  - Introductions were made as we welcomed our newest panel member, Laurie Gravelle! Mary explained CRP meets federal requirements and state statues to evaluate the effectiveness of our county's child protection system and make recommendations for improvement.
  - Gracie has resigned.
  - CRP membership (ongoing for men and people of color)

We are currently an all-woman, all Caucasian review panel. (Our lack of diversity was a concern voiced by the Washington County Commissioners last year). A discussion ensued as to the importance of diversity and different perspectives to better carry out our mission. We brainstormed ways to solicit interest and participation in our panel from men and people of color including: asking commissioners for assistance, social media, identification of specific people of color and men's groups

**ACTION ITEMS:** Nissa will find wording used last year for recruitment. Everyone to research diverse groups (men's social groups, church groups, etc.) in their area to target for recruitment.

- Pizza project update-Jan/Nissa

This project was a success! We received enough pizza vouchers for everyone. Total donation amount was \$2,115.00. A suggestion was made that next year we should be more organized and better understand the history. Current information has been documented and will be available for next year.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Nissa will send out acknowledgments and certificates to all participating pizza places.

- Assist w/ SoWashCo CARES and/or similar in other parts of County -Amy

No update.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Amy will follow up.

- Framing project/CRP positive media messaging, building core capabilities.

Jan would like to pursue this and asked for a volunteer to, along with her, meet with Joanne Mooney.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Jan will set up a meeting with Joanne, Pam and herself

- Status of CRP Brochure

We will be able to add a QR code to the brochure that links to the CRP info on Washington County's website. Any additional changes/recommendations should be submitted and then Michelle will finalize brochure

**ACTION ITEMS:** Submit changes/recommendations to Sarah.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

- Trainings/webinars - any attended/upcoming?

- Jan doing Trauma Training at Tubman on Nov 21.
- Pam attended the 2019 Guardian ad Litem Training Institute Sept.4-5. Topics included privilege, diversity, prejudice, etc. The "Broken Places Documentary" illustrated how some children are permanently damaged by early adversity while others are able to thrive.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Susannah will contact rocofilms to inquire about obtaining copy: [allie@rocofilms.com](mailto:allie@rocofilms.com) <https://rocofilms.com/broken-places/>

- Snack Schedule for 2020

January	Ann Mozey
February	Jody Koch
March	Teri Bottum
April	Laurie Gravelle
May	Susannah Barnes
June	Mary Doyle
August	Sarah Amundson
September	Pam Clifton

October	Amy Berge
November	Nissa Knutson

- Children’s Justice Initiative- Mary and Jan have connected with Patty Mosses who is willing to assist our CRP. Patty may attend a future CRP meeting. Mary explained about both the Children’s Justice Initiative (CJI) and the Children’s Justice Act (CJA); federal mandates for court improvement. Focus is on removing log jams to permanency, screening decisions, and system front-ends with a multidisciplinary approach.

Locally, Judge Sheridan Hawley (Tenth Judicial District) is involved with, among other things, the Children’s Justice Initiative and Children’s Justice Act Task Force (Juvenile Operations Group- JOG). Tony Zdroik is the Juvenile Division Chief, Washington County Attorney’s Office

- **From the MN Judicial Branch website:** “The Children's Justice Initiative (CJI) is a collaboration between the Minnesota Judicial Branch and the Minnesota Department of Human Services. These two state entities work closely with the local juvenile courts, court administrators, social services agencies, county attorneys, guardians ad litem, attorneys for parents and children, tribes, and other key stakeholders in each of Minnesota's 87 counties. The overall objectives are to timely find safe, stable, permanent homes for abused and neglected children, first through reunification with the child's parents if that is safe or, if not, through another permanent placement option, and to improve child well-being. When identifying and implementing improvements, the goal is for all stakeholders to operate "through the eyes of the child" so as to achieve child safety, permanency, and well-being.”
- **From Children’s Bureau:** <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/childrens-justice-act>: “The Children's Justice Act (CJA) provides grants to States to improve the investigation, prosecution and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation, in a manner that limits additional trauma to the child victim.”

- December’s meeting was discussed and Jan followed up by email on 11/19:  
 “The CRP Holiday Gathering/Meeting will be at our usual time on Tuesday, December 17, our regular meeting day. Location is the same as last year.  
 Bungalow Inn  
 1151 Rivercrest Rd N  
 Lakeland, MN 55043  
[\(651\) 436-5005](tel:6514365005)  
[bungalowinn.net](http://bungalowinn.net)

All CRP members are invited. You may bring a spouse or guest with if you wish. The cost for dinner and nonalcoholic beverages is covered by the County. Alcoholic beverages need to be paid for out of pocket,

While we will have a very brief meeting at the restaurant (10-15 minutes usually), the focus is on the "holiday gathering" as a social event. Please be prepared to share what you viewed as a highlight of our work in 2019 (project/speaker/whatever?) so we can celebrate our accomplishments and give some focus to the Annual Report.

I hope you all can attend our holiday gathering. Please RSVP to me by end of day, Monday, December 2 letting me know if you will/will not attend, and with number attending if you are, so I can make a reservation for our group with an accurate headcount. Thanks!

**ACTION ITEM:** Everyone RSVP to Jan by Monday, December 2 with # of attending.

- Projects/purpose Identified for 2020
  - Research re-entry rates for closed child protection cases to identify causes and make recommendations for lowering/eliminating re-entry.

Panel members expressed interest in being involved with this project. County contact will be Sarah Amundson. The planning for this project [using The

Minnesota CRP Planning Tool Kit?] will start January, 2020 at which time committee members will be formally identified.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Sarah will get re-entry statistics to CRP members

- Adapt Chisago County CP Info cards for Washington County to increase community understanding, ownership and investment in child protection.

Mary has stated we have permission from Chisago County to use. Panel members agreed that the cards were good the way they are and would need minimal, if any changes. Sarah and Nissa reminded the panel that the cards will have to conform to Washington County's print guidelines.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Jan to resend cards to Sarah, Nissa and Laurie. Identify target audiences for each card. Brainstorm ways to get cards to identified targets.

- Participate in Child Abuse Prevention Month to provide for public outreach and increase community awareness.

Much discussion took place regarding possible activities to include expanding the library project to more (5-6) libraries, distribution of blue ribbons, pins, stickers and pinwheels (Sarah and Nissa have) which are symbols of child abuse prevention. A suggestion was made to focus on a different age group, middle school and identify healthy family things. Ann stated that Anoka County has a free lending library dedicated to parents wanting to improve, and also noted there is a lack of training for mandated reporters. Sarah/Nissa said they do many mandated reporter trainings.

Teri suggested other family events such as surfing, fishing, horseback riding, winter sports, etc. Ann said Zephyr Theater in Stillwater might be willing to give us space. They are a non-profit.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Finalize plans in January, 2020.

- Pizza project to provide validation and recognition of our foster care providers.

Sarah said that although there is an annual recognition dinner for foster care providers, child foster care providers are less likely to attend than our adult foster care provider due to child care issues. Changing the pizza project from soliciting pizza vouchers to requesting pizza restaurants host a pizza party in various County locations might be a better "thank you" and would also facilitate support among our child foster care providers.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Final decision and planning to be determined.

- Speaker topics for 2020? Choose top 3 and identify possible speakers
  - Washington County Crisis Response Unit- Connie

- Quality Parenting Initiative- Becky

**ACTION ITEM:** Forward to January's agenda

- **UPDATE FROM WASHINGTON COUNTY (Sarah, Nissa)**

- QPI is a concept the County is embracing and incorporating into their work for the past year or so.
- There have been a lot of adoptions in Washington County in the last few months
- Tom Adkins is the temporary Director of Community Services.
- Washington County communications color palette was shown to panel members

- **UPDATE FROM DHS, (Mary)**

- Over 1,200 adoptions this year statewide.
- Mary is in the process of scheduling new member training and getting the new members appointed.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Nissa to send Mary new member applications.

- **ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm

- **NEXT MEETING:** Our Holiday Gathering at Bungalow Inn, Tuesday, December 17, 2019