

## Washington County Citizen Review Panel Minutes November 19, 2013

Present: Deb Eckberg, Marty Gerkey, Gina Kuchenmeister, Guy Sederski, Dawn Hyland, Rick Backman, Don Pelton, Anita Keyes, Aine Bebeau, LuJuan McIntyre and Maggie Hart.

October minutes were approved.

\*Update from Washington County Community Services:

Rick reported that a new supervisor is now hired and there has been some minor restructuring. Another worker has been shifted over to Family Assessment. No PIP (Program Improvement Plan) is necessary. In its place is DAPIM. Social Services is pilot of this process and finding out if kids are accessing Mental Health needs and recognizing that there are no good measures in place.

An Employee Engagement Survey was conducted awhile ago and this tool measured if workers feel valued. Management/Supervisory staff are focusing on how to improve valuing workers. Management is considering other perks such as flex schedules, tuition reimbursement, etc. along with possible salary increases subject to collective bargaining process. One of the concerns is how to remain competitive salary wise and benefit wise as compared to neighboring counties.

\*Update from DHS:

Anita said that one of the significant questions that was recently examined nationally is "How do you know the Panel makes a difference?" and the answer is – The 'products' produced by the panel are useable and good.

\*Old Business:

Annual Report discussion, there are no recommendations.

Guy reported that he will serve on the Fathers Network board and this will begin in January.

Guy's article was approved.

Discussion about our next focus topic: Community Cafes, Incarcerated parent and Trauma Informed Systems.

Don suggested perhaps consideration could be given to Safe Haven which is regarding the statute regarding that a parent can bring a baby to a health facility within 7 days and leave the baby there with no questions asked. This topic was tabled.

In regards to Incarcerated parent, the jail presently has Sesame St project in place and this is a pilot project being conducted by the U of M. It would be helpful to hear more about this program from a representative.

In regards to the Trauma Informed Systems, 2 tools will soon be available to assess this area. We will anticipate examining these tools in January or February. Mental Health professionals often do not address this. One example of this Trauma Informed System is international adoptions. There is no expert in Social Services but training is occurring. There also exists secondary trauma to workers. Anita will bring information regarding Chadwick Center for our January meeting. It will be important to weigh what can we do keeping in mind awareness vs. action. It will also be important to determine what is already being done. Along with this, there was mention that efforts are made to have a child continue to attend his school following an out of home placement due to school stability being so important to lessening their trauma. Mental Health professionals need to be aware of the Trauma Informed System also.

It was also agreed that we would explore Community Cafes.

Reminder given that Holiday gathering will be on Dec 10 5:30pm at The Dock.

\*New Business:

None

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes submitted by Maggie Hart