

Washington County Citizen Review Panel
Minutes January 21, 2014

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

Present: Guy Sederski, Marty Gerkey, Don Pelton, Rick Backman, Anita Keyes, Maggie Hart, Dawn Hyland, Gina Kuchenmeister

Excused: Aine Bebeau, Deborah Eckberg, Lajuan McIntyre

1. Approval of Minutes

2. Update from Washington County

- 2013 3rd quarter dashboard data puts Washington County above the state average for timeliness to initial contact, contact with families within 5 days, percentage of placements with relatives, etc.
- Office is currently fully staffed
- Increasing employee engagement and job satisfaction is a high priority for the county.
- Rick’s job is posted and his last day is at the end of February
- County is looking at surveying to see how many families have one or more parent incarcerated, as well as how staff feel about interacting with a parent who is in jail/prison

3. Update from DHS

- Anita suggested there will be 3 main themes in child protection this year
 - a. Trauma Informed Child Protection Services
 - b. Implementation of the “North Star Law”
 - c. Implementing the “Safe Harbor Act”
- Discussed Community Cafes-will look into having a needs assessment done in Washington County if one has not already been done
- Passed out “Guidelines to Applying a Trauma Lens to a Child Welfare Model”, will discuss this at the February meeting

4. New Business

- Our Annual Report will be presented by Guy at the County Board meeting on February 4th.
- Marty suggested we could host a meeting with other community organizations to discuss “Trauma Informed

Services” using the “Community Café” model for structuring the discussion.

- Will discuss potential 2014 project(s) at February meeting

5. Adjourn: 6:25 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Gina Kuchenmeister