

DRAFT

Washington County Citizens Review Panel Meeting Notes: 11-18-201

Members present: Gina K., Margaret H., Mike L., LaJuan M., Guy S., Julia W., Marty G., Mary D., Sarah A, Nissa K.

Absent: Dawn H., Deb E., Nancy Z.

1. October minutes: Approved by panel

2. Update from Washington County (Sarah)

Judge's Round Table:

The Judges Roundtable luncheon meetings have been reconvened. The Roundtable includes various department heads, the Washington County Judge, attorneys, and representatives from the Sheriff's Office. The topic for this first meeting was Trauma Informed Practice and staff from the Community Services presented on the topic. The staff used the draft trauma checklist materials our panel developed in their presentation. The draft of the brochure for parents on trauma is also being developed for use by the department. The group decided to weave the topic of trauma into their next meeting which will focus on the Corrections Department. These Roundtables are expected to be held on a quarterly basis.

Sarah said the draft of the longer version trauma checklist will be used by supervisors as a tool for reviewing cases with workers. At this time, there are so many checklists that workers are required to complete that it makes more sense to use this as a tool in supervision.

DHS is currently working on a screening tool for trauma and they hope to build this into assessment tools that are already in use, rather than add another assessment tool for trauma.

North Star System Implementation:

In December all staff will be trained in implementing the new Northstar system that revises the way foster care payments and adoption/relative subsidies are determined and the amount that will be paid for care. The assessment tool is very complex and comprehensive. The counties that piloted this system found it onerous in the beginning, but they can see the value of this new system. While it will take workers up to an hour or more to complete this assessment with foster care providers or adoptive families, the process will be more helpful in specifying what services are to be provided to the children to address their needs and what the responsibilities of the foster families/adoptive families are in meeting some of these needs.

This new system is expected to result in lower payments to some foster care providers, but it will also increase payments to adoptive families. In the old system, the payment levels discouraged foster parents from adopting because of the reduction in financial support. There is concern about how this new system could impact retention and recruitment of foster care providers.

The new assessment will be completed at the time of a new placement or a change in placement rather than having to assess all children in care at this time (Washington County currently has 110 children in foster care)

The Panel is interested in having a presentation on the assessment process that will be used by workers. This will be planned for sometime after workers have had more experience using this assessment process.

The 2015 budget request includes a new position for a kinship worker. This will be a 2 year special project.

3. Update from DHS (Mary)

The Joint meeting of all Citizen Review Panels on October 30th was held and several of our members attended. Mary will send out the materials from this meeting to all panel members.

On November 17th, the DHS Children's Safety and Permanence Services staff meeting included representatives from the Citizens Review Panels and the Parent Leadership for Child Safety who presented quick updates on the work of these groups. Sharing across these groups is valuable for all and there may be more opportunities to work together.

4. Old/New Business

December Meeting:

We discussed the December meeting and agreed to change the date of our meeting to earlier in December and to have a dinner meeting at the Dock Café. Maggie agreed to contact the Dock to work out the details and determine if December 8th or 10th would be available for us. Members are encouraged to invite their spouses/partners, although their meals will not be covered by the county.

Annual Report:

The panel reviewed the draft of our 2014 annual report. Marty G. will edit the draft to reflect the suggested additions/ corrections identified by the panel. Mary Doyle agreed to put the report in the final format. We will plan to approve the annual report at our December Meeting. Guy asked Marty if she would present the annual report at the County Board meeting. We usually schedule this for sometime in February.

Governor's Task Force:

We briefly discussed the Governor's Task Force and decided to have either a Task Force member or the DHS staff representative for the Task Force come to our January meeting. The Task Force will be issuing a preliminary report in December. Mary Doyle will arrange for this presentation and for us to get a copy of the preliminary report when it becomes available for distribution.

Recruitment of new CRP members:

Since 3 members will complete their 3rd term on the panel, it isn't too early to begin recruiting for new members. In the past, the county has issued a press release seeking interested citizens for this panel. This approach has been effective in the past. January isn't too early to publish this request for new members given how long it takes to go through the process of approval.

Submitted by: Marty Gerkey