

Washington County Citizen Review Panel for Child Protection

Meeting Minutes January 20, 2015

Members Present:

Nissa Knutson, Katie Johnson (Family Assessment), Mary Doyle, Deb Eckberg, Julia Welter, Mike (Mel) Laughton, Lajuan McIntyre, Gina Kuchenmeister, Dawn Hyland, Nancy Zupfer, Sarah Amundson, Maggie Hart

Members Absent:

Guy Sederski, Marty Gerkey

Approval of December 2014 Minutes:

No minutes were available so this was continued until February 2015 meeting

Update from Washington County (Sarah):

North Star Program has begun but as of this report Washington County has not done a MAPCY assessment.

The initial recommendations from the Governor's Task Force were discussed at MACCSA regarding roles counties will play in these recommendation if adopted in legislation.

How will counties address the financial requirements of any child protection reforms?

Final recommendations will be presented in March 2015.

Washington County is stable with leadership.

There are some open positions that the county is actively attempting to fill.

The 2 year trial of Kinship Worker is moving forward and there are promising internal applications for the position

A news release has been put together calling for individuals to fill positions on the CRP and will be published soon.

Sarah will schedule the presentation of our annual report to the Washington County Board. All member of the panel are welcome and encouraged to attend the meeting to observe.

Responding to a question from Mel, Sarah talked briefly about the requirements for foster care licensure.

Update from DHS (Mary Doyle):

New Assistant Commissioner is Jim Koppel. Jim Koppel wants to include continued and increased focus on child wellbeing while continuing to provide safety and permanency.

Update on Governor's Task Force recommendations

DHS is continuing with Rapid Response which reviews 5% of screened out reports per month (1 from each of 87 counties) and they have just recently begun to review screened in reports as well.

Sarah recounted Washington County's experience with a case that was reviewed

North Star interview form (assessment) is quite heavy and there has been feedback that it is very time consuming to do MAPCY assessments.

There is an opening on the Child Mortality Review Panel, to apply send Mary and email with your qualifications and why you want to be considered

New Business:

Please do the Needs Assessment Survey when you get a chance

Reminder to consider nominating someone for Parent Recognition Month (February)

[The group discussed what we might work on in 2015. Sarah reminded the group about past projects that Washington County CRP has done over the past few years, including:](#)

- [Engaging fathers project](#)
- [Study of out of home placements](#)
- [Child abuse awareness event](#)

Some ideas for future work for the panel included:

- [Engaging community by speaking to community and faith groups about membership on the panel, recruiting foster parents, talking about relative/kin foster care, and generally helping lay people understand the child protection process better.](#)
 - [Action Item: Members should bring ideas about community outreach to the next meeting](#)
 - [Sarah brought up the 25% turnover in staff and ideas to help support wellness in the workforce. Ideas related to this were:](#)
 - [There was a survey sent out to CPS workers previously, and there was some interest in re-doing this and evaluating the data. Nissa will send the survey that was done before.](#)
 - [Some type of recognition/worker appreciation event for CPS workers that the CRP could organize and host](#)

- Action Item: Members should come to next meeting prepared to say what they would like to work on in 2015 so that we can make a decision by the end of February and begin working on projects.

- ~~Members should bring ideas about community outreach to the next meeting~~

Maggie proposed that all pieces of the Trauma Informed Services project (i.e. Judges Bench Card) are not complete and should be included in the projects for the coming year

Old Business:

The panel reviewed the latest draft of the Annual Report. Motion to accept was made and seconded so the Annual Report was approved.

A new list for Snack/Minute taking was made and panel members signed up. Maggie Hart suggested we discuss the nature of snacks we bring as there had historically been a lot of left over.....will discuss at next meeting.

Snack/Minutes for Feb:

Mike (snack) Gina (minutes)

Snack/Minutes Schedule 2015

	Snack	Minutes
Feb	Mike	Gina
Mar	Deb	Julia
April	LaJuan	Maggie
May	Mary	LaJuan
June	Sarah/Nissa	Nancy
Aug	Mike	Gina
Sept	Julia	Mary
Oct	Dawn	Dawn
Nov	Nancy	Nancy