

Washington County Citizen Review Panel
Minutes February 17, 2015

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

Present: Guy Sederski, Deb Eckberg, Marty Gerkey, Maggie Hart, Dawn Hyland, Gina Kuchenmeister, Mary Doyle, Mel Laughton, Sara Amundson, Nissa Knutson, Julia Welter, Nancy Zupfer, LaJuan McIntyre

1. Approval of Minutes

- Sara will change MAPC to MAPCY in the minutes before final submission.
- Nancy-motion to approve, Mike-2nd, motion passed

2. Update from Washington County

- They will be having their state Quality Assurance Review in April, this usually happens every other year but it has been awhile since they had one
- John Nalezny would like to use our group for a stakeholder survey review interview. ~~He is wondering if we would let DHS staff attend one of our meetings to ask questions.~~ DHS staff will attend the March 17th meeting.
- Staff turnover and openings have leveled out and the Kinship Worker position has been filled.
- There is a new senior social worker who has 19 years of experience with the county
- Applications have been received for new members for our panel
- County Board presentation will take place on 2/24
- There are 5 reconsideration requests. Deb, Gina, Mel and LaJuan will review these
- The county has been very busy this year. By this time in 2014 there were 46 assessments, there have been 66 already for 2015
- Sara has been completing ~~weekly~~ many surveys regarding workload, case load size and supervisor/staff ratio. ~~from the~~ This is related to the Governor’s Task Force, which will be used to look at changes that need to be made to the child protection system.
- The increase in cases could be due to the publicity that child protection has had lately
- Deb asked if there was any research to suggest that social workers with more specialized training are more effective. Nissa and Sarah were not sure.

3. Update from DHS

- We were all emailed a survey by Carol Wilcox to fill out, if you have not yet done this please complete it
- Children's Justice Act Task Force will use the survey results to fine tune what they do
- At the stakeholder meeting last week they talked about the 4 DHS divisions, the directions they are taking, and what DHS is asking the Governor's Task Force for
- There was good turnout for a community meeting about what recommendations Assistant Commissioner Koppel will make to the Governor

4. New Business

- We need to determine where our focus will be this year
- Deb suggested secondary trauma and community outreach in churches, etc. to help educate them
- Julia asked if Washington County has a crisis nursery~answer was no
- Maybe look at what resources there already are to offer support PSOP (parent support outreach program)
- LaJuan asked about foster care re-entry. We did look at this previously, but our recommendation was to periodically review this issue. We could talk with John Nalezny because this is something he's passionate about and he could assist us with re-entry numbers
- Marty talked about the reduction in budget as it relates to services and suggested we give voice to tying money to the recommendations
- Guy talked about getting churches, rotary, etc involved to help create respite spots to help families
- Marty is going to see if she can get someone from a church that already has an outreach program to attend our April meeting. There is a church in Stillwater that already has an outreach program, hopefully we can ask them some questions
- April is child abuse prevention month if we want to do something for that
- Also talked about creating a Facebook page for our group to help get information out

- Possibly revisit the trauma informed bench cards
- 5. Adjourn:** 6:30 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Gina Kuchenmeister