

Washington County Citizens Review Panel

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

February 17, 2016

- **Attendance:**
 - Members present: Julia Welter, Nissa Knutson, Mary Doyle, Sarah Amundson, LaJuan McIntyre, Bonnie Treacy, Deb Eckberg (Chairperson) & Molly Olson (County Intern)
 - Members absent: Dawn Hyland, Mel Laughton & Nancy Zupfer

- **Approval of January, 2016 minutes**
 - January, 2016 minutes were approved.

- **Old Business**
 - Julia presented the **Annual Report** at the Washington Cty Board meeting. It was well received and appreciated. Julia acknowledged the support that has been provided to the CRP from Mary, Sarah and Nissa, and shared how their contribution to the group has been exceptional.
 - **Mitten project update:** letter was forwarded to LaJuan
 - **Brochure update:** Mailed – results; one inquiry (background pending) and one referral (interview pending). Potential other members are still being “worked”. Sarah will do a “send out” for use in WA local publications for recruiting CRP members. It was suggested that the Sherriff’s office or Police Departments may want to appoint someone or we could recruit recently retired law enforcement to join the CRP. Deb agreed to reach out to Lee Vague of Woodbury Public Safety and Sarah agreed to reach out to Bill Hutton, Washington County Sheriff.
 - **Shadowing of Child Protection Worker** – within the next week or so, interested , panel members should email Nissa and Sarah to let them know which piece they may want to witness; court appearances, investigative trips or assessments and indicate if they want to be part of the “front end” process or ongoing. Also, include in the email, the time of day, ½ day or full and which days of the week they may be available for the “sShadow”. Lastly, indicate which area of CP are you most interested in; : licensing, foster care, daycare, truancy, mental health, transitions or concurrent.
 - **Webinar** provided by Mary Doyle was very good, per Deb.
 - **CRP Chairperson terms** are “up to two years”, need to be voted on each year
 - Julia moved to vote for Deborah to chair a 2nd year, Lajuan seconded, and panel voted unanimously to confirm
 - **Child Abuse Prevention month** – April
 - *Lending library* for teenagers awaiting family court; panel discussed providing age appropriate reading materials/word game books with signage encouraging them to take books with them. Bonnie has a book shelf to donate and will give to Nissa.
 - Work with Washington County libraries to books on display relating to child protection

- Members agreed to bring books appropriate for ages 10 and up to March or April meeting.
 - Julia offered to create a Child Abuse Prevention “display” which can rotate from the government center, WIC office, ECFE locations, and visiting nurses
 - Sarah will look into ordering “Blue Ribbon Pins”
 - After group agreement, Sarah offered to research, write and schedule an announcement proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention month. Julia offered to present the proclamation at the April 5th Washington County Board Meeting.
- **New Business**
 - **Backpack Project:** Sarah shared that the bags are being used and appreciated by the CP Staff. After discussing the merits of prefilling bags vs. filling them specific to the client; , Nissa offered to talk to the supervisors to put together a plan to help the social workers prep the bags as needed. Sarah will take inventory to determine approximately how many bags have been distributed. CRP discussed expanding distribution to include group homes and other CP kids. Bonnie brought in an additional 12 backpacks and boxes of comfort, personal, and activity items donated by confirmation groups from the Church of St. Michael.
- **Update from Washington County (Sarah, Nissa)**
 - **CP Funding** – the 20% of State appointed funds that were withheld were earned back by Washington County CP. Only 40% of MN counties met the 90% mark of the two areas being measured (timely face time with child victims and monthly visits with foster care kids). Sarah commended Nissa and the other supervisors for their diligence in meeting their goals. It was suggested that we (CRP) should consider writing letters of recognition and providing staff appreciation initiative. Possibly, fold staff recognition into the April Child Prevention. Tabled discussion until March meeting.
 - Sarah is working on assessing the effect and weighing options of implementing the Governor’s task force **24/7 Child Protection plan**. Counties throughout Minnesota are working together to shares thoughts and potential initiatives.
- **Update from DHS (Mary)**
 - Research on CRP – was “stayed” for discussion next month.
 - Mortality Review – hired people to look into it
 - Rapid Response – includes a DHS, another county person and a county social worker
 - Implementation Group – working with them. It was determined that it is impossible to do all in one year. So they decided to prioritize the initiatives in a “roll out” manner; 1,2,3,etc.
 - State Budgeting – CP is now a line item, but we are still not back to the budgets that existed pre “90’s” cuts
- Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM