

Eastern Citizen Review Panel
Minutes of the meeting, November 3, 2006

Attendees:

Lance Jackson Dianne Meckler

OCFS Staff: Tom Hess, Bill Schmidt, David Peters, Emily Bray

SCAA Staff: Diane Mastin

Handouts:

Meeting Agenda

Bill: S8344/A11852A

2006 Child Welfare Legislation Chart

Summary Guide for Mandated Reporters in New York State

Overview of the State Central Register Functions

Working to Develop a Home Visiting System in New York State

Proposed Content for CRP 2006 Annual Report

Draft Eastern/Western Citizen Review Panel Recommendations

Chart: 2005 Recommendations and the 2006-7 NYS Budget

NYPWA: Key Policy Issues for the Next Phase of Welfare Reform

September 15, 2006 Meeting minutes

October 13, 2006 meeting minutes

Meeting began with a welcome and introductions followed by a presentation by the Director of the State Central Register. In 2006, the SCR expects to have handled 370,000 calls. Currently 150,000 reports have been accepted; numbers which has increased 11% over 2005 numbers primarily driven by increased reports coming from New York City. 85% of the calls are answered within 1 minute, a considerable improvement from six years ago when calls could take up to 1 ½ hours to answer. Mr. Peters reported improvements in office space, technology, staff training and support, and training of mandated reporters to help reporters make better reports.

Emily Bray followed with a discussion regarding the child welfare legislation that was passed in 2006 and answered panel members' questions. She referred to the governor's veto of the bill related to training of mandated reporters, stating that they expect the bill to be reintroduced in 2007. The problem with the bill as written had to do with the various professionals covered and their cycles for recertification. The legislation would affect approximately 1.5 million mandated reporters. No funding was included in the bill.

She reviewed the work being done to implement S8183/A11571A on educational neglect. This law is particularly difficult to implement because it requires local departments of Social Services which are county based to collaborate with their local school districts which cross county lines on policies and protocols for handling educational neglect cases. OCFS is interested in identifying models to use as examples to help local districts. They anticipate that local districts will need support and may need extra time than that allowed by the law to come into compliance.

Regarding a Zero Tolerance campaign, OCFS has produced a concerned citizen's guide and education pieces on Shaken Baby. They now need something on rollover deaths. S7042 /A11854

requires that a report having to do with sexual abuse be flagged for the local district to provide a MDT response to that report. If a local district does not have such a team, they will have to have protocols in place to provide such a response. The warrant bill allows a caseworker to seek a court order to enter a home or have access to a child when a case does not have ongoing court involvement. The funding for Child Advocacy Centers will allow eleven or twelve additional counties to start such centers.

Bridget Walsh from the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy reported on efforts by SCAA to convene a broad range of interested state employees, advocates, and others to discuss home visiting. The group has been meeting for over a year and has several work groups with an interest towards moving forward to form a system that includes home visiting, universal screening and prenatal care. Work groups are looking into mapping existing services/needs, funding, and program details. Many questions have risen including questions regarding the compatibility of data systems, use of Medicaid for funding, and how to coordinate with programs such as Early Head Start and Parents as Teachers. No one model is being advanced. Several are operating in NYS all with different eligibility criteria. Instead, the attention is given to a coordinated response to meet the needs of families with a goal that every pregnant woman receive a contact either during pregnancy or after birth to see if that family can benefit from and receive services. The Health Department has renewed its focus on the 10% of women who do not get prenatal care as an outcome of these discussions.