



data system. OCFS is also considering forming a state team that would provide a statewide review of the data, would provide uniform training and protocols to reviewers, and lead to more consistent information from a public health perspective rather than a public safety perspective. OCFS currently funds twelve review teams in the state. The remainder of the reviews are written by OCFS regional staff.

Jacqueline McKnight, ACS Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Child Protection and Martha Marcano, Deputy Director of ACS' Manhattan Field Office, presented information on ChildStat, a training and accountability tool modeled after the police department's CompStat. Meetings are held weekly with ACS Commissioner, Deputy Commissioners, representatives from various ACS departments and borough staff. Data specific to a borough and two randomly selected cases are reviewed at each meeting followed by a debriefing session.

These sessions have led to numerous practice changes which the presenters believe is resulting in better investigations. ACS' analysis is focused on those interviews where a police officer and child welfare worker conduct a joint interview in order to answer the question: Are these interviews of a higher quality? ACS practice goals are showing improvement over time. They stated that ACS management now wants to look further at supervisory guidance given at the 25 day assessment. They believe that the supervision is happening but is not recorded properly. Managers no longer sign off on active cases. As a result, they are seeing good supervision increasing as ownership for these cases has been moved from the manager level to the supervisory level. They have now used ChildStat to review 238 cases. These reviews are received as learning opportunities and borough managers are replicating ChildStat in their zones. Since ChildStat's introduction in 2006, ACS staff have conducted almost 70,000 investigations.

Carrie Jefferson Smith, Director and Associate Professor, School of Social Work at Syracuse University and Eastern Panel Vice Chair, presented research she conducted on kinship care with support from the Brookdale Foundation and Generations United Kin Net. Nationally, 2.3 million children live in kinship care as a result of parental incarceration, mental and physical illness, as well as other factors. Many kin providers are elderly with health and financial strains impacting their ability to care for these children. Her research looked at licensure status, safety and permanency. Her findings indicate that those who were licensed accessed more financial resources such as Medicaid, food stamps, and SSI. About 75% were not involved in a permanency planning process. Many others looked for pre-placement services that would support the needs of their adult children in an attempt to prevent the placement of their grandchildren into their care. The Jane Addams School study is one piece of research that looked at protective factors. Dr. Smith stated the policies and funding have not followed this shift towards using relative care. She noted that kids in foster care have higher PTSD rates than veterans of war. Further research is needed on the attitude of workers.

Gerard Wallace Esq., Coordinator Kin Care Support Project, discussed kin care in New York State with panel members, presented information about the Kin Care Coalition and the advocacy needed at this time in NYS. He reported that most kin care providers are in New York City and that NYC supports those providers with licensure. Family members have a critical window of opportunity to become foster care providers. If they have entered into private relationships it is unlikely they will be approved as foster parents at a later time. About 15% of those eligible for a

OTDA child-only grant receive funding support. Kin need better information at the front door of child welfare to understand their options.

Panel members reviewed a communication received from a family member regarding a child welfare case in a county in the Eastern region. They will keep the concerns raised in that letter in mind while making their recommendations for the year. For the agenda in September, panel members would like to have a presentation on the IBM pilot at the SCR, a discussion with the workers from the shadowing experience in the 2008 report, and a discussion related to their future meeting agendas. They are also interested in sharing information outside of the panel meetings.