

**New York State Citizen Review Panels**  
**Minutes of the Joint Meeting**  
Friday, October 14, 2005

*Attendees:*

*New York City Panel Members:* Eric Brettschneider, Jocelyn Brown, Gerard Papa

*Eastern Panel Members:* Stacy Alvord, Mary McCarthy, Dianne Meckler, JoAnn Merriman, Julia Smead-Bielawski, Anita Welborn, and Lori Currier Woods

*Western Panel Members:* Mark Lazzara, Stefan Perkowski, and James Vazzana.

*OCFS Staff:* Larry Brown, Richard Nells, Thomas Hess

*SCAA Staff:* Karen Schimke, Diane Mastin

*Guests:* Junius Scott, Shari Brown, Renee Rider

*Handouts:*

PowerPoint Presentation: Excerpts from 52 Program Improvement Plans

Federal and State Laws Governing CRPs

Commissioner Johnson's response to Panels 2004 Annual Report

CAPTA Initiatives: Accomplishments in 2004-2005

Child Welfare Outcomes 2002: Executive Summary, Safety Permanency Well-being and New York Data

Information on Forum: Access to Child Welfare Research

The meeting consisted of a presentation by Larry Brown, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Development and Prevention Services, NYS Office of Children & Family Services, a presentation by Junius Scott, Program Manager, Youth and Family Services Division, Office of State and Youth Programs, Administration for Children and Families, and a facilitated discussion amongst panel members to review panel organization, outcomes, and goals for working together.

Larry Brown reviewed OCFS priorities for the remaining 15 months of the current administration and offered suggestions for panel work in collaboration with OCFS. OCFS priorities and some suggestions include:

- Monitoring implementation of the Permanency Bill and new opportunities for family engagement strategies.
- Creation of additional home and community based waiver slots.
- Capturing savings in 4-E funds for use in prevention services to reduce foster care placements.
- Recommendations for case load standards.
- Participation by panels in the second Child and Family Service Review.
- Advocacy by the panels at the federal level for EITC and 4-E funding.
- Panels focus on the front-end decision points in CPS to support OCFS work regarding over representation of minorities and disproportionality.

Additionally, he suggested that panels submit a joint, uniform request to OCFS for data.

Junius Scott's presentation highlighted findings from the first Child and Family Service Review. He reviewed some of the findings, explained that those findings became the basis for each state's Program Improvement Plan, and that each state is now monitored for progress on their plan. Second round reviews are being scheduled. Further information can be found on the website at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/index.htm>.

Karen Schimke facilitated a discussion with panel members. The following decisions were made:

- The three panels would collectively focus on a few items for joint work. The three issues for which they asked for more information are 1) Child Fatality Teams, 2) the Rights Letter, and 3) Workforce issues. They also agreed to monitor past interests and/or recommendations.
- They would make joint recommendations in their annual report.
- Various communication tools will be used to help connect and inform members of each of the panels work and interests.

In addition, SCAA staff was asked to take more of a leadership role in offering policy analysis, disseminating information, supporting a joint decision making process, and making suggestions for panel activities.

Each panel will continue the discussion at the next individual meetings.