

New York City Panel  
Minutes of the meeting, November 3, 2005

Attendance:

Jocelyn Brown	Yvonne Hutchins Plummer	Marion White
Mathea Rubin	David Lansner	Eric Brettschneider

*ACS Staff:* Zeinab Chahine, Joe Cardieri, Elizabeth Roberts, Karen Keith, PhD, Chantal Ward, Commissioner John Mattingly

*OCFS Staff:* Richard Nells

*SCAA Staff:* Karen Schimke, Diane Mastin

*Handouts:*

- New York State Citizen Review Panels' Annual Report
- Commissioner Johnson's response to Panels' Annual Report
- September 8 Minutes
- October 14 Joint Panel Meeting Minutes
- OCFS 2004 CAPTA Accomplishments
- ACS Take Good Care of Your Baby campaign pieces
- ACS Handbook for Healthy Development of Children and Youth
- Presentation: NYC Children's Services, Office of Child and Family Health

The meeting began with introductions and a thank you to SCAA staff for their work in preparation for this meeting and to OCFS staff for their participation in the joint panel meeting. Chairs offered congratulations to Larry Brown, who was recently appointed Executive Deputy Director of OCFS.

Elizabeth Roberts and Karen Keith, Ph.D., ACS Office of Child and Family Health, gave a presentation on ACS policies, practices and procedures for health care, highlighting ACS programs and services to meet the medical needs of children in their care. See attached presentation.

In response to questions from panel members, staff and/or Commissioner Mattingly indicated that they want to be notified of any instances when employees or agency staff do not follow their policies regarding medical care for children, family engagement and role in medical decision making, etc. With regard to medical passports, some agencies use such passports and others do not. They are large and not easily used by foster families. ACS is looking into something different that would be more useable for families. With Build 19, children's medical information should be more transferable. With their QA/QI reviews, ACS staff are seeing improvement on the part of agencies in regard to providing the recommended medical care for each child. They still see some gaps and know that they must continue the oversight they provide to agencies with whom they contract. Panel chairs asked that the panel be kept abreast with updates, progress, and statistics as information becomes available.

Home Alone Guidelines: panel members discussed suggested action steps. Panel members agreed that there was some contribution that the panel can make in this area and asked that

SCAA do some investigation into the topic. Zeinab Chahine and Jocelyn Brown offered to send information that they have to SCAA staff. David Lansner offered to look into legal decisions that have been made that could possibly be used to inform parents. Suggestions included activity on the part of the panel to bring a Parents Anonymous group to the city and the need for connecting parents to a parent crisis hotline. SCAA staff will bring information to the panel on Parents Anonymous. If a presentation can be arranged, community groups that are working in this area such as Child Welfare Project would be invited. Commissioner Mattingly talked about a new advertising campaign in which ACS has made a considerable investment, Take Good Care of Your Baby. The campaign covers water safety, sleeping on your back, shaken baby, and sleeping alone, addressing topics which present safety risks for infants. The point was raised that the Health Department has similar interests and may be interested in collaborating and/or funding opportunities. There may be opportunities to work with groups such as Prevent Child Abuse on this issue.

2005 Recommendations: Panel members asked that SCAA staff draft recommendations for the 2005 annual report on the following topics for their review: support for Home Visiting and Children and Family Trust Fund, monitor implementation of the permanency bill asking to have plans/strategies shared and following court ordered removals through data that is collected; Home and Community Based waiver slots; support for FBI checks for prospective Foster Care and Adoptive Parents; child advocacy centers; consumer and parent advocacy programs; and Safe Babies.

Panel members asked that panel meetings for 2006 cover the following topics: Disproportionality especially in regards to mandated reporters, who do and do not make reports; Parents Anonymous, further investigation into Home Alone guidance for parents, ACS Permanency implementation strategies, and a presentation on ACS's Realignment plans and child care restructuring. Commissioner Mattingly mentioned that ACS is bringing Paul Vincent, a nationally known expert on Family Engagement strategies, to New York City as a consultant. SCAA staff was asked to explore with ACS personnel the possibility of panel members attending a program or other scheduled event when he visits. Updates will be given at the next meeting on the proposed legislation to allow FBI checks.

Panel members are interested in exploring with the other panels work on Child Fatality Teams/Reports, Family Engagement Strategies, and Workforce issues. They look forward to a phone conference call with the other panels.

Panel members agreed to hold an election of panel chairs and discuss panel membership at its next meeting. Notice will be given in advance to panel members that this item will be on the agenda. Also, panel members agreed that the next panel meeting will be scheduled in the afternoon to accommodate a panel member who can not attend morning meetings.

Possible meeting dates for 2006 are: January 12, March 2, May 4, June 22, September 7, October 13, and November 30. One of the meetings will be a joint panel meeting.