

NYC CRP
Minutes of the meeting
November 4, 2008

Attendees:

David Lansner
Marion White

Jocelyn Brown
Wayne Ho

Jorge Saenz DeVitera
Mathea Rubin

OCFS Staff: Terry Palumbo

SCAA Staff: Karen Schimke Diane Mastin

Handouts:

Agenda

Child Welfare Financing presentation

2009 Meeting Dates and Suggested Topics

Voices for America's Children outline of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (H.R. 6893)

Two sets of draft recommendations, one by SCAA and one by panel co-chair

Draft Introduction to 2008 CRP Report

Minutes of the September 9th meeting

Minutes of the Joint panel meeting

Articles:

- *Strengthening Schools by Strengthening Families*, Center for New York City Affairs, The New School, by Kim Nauer, Andrew White, and Rajeev Yerneni, Executive Summary and section on Reporting Cases of Abuse or Neglect
- *Erin's Law would define "minimum care"*, John O'Brien, The Post-Standard, Syracuse.com, 10/21/2008.
- *Erin's Law proposed*, Giselle Phelps, www.news10now.com, 10/21/2008

Meeting opened with a welcome and announcement that representatives of the NYC Panel have an appointment with Senator Golden the following week to talk about the NYS Budget and potential cuts in funding.

Panel members then reviewed draft recommendations for the panels' annual report. Panel members asked that the recommendations state more firmly the action requested. Panel members stated the importance of offering their ideas for areas for budget cuts which would be acceptable to protect important preventive funding and move towards reforming the system. OCFS preventive programs are likely to experience 22% cuts.

Karen Schimke, President/CEO of SCAA, gave an overview of the Child Welfare Financing Law, its history, significance, and ideas for changes in the law to consider as the law sunsets in 2009. In her presentation she stated the likelihood that Community Optional Preventive Services funding or COPS is at risk as NYS budget cuts are discussed. COPS represents about 2% of child welfare spending (\$24 million).

Eric Brettschneider, former co-chair of the NYC panel, met with panel members to give an overview of his work to identify areas for reform in child welfare for OCFS. Over the past two months, he has developed an inventory of recommendations and concepts which he will present to the Commissioner. This work could lead to the formation of a Task Force or Commission to look at child welfare reforms. His inventory includes the following categories: infrastructure and key components of child welfare; human resources including training, hiring and retention, and standard setting; reports made to the SCR including educational neglect and anonymous reports; Connections; and young people aging out of the system. He talked about the opportunities for change, eliminating what is not working and investing in what does work.

Panel members reviewed draft recommendations for their 2008 panel report as well as a list presented for review by the panel co-chair. Discussion followed. Panel members stated their interest in having more information about those recommendations that had not been discussed at the joint panel meeting. They agreed that data should be referenced wherever possible. Panel members agreed to offer their comments within the next week. If not agreed to by the panel, the recommendations will be forwarded in a letter to the commissioner as a private individual.

Panel members agreed to send a letter to the Governor and Division of the Budget to support funding for COPS, Home Visiting and funding for the panels.