

New York City Citizen Review Panel
Thursday, March 3, 2005
10:00 am to 11:30 am

Meeting Notes

Attendance:

Yvonne Hutchins-Plummer
David Lansner

Mathea Rubin
Jocelyn Brown

Eric Brettschneider
Marion White

OCFS Staff: Richard Nells

Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy staff: Karen Schimke, Diane Mastin

Location: The Bronfman Center

Handouts: Minnesota Alternative Response Evaluation, A Review of Pilot Project Findings from 2001-2004 Summary
Data: Total, Indicated and Unfounded CPS Reports, 2001

Meeting was called to order at 10:05 and began with introductions. Panel chairs welcomed SCAA as the new contractor to support the work of the panels. This was followed by an overview of SCAA's mission and work. Supporting the work of the panels will enhance SCAA's advocacy through increased understanding of the experience of local communities gained through panel meetings. SCAA will strive to support panel membership as each panel clearly articulates their goals and defines their work plans. The work of each of the panels is on behalf of the citizens of NYS. OCSF, SCAA, and the panels will build a partnership to this end.

The resume of Jose Nazario was brought to the attention of the panel as interested in panel membership. The panel agreed to forward his resume to the Assembly for consideration once there is an opening. Jackie Winston's name and Sharline Nicholson were also suggested. Donna Golia's name has been submitted to the Governor's office and Senate office for a possible appointment. The panel has two slots from the Governor's office currently open. SCAA staff will survey members of the panel who have not attended to seek their interest in continued membership on the panel.

Panel members agreed to move the starting times of their meetings to 9:30 am.

SCAA staff will contact ACS Commissioner Mattingly's office to follow-up his interest in sending a representative to the panel meetings. Panel members are interested in a discussion on dual track and ACS reservations about the proposed legislation at the next meeting.

The panel reviewed the minutes from the February 8th planning session and began discussion on a work plan for 2005. Panel members agreed to plan a hearing on dual track legislation. The hearing would have requirements such as:

- Testimony will be submitted in advance and scheduled by panel members

- Those giving testimony would be asked to give a 2 minute summary, leaving more time for questions and answers
- Testimony would be structured by questions the panel would pose in the invitation to interested parties. (SCAA will draft)

Panel members are interested in hearing from many parties and the invitation list will be extended to schools of social work, public health and law, nursing associations, AMA, Pediatrics Association, OCSF, Voices for Youth, etc. (panel members will submit lists)

Panel members decided to send a letter signed by the panel co-chairs to the Queens Borough President, Helen Marshall, asking for her support to hold a hearing in May. Planning for media coverage will be a priority.

SCAA staff will schedule a conference call with the other panel chairs to solicit their interest in joining this hearing and determining the focus as either state-wide or NYC only.

The other ideas for panel work expressed at the planning meeting in February were discussed including home alone standards, stability of minority foster care agencies and disproportionality, and removals without court order. SCAA staff will draft a work plan for the panel's future activities for review by the members.

Other items:

- A letter from the panel will be sent to ACS asking for monthly statistics or reports on court ordered removals.
- Panel members will look forward to a report at the May panel meeting on a meeting to be held in two weeks with Judge Kaye's office on a permanency bill.
- Panel members agreed to send a letter of concern for the lack of financial support to the Hoyt Memorial Children and Family Trust Fund and lack of funding for home visiting programs. The other two panels will be asked if they would like to join in signing the letter.
- SCAA staff will send out information to the panel on the latest issue of Child Welfare Watch.
- ACT staff will take the lead on drafting home alone guidelines.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 5th at 9:30. Location has yet to be determined.