

New York City Citizen Review Panel

Thursday, May 5, 2005

9:30 am to 11:30 am

Meeting Notes

Attendance:

Mathea Rubin

Eric Brettschneider

Sania Andrea Metzger, Esq.

David Lansner

Jocelyn Brown

OCFS Staff: Richard Nells, Thomas Hess

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

Location: New York City United Way offices

Handouts: Four pamphlets on child abuse and prevention

Journal News Editorial: Rethinking foster care

Times Union Op-ed: Treasure the Children

Bill Summary A00313

NYC data: Recurrence of Abuse/Neglect, CPS Reports by Reporter Type, Educational Neglect Reports, Inadequate Guardianship Reports, ACS Five Year Trend data.

Citizen Review Panel Resources

Minutes from March 3rd meeting

Meeting was called to order at 9:30. Panel began by reviewing the draft work plan for the panel's 2005 meetings. They agreed to add a goal regarding their ongoing interest and support for preventive services including Healthy Families Home Visiting and the Hoyt Children and Family Trust to the plan.

An upcoming hearing on a proposed bill in the Assembly, A6334, to establish a New York State Child Advocate Office modeled after New Jersey's was then discussed. Panel asked that SCAA staff review the proposed legislation and give feedback to panel members. A hearing on May 5th regarding children in foster care as participants in HIV drug trials was brought to the panel's attention. Panel members were asked to bring additional information on these two issues to the next meeting.

The Permanency Bill, A3515, and a meeting convened by Judge Kaye on the bill were discussed. There seems to be much agreement in the Assembly and Senate on the first part of the bill and some key issues of concern in the second part. The Assembly is not likely to approve the bill unless some changes are made in part B. The legislation is supported by OCFS, ACS, Legal Aid, State Bar, CFR, and others, however, the bills differ in Part B. Panel members reiterated their interest in having SCAA give their professional analysis and insight on various proposed pieces of legislation and offer their support to the panel in formulating a position on key issues as they come up.

OCSF reported that Donna Golia is no longer being considered for an executive appointment to the panel. The following names have been forwarded to the Assembly for consideration: Jackie Winston, Jose Nazario, and Sharlene Nicholson. Panel asked that SCAA staff follow up with the Assembly appointment office to follow up on these names.

Panel members offered many questions about the data included in their packets and called for clarification on some, as well as requesting further information. SCAA will put these questions into a letter to be submitted to OCFS staff. Panel members had numerous questions about educational neglect. Panel chairs asked if Ann Moynihan would be available to attend the next panel meeting and if she would consider panel membership.

In a discussion on a possible joint panel meeting on either Oct. 14th or 21st, members indicated their interest in attending such a meeting only if there was some critical issue to discuss among the three panels or some work to be achieved leading to important outcomes. They suggested a joint phone conference call with panel chairs to do the planning.

An update on Dual Track legislation was given. Revised legislation responding to domestic violence concerns should be available on Monday, May 9th. SCAA staff will keep the CRP informed.

Panel reviewed the public hearing notice, made revisions, and went over details for the hearing. A survey will be conducted with the panel members not in attendance to inform them of the hearing and see if their schedules permitted attendance on June 10th. Notices will go out in the mail on Monday along with special invitations to key persons. Press notices will also go out for inclusion in various community calendars as well. Another press notice will go out a few days before the hearing. SCAA was asked to connect with an expert witness for possible attendance at the hearing. The outcome of the hearing will be a clarification of the remaining differences that people have regarding this legislation. On June 6th at 12:00 noon, the panel will have a joint phone conference call to go over remaining details for the hearing. ACT and the Child Advocacy Center of NY will provide staffing at the hearing.

OCFS staff announced the upcoming release of RFP's including: TANF Preventive funds totaling \$15 million of which \$2,121,000 is reserved for Post-Adoption services, \$1.4 million in federal dollars plus \$250,000 in state dollars for Kinship-Caretaker Relative services, and \$1 million for Multidisciplinary Teams, Child Advocacy Centers and Child Fatality Review Teams.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 7th at 10:00 at the New York City United Way offices.