

NYC CRP  
Minutes of the Meeting  
June 17, 2008

*Attendees:*

|                     |                         |               |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Eric Brettschneider | Jorge Saenz DeViteri    | Elba Montalvo |
| Wayne Ho            | Jocelyn Brown           | Marion White  |
| Mathea Rubin        | Yvonne Hutchins Plummer | David Lansner |

*OCFS staff:* Theresa Palumbo

*ACS Staff:* Anne Williams Isom Nancy Thomson  
Margaret Morgan Belinda Conway

*SCAA Staff:* Diane Mastin

*Handouts:*

Agenda

OCFS Response to the 2007 Report and Recommendations

Calling the Question: Can Oversight Improve Outcomes in Public Child Welfare? PowerPoint Presentation by Sue D. Steib, LCSW, Ph.D.

CRP Recommendations and the 2008-2009 NYS Budget

Chart: 2008 Child Welfare legislation

Bills: A10803 and A4425a

Chart: 14 Components to Support an Effective Child Welfare Workforce

Administration for Children and Families Exit Conference giving preliminary feedback on NYS CFSR

Possible Action Steps for the NYC CRP

Report on CPS meetings by David Lansner

April 15<sup>th</sup> letter, May 29<sup>th</sup> letter, and report from ASFA Coalition Emergency Removal

Committee to Commissioner Mattingly

May 29<sup>th</sup> letter to Coalition from Commissioner Mattingly

Addressing the Health Care Needs of Foster Care Children, First Focus, May 2008

Babies Sleep Safest Alone information

ACS Safety Alert #14: Newborns or Newly Discovered Children Whose Siblings are in Foster Care

OCFS Draft Model Policy on Educational Neglect

Updated Panel information

Minutes from the May 6, 2008 meeting

Meeting began with a welcome and introductions. Panel members received an overview of the 2008 OCFS response to the panels' 2007 report and recommendations. The response emphasized the need to work in partnership, the difficulty in building the skills necessary to engage families in a non-punitive manner across districts, and the importance of strength-based, outcome-based interventions. Panel support is needed to bring programs to scale, to improve the state's ability to measure outcomes, and to increase availability of data across systems. The report on the federal Child and Family Service Review will inform the State's Performance

Improvement Plan and will determine how best to move forward. Panel members mentioned several areas of concern in their report that were not addressed in the OCFS response and that the response did not address the fundamental questions raised by panel members in the report. Mentioned were the concerns regarding mandated reporters, special education students, the large number of unfounded reports, families who don't seek services due to fear, anonymous reporting, and inexperienced caseworkers.

Commissioner Carrion supports the formation of the reform task force called for in the panel report, but any reform will likely be based upon changing the current system, not throwing it out. Disproportionality has to be looked at by asking the right questions. Any solutions will benefit all involved in the child welfare system. Having data to drive decision making and putting into place standards will help lead to reform and improved quality in the system.

Several panel members expressed interest in attending a ChildStat meeting. ChildStat could serve as a model for local districts across the state. An evaluation tool has yet to be developed that can assess practice changes on the front line. Data is helping and already the ChildStat discussions have led to policy changes.

Panel members reviewed child welfare legislation chart and reviewed ACS' new policy on infants with siblings in care. Panel members urged ACS to review this policy through a racial lens and vet it with the Racial Equity Task Force. Concern was expressed that the borough director does not become involved in all cases and can have a skewed view if only looking at child fatality reports.

A new city task force has been formed to look at family court reforms. David Lansner, Panel Co-chair is one of many task force members. Panel asked Mr. Lansner to communicate two suggestions to members of the task force for their consideration: 1) adopt a dress code for family court personnel and lawyers that conveys respect for the proceedings and 2) to adopt a culture with everyone asking the question, What did we accomplish for these children and families? Instituting day-to-day trials, dismissing cases that are not completed within 60 days, reports comparing judges to their peers on a number of measures to increase accountability, and strengthening the administration's ability to make things happen were additional ideas expressed.

At the panel's next meeting ACS staff will present information about the work out of their Racial Equity Task Force and they will follow-up on a cooperative agenda with ACS. Kathleen DeCataldo, Executive Director of the Permanent Judicial Commission on Children, will be invited to talk about court reform. Panel members agreed to send a letter on behalf of the panel in support of preventive funding in the NYC budget. The next meeting will also include an update on the work of the Children's Cabinet and Advisory Board.