

NYC CRP
Minutes of the Meeting
September 9, 2008

Attendees:

Eric Brettschneider	Jorge Saenz DeVitera	Marion White
Wayne Ho	Jocelyn Brown	David Lansner
Mathea Rubin	Yvonne Hutchins Plummer	

OCFS Staff: Theresa Palumbo

ACS Staff: John Mattingly Liz Roberts
 Gilbert Taylor

Presenter: Kathleen DeCataldo

Handouts:

Meeting Agenda

Proposed NYS CRP 2008 Report Content and Timeline

NYS CRP Panels 2008 Recommendations Working Document

OCFS 2008-09 Amended Budget

2008 Child Welfare Legislation update

ACS Task Force on Racial Equity and Cultural Competence PowerPoint Presentation

Publications:

Education Matters: Addressing the Educational Needs of Children in Foster Care, New York State Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children, Oct. 2006

Ensuring the Healthy Development of infants in Foster Care: A Guide for Judges, Advocates and Child Welfare Professionals, Jan. 2004

Accomplishments Year 15 Report, New York State Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children.

Article: *Evaluating Children's Advocacy Centers' Response to Child Sexual Abuse*, US Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Aug. 2008,

www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojjdp.

Minutes from the June 17th meeting

The meeting opened with a welcome and introductions. Kathleen DeCataldo, Executive Director of the Permanent Judicial Commission on Children gave a presentation on the Commission and some of its initiatives. The Commission is grounded in the belief that judicial leadership can impact child welfare. Among the initiatives discussed were:

- Model Courts
- The Court Improvement Project
- Sharing Success Conference
- Adoption Now efforts
- Enabling children and youth to be part of court proceedings
- Adolescent waiting room.

Panel members asked several questions and queried how the Commission and the Panel might work together. A film clip of youth talking about their own lives in the system was shared with the Panel. It was very well received.

Liz Roberts and Gilbert Taylor from ACS presented on the ACS Racial Equity Task Force. Power Point slides were shared with the Panel (attached). The Panel members were especially interested in understanding more about disproportionality for different age groups, children of different economic status, by nature of allegation or source of report.

ACS staff reported that 35 staff have been trained through Uncovering Racism. They find that raising awareness about these issues is quite a challenge and are careful presenting the data to staff. It is clear that there is disparity and disproportionality at both the front door and the back door to the child welfare system. ACS staff have outlined action steps to address over the next two years on disproportionality to raise awareness, examine practice, develop staff and leadership, deepen data analysis and partner with family court.

Following these two presentations Co-chair Eric Brettschneider announced that he would be resigning from the NYC CRP as he is now under contract with OCFS. His project will focus on the review of the child welfare system which grew out of the Panels recommendation in the 2007 report. Panel members were sorry to see Eric go and wished him good luck while at the same time being pleased because the review is now underway. Before leaving Eric noted that his leaving meant that the group had two decisions to make:

- Did the CRP want one chair or co-chairs?
- Who did they want to (co)chair the Panel?

After some discussion the panel was unanimous in wanting to have co-chairs and after a motion from Jorge and seconded by Wayne, David Lansner and Elba Montalvo were elected as co-chairs of the New York City Citizen Review Panel.

The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing ideas for recommendations for the 2008 Annual Report. Panel members reviewed the recommendations chart. The current status of recommendations was discussed where possible and ideas were presented for the group's consideration. Panel members volunteered to prepare write-ups in a number of key areas:

- Fatality Review Teams—Jocelyn Brown
- Parent Education—Jorge Saenz DeViteri
- Special Education—Mathea Rubin
- Disproportionality—Wayne Ho
- Various issues—David Lansner

There was agreement that the write-ups would be provided to SCAA staff by September 29. To further round out information that might guide recommendations, staff was asked to correspond with the stakeholders who attended the meeting with the Panel asking any suggestions or recommendations they might have.

There was a brief discussion about the Joint Panel meeting to be held on October 10, 2008 in Albany and the meeting was adjourned.