

Eastern Citizen Review Panel
Minutes of the Meeting
February 4, 2011

Attendees:

Lance Jackson
Carrie Smith

Ed Blatt
JoAnn Merriman

Julia Beliewski

OCFS Staff: Renee Hallock
SCAA Staff: Diane Mastin

Claire Strohmeier

Sheila Poole

Handouts:

Agenda

Individual Fatality Report Template Example

Administrative Directive: Notice of Placement Change to Attorneys for Children

Bill Summary: S373

Chart: ECRP Action Plan

2011 Child Welfare Legislation, "Same as" Bills

2011-12 CRP Grant

Data relating risk assessment ratings, recurrence rates, overdue investigations, caseloads, and COPS services.

November 12, 2010 meeting minutes

OCFS Associate Commissioner for Regional Operations and Practice Improvement, Sheila Poole, and Claire Strohmeier from OCFS Continuous Quality Improvement unit, presented information related to the new child fatality reporting system implemented by OCFS in October, 2010. The new system will improve timeliness of reports and improve consistency in the information contained in reports written by OCFS regional staff across the state. For the first time, OCFS will be able to analyze the data to identify key trends statewide and target prevention efforts. Currently there are 14 funded independent child fatality review teams that meet and do child fatality reports. Their work will continue. From 7% to 10.5% of all child fatalities are reported to the State Central Register and reviewed. New York State joined the National Center for Child Death Review, one of 31 states who participate in this database. Over time, OCFS will be able to identify key trends using multiple variables to compare trends across states. The new system reduces the time taken to write fatality reports from 28 hours to 4 hours.

Approximately 70% of the reports reviewed involve infants in sleep-related deaths. The new analysis will allow greater focus on what happens in these circumstances by drilling down into the details. The New York State form combines national questions with New York's risk assessment information. The data base has 34 predefined analyzes and will allow OCFS to

customize reports using a menu of data points to do additional comparisons. Panel members asked if OCFS representatives could provide a follow-up to the panel in one year.

OCFS staff reported to the panel that a new INF related to parental notification was drafted and in the final approval stage. The INF will be issued to local departments of social services and reinforces the practice of notifying parents when a child's placement is changed. OCFS expects all parents to be active in their cases throughout their involvement with child welfare system and has emphasized this expectation through their family engagement initiative and various training opportunities. This new INF reinforces good casework practice.

OCFS staff presented addition data related to high recurrence rates, high reentry rates, length of time spent in foster care matched with risk assessment ratings and COPS information.

Panel members thanked SCAA staff for their work on the *2010 NYS Citizen Review Panel Annual Report and Recommendations*. SCAA staff provided an overview of the *2011-12 Executive Budget*. Discussion followed regarding advocacy needed to advance the panel's recommendations. Panel members agreed to meet with key leaders in the Eastern panel region.