

Eastern Citizen Review Panel Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting
September 9, 2010

Attendees:

Hector Ramirez
Carrie Smith

Mary McCarthy
JoAnn Merriman

Lance Jackson

OCFS Staff: Renee Hallock

SCAA Staff: Diane Mastin

Handouts:

Agenda

CFPSR data packet on Safety and Permanency

NYS CRP 2010 Recommendations: Ideas from discussions at panel meetings

NYS CRP Joint Panel Meeting Agreements, June 4, 2010

Revised Operating Guidelines

Eastern Region CRP Action Plan – chart

Update: NYS CRP Recommendations

NYS OCFS 2009 Response to the Report and Recommendations of the NYS Citizen Review Panels

2010 Report Timeline

Updated legislative chart

2010 Forum information

Kinship Guardianship Assistance Legislation

Minutes of the March 19, 2010 meeting

Renee Hallock, OCFS Child and Family Services Review Director presented an overview of the OCFS response to the panel's 2009 Annual Report and Recommendations and updated information on various OCFS initiatives. OCFS is planning a summit in New York City in the fall to present a report detailing the outcomes of the 2010 Forums. OCFS received notice of a grant award to develop a supervision model of practice in New York State. Two additional counties have been included in the Disproportionate Minority Representation pilot by OCFS: Albany and Onondaga. OCFS is awaiting the latest Vera Institute Report on education neglect which will be used to advocate for legislative change and blended funding to offer an alternative response to education neglect reports to the SCR. OCFS plans to work collaboratively with schools and other institutions. What is needed at this time are strategies for schools, communities, agencies and other partners to collaborate to prevent chronic absenteeism and students from dropping out of school so that these cases do not come into the child protective system.

Ms. Hallock presented data packets that OCFS is using with local departments of social services to discuss practice improvements in child welfare. Each county was asked to select a family engagement strategy to use to impact recurrence and permanency. Practice questions are also presented with the data to help counties understand where improvements may be made. For example, the current 17% re-entry rate within one year of discharge from foster care drives questions about whether or not a children are discharged too soon; whether or not preventive services were offered after release and for a long enough period of time; and whether a large number of siblings were all discharged at the same time, overwhelming the parent when they returned home. Counties are asked to develop a hypothesis, a logic model and a set of measures. The data packets are updated and reviewed every six months for progress towards goals. Counties were encouraged to share the data with their local courts, service providers and other stakeholders. New electronic tools are available to assist in training, coaching and improving skills in family engagement.

Panel members discussed possible recommendations to bring to the October Joint Panel meeting. They agreed on three recommendations to discuss at the October meeting. Panel members reviewed the decisions made at the June Joint Panel meeting and began discussing a work plan for the coming year. Panel members chose to focus their work on family preservation. They scheduled another meeting for November to draft their work plan after reviewing and analyzing state data.