Western CRP
Minutes of the Meeting
March 13, 2014

Attendees:
Ellen Kennedy          Dennis Walczyk          Paula Mazur
Sarlyn Tate            Melissa Cavagnero

Guests: The Buffalo News: Michael Connolly, Editor     Stan Evans, Deputy Editor

SCAA Staff: Diane Mastin, by phone

Handouts:
Agenda
Invitation letter to The Buffalo News editor
SPARC PLN Prevention Workgroup Memo on Prevention messaging
WCRP Chair Letter to the Editor
2014-15 Selected Human Services Budget Comparison
TANF Program Funding in the 2014-15 Budget
2014 Meeting Dates and Topics
2014 Child Welfare Legislation chart
NYS CRP Memo of Support for funding Essential Child Welfare Services at 65% State Share
NYS CRP Testimony before the Joint Fiscal Committees on the SFY 2014-15 Executive Budget, Human Services Budget Hearing, 2/4/14
Minutes of the September 13, 2013 meeting

The first portion of the Western Panel meeting was devoted to planning. The second portion of the meeting was devoted to an off the record conversation with the Michael Connolly, Editor and Stan Evans, Deputy Editor of The Buffalo News. Panel members presented an overview of cps, the panels, the complexity of child welfare practice, and their concerns. The discussion was devoted to the paper’s coverage of recent child fatalities, the role of the media in reporting complex social issues, resulting impacts, parameters related to confidentiality, and the media’s interest in greater transparency.

Panel members agreed to continue with a discussion on confidentiality, provide research on the correlation between poverty and child welfare, and invite the Erie County Commissioner to their next meeting. They reviewed specific items within the Executive Budget and child welfare legislation under consideration in the current session.