

Eastern Citizen Review Panel for Child Protective Services

Meeting Summary September 16, 2021 • 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Attendees:

Eastern Panel Members

Carrie Smith
Kathy Halas
Eunju Lee
Sharon Chesna

NYC Panel Members

Welfare Research, Inc.

Jennifer Goldman
Ellen Unruh
Jason Tessolecki

Western Panel Members

Guests

David Bach, OCFS

Handouts

Eastern CRP Meeting Agenda 9.15.21
Eastern CRP Meeting Minutes 5.20.21
Illinois Caseworker Stipend Program
Reports During COVID-19/Journal of Race & Law

Welcome

Updates from NYS Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS)

Malicious Calls:

David Bach, Associate Commissioner at OCFS, discussed the Panels' concerns with malicious reporting. If it is suspected that a caller is making repeated, malicious calls, the State Central Register (SCR) places that caller's number on the malicious caller list. When that number comes up, it is automatically routed to a SCR supervisor. The supervisor identifies themselves as a supervisor and reminds the caller they are being recorded and that false claims are misdemeanors, which may be investigated by the District Attorney (DA). Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS) are also aware of repetitive allegations/callers.

Workforce Workgroup:

Members of the Workforce Workgroup presented at the New York Public Welfare Association Summer Conference, reviewing the purpose of workgroup, etc. Subject matter experts are being used to look at tests to make sure they reflect job requirements. OCFS discussed the testing and provisional hiring process with the Panel.

Racial Equity:

A Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Director is being hired by OCFS; this is a high-level position and should be filled shortly.

Mr. Bach thanked the Panel for their work and involvement in key areas for children.

Debrief and Next Meetings

Jennifer Goldman, CRP Coordinator, provided an update on collaboration with Prevent Child Abuse NY and Assemblymember Hevesi to support the statewide expansion of Family Assessment Response. Assemblymember Hevesi is still interested in pursuing the expansion, and additional meetings will be scheduled in the future.

The Panel Members discussed possible topics for the upcoming Joint Meeting and 2021 Annual Report.

Meeting adjourned 11:00 a.m.

Next meeting: Joint CRP on October 14, 2021