

Eastern Citizen Review Panel for Child Protective Services

Meeting Summary May 20, 2021 • 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Attendees:

Eastern Panel Members

Mary McCarthy
Carrie Smith
Kathy Halas
Sharon Chesna
Kellyann Kostyal-Larrier
Eunju Lee

NYC Panel Members

Stanley Capela

Western Panel Members

Welfare Research, Inc.

Jennifer Goldman
Amanda Maloney
Ellen Unruh
Darlene Ward

Guests

David Haase, NYS Office of Children and
Family Services (OCFS)
David Bach, OCFS
Christopher Johnson, Westchester County
Legislator

Handouts

Eastern Meeting Agenda 5.20.21
Eastern Meeting Summary 3.4.21
Article on Anonymous v. Confidential Reporting

Welcome – Mary McCarthy

Introduced new member Kellyann to Panel members.

Updates from OCFS

OCFS discussed the proposed statewide expansion of Family Assessment Response (FAR). FAR was removed from the Governor's final budget, but is now up for debate in the NYS Legislature. OCFS informed the panel that Putnam and Broome counties will be joining the FAR expansion.

OCFS provided an update on the implementation of the Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). The legislation is going into effect in September. Grants from a transition fund will help with enhanced ongoing technical support, family search and engagement, enhanced search for foster parents, and improved recruitment of foster families/kingivers. A review system will also be put in place for cases of children that are placed in congregate care.

The OCFS-led workforce workgroup reconvened for the first time after the Pandemic started. They revisited goals and are hoping to revise testing and hiring procedures. OCFS continues to strive for equity in the hiring process as well as diversity in the child welfare workforce.

WRI Updates and June Meeting Planning

CRP Coordinator Jennifer Goldman and Consultant Amanda Bailly will present the CRP advocacy video on a panel at the upcoming national CRP virtual conference. The CRP video has received national attention and organizers asked that they be on a panel of success stories to share with other states. Panel members should contact Ms. Goldman if interested in participating in the conference. Ms. Bailly is currently working on a second video, which will describe the purpose and work of the Panels.

Panel members continue to have small group meetings with Prevent Child Abuse NY and Assemblymember Hevesi to talk about the successful statewide expansion of FAR. He is interested in making this a priority for the next legislative session.

Ms. Goldman reported on the results of the Annual Report feedback survey.

NYC Panel Chair Stan Capela and CRP Coordinator Jennifer Goldman submitted a workshop proposal on the work of the CRPs to the Council on Accreditation for their fall conference. They will let the Panels know if their proposal has been accepted.

Ms. Goldman asked Panel members to send her ideas for guests for the upcoming Joint panel meeting in June as well as a potential CRP sponsored event in October.

CRP Expansion - Christopher Johnson, Westchester County Legislator

Legislator Christopher Johnson joined the meeting to discuss the possible creation of an Eastern Panel sub-committees to focus on the Lower-Hudson Region. He feels it would be an opportunity to more effectively carry out the mission of the CRPs, and have a closer relationship with agencies/constituents within each region. This concern arose after a constituent approached him about the large geographic that the Eastern Panel covers. The Panel members and Mr. Johnson discussed strategies for more effective communication with constituents in the Eastern Panel region.

The Panel members and Mr. Johnson also discussed the need to recruit more members for the Eastern Panel, including members with lived experience.

Meeting adjourned was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Next meeting: Joint CRP is June 10, 2021

Eastern CRP is September 16, 2021