

# Western Citizen Review Panel for Child Protective Services

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**Meeting Summary**  
**May 14, 2021 • 10:00-11:30 a.m.**

## **Attendees:**

### Eastern Panel Members

### Western Panel Members

Deb Rosen  
Linda Brown  
Todd Sage  
Ellen Kennedy  
Sarlyn Tate

### NYC Panel Members

Stanley Capela

### Welfare Research, Inc.

Jennifer Goldman

### Guests

David Haase, NYS Office of Children and  
Family Services (OCFS)  
David Bach, OCFS  
Dior Lindsey, Family Works Buffalo  
Allison Hollihan, Osborne Association

## **Handouts**

Western CRP Meeting Agenda 5.14.21  
Western CRP Minutes 3.12.21  
Anonymous vs. Confidential Reporting  
COVID-19 OA FWB Flyer  
Family Works Buffalo  
See Us Support Us: Identifying & Supporting Children of Incarcerated Parents in Child  
Welfare  
See Us Support Us Overview

**Welcome** – Linda Brown

## **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.

The Panel have been invited to meet with assistants to Chris Tavella, Governor Cuomo's Deputy Secretary for Human Services and Mental Hygiene. He would like to meet with the Panels about the CRP advocacy video and annual report recommendations. Ms. Goldman will be reaching out to have one member from each Panel participate.

### **New York Initiative for Children of Incarcerated Parents**

Allison Hollihan and Dior Lindsey joined the meeting to discuss supports for children of incarcerated parents. Their work includes reducing the stigma for children, training for child welfare staff, and legislative advocacy. Initiatives include: See Us, Support Us, an initiative that provides various outlets for children of incarcerated parents; and the Child Sensitive Arrest/Safeguarding Children of Arrested Parents Project in Buffalo, which is working to ensure that children are safeguarded if present at the time of a parent or caregiver's arrest. Panel members requested to receive updates on future projects and initiatives.

**Next meetings: Joint – June 10, 2021**  
**Western – September 24, 2021**

**Meeting adjourned: 11:35**