

Joint Citizen Review Panels for Child Protective Services

Meeting Summary October 19 • 3:00 PM

Attendees:

Eastern Panel Members

Eunju Lee
Mary McCarthy
Kellyann Kostyal-Larrier
Kathy Halas

NYC Panel Members

David Lansner
Marion White
Mathea Rubin

Western Panel Members

Todd Sage
John Treahy
Ellen Kennedy
Sarlyn Tate
Linda Brown

Welfare Research, Inc.

Darlene Ward
Liz Roberts
Felicia LaClair
Kerri Barglof
Rumi Sarkar

Welcome – Mary McCarthy

The meeting commenced at 3:04 p.m.

Ms. Mary McCarthy from the Eastern Panel provided a welcome and introductions were exchanged among the parties.

Reinvigorating the Panels

Panel members recently drafted amendments to their Operating Guidelines to include attendance requirements and make room for new members. The amendments are such that if someone misses multiple meetings, they would be removed as a member. The new guidelines were shared with OCFS and in response they shared the opinion that removing members is not advised. Panel members used time during this meeting to discuss and make alternative plans to reinvigorate the Panels. They agreed to reach out directly to members they have not seen in a while and identify new candidates. A notification letter to communicate with current members has been drafted and a new version will be shared ahead of the next meeting.

Recommendation Priorities

Planning for the 2023 Annual Report and Recommendations for 2024 began during this meeting. The priorities for the recommendations were established, which include resubmitting many of the same recommendations from the last two years, with an emphasis on community support of families. WRI will draft the recommendations and they will be shared ahead of the next meeting.

Topic Priorities for Future Meetings

Panel members voted to hold all Joint Panels meetings in 2024. They believe their best work is done as a Joint Panels, and this will also alleviate the issues that come with not having a full roster of members. They identified their priorities for the year, which include becoming more involved

in legislative advocacy, reviewing new policies and practices of kinship care, reviewing the intersection of family welfare and domestic violence, and others.

WRI Updates and Next Steps

WRI notified Panel members of a survey which will be shared after the meeting to gather updated information and availability for 2024 meetings. Next steps requested by the Panels include sharing information about current nominees, scheduling meetings with Senate and Assembly leadership to discuss the appointment process, and other materials needed for the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:55 p.m.

Next CRP Meetings:

- Joint Panels – December 11th at 10:30 a.m.
- Joint Panels with OCFS – December 18th at 1:00 p.m.