

NYC Citizen Review Panels for Child Protective Services

Meeting Summary March 1, 2022 • 10:00a.m.

Attendees:

NYC Panel Members

Stanley Capela
David Lansner
Jocelyn Brown
Wayne Ho
Mathea Rubin

Welfare Research, Inc.

Ellen Unruh
Darlene Ward
Liz Roberts

Guests

Jess Dannhauser – Commissioner, New York City
Administration for Children's Services (ACS)
Jill Krauss – ACS
Sharice Randall – ACS
David Haase – OCFS

Handouts

Joint Panels Meeting Minutes 2-1-22
NYC Panel Meeting Agenda 3-11-22
“Blending and Braiding Funds to Support Home Visiting,” Prevent Child Abuse New York
“Child Abuse or Maltreatment Reports to the Central Register Must Include the Caller’s
Name and Contact Information,” Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition New York

Welcome – Stanley Capela, Chair

Mr. Capela opened the meeting by introducing the present Panel members and the CRP’s work.

Discussion with ACS Commissioner Jess Dannhauser

The Commissioner provided an overview of the vision and priorities of ACS. Being new to the role of Commissioner, Mr. Dannhauser described what his intentions are and how he sees ACS changing. He believes in starting by focusing on and listening to children, youth, and their families. He has met with various groups and action networks to get acquainted with the ACS partners in order to best implement effective services. Noting workforce issues present in various human service sectors, ACS is focused on recruitment and retention. Fair compensation, a culture of organizational support, and focus on family-centered work make up the Commissioner’s vision for the organization. When asked how he plans on bridging the gap between newly instated policies and staff practices, he highlighted three areas: leadership development, focus on the families, and listening to the staff and their needs. CRP and ACS can continue their work together by participating in meetings together such as this one, sharing data, and ongoing communication.

Updates from OCFS

OCFS noted the protocol for screening malicious calls made to the Statewide Central Register (SCR). If suspected to be malicious, calls are routed to the SCR supervisor (all calls are recorded).

The supervisor emphasizes to the caller the ramifications of false reporting, including potential criminal prosecution. If deemed malicious, OCFS sends the report to the county for investigation. Counties may initiate prosecution of malicious callers; OCFS was not aware of the number or outcomes of prosecutions of malicious callers at the county level at this time.

With regards to recent changes in CPS policy reflected in revisions to the CPS manual, OCFS stated these changes are covered in a statewide training through WebEx, and there is the possibility of refresher courses. From there, it is the counties' responsibility to implement practice changes.

Regarding removals from kinship foster homes, OCFS said there are no policies that differentiate between kin and non-kin removal protocols; both types of foster homes are assessed in the same way.

Wrap Up

WRI provided updates, including the upcoming elections for Chair and Co-Chair in March and dissemination of a Panel Member survey to collect updated contact information and feedback. Some Panel Members have requested longer meetings and would like to see more Members present. It was concluded that more discussion of Member retention and Annual Report topics will continue to be a part of each regional meeting moving forward.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:30 a.m.

Next CRP Meetings:

- Meeting with OCFS Executive Deputy Commissioner Miles-Gustave to discuss the Annual Report & recommendations on March 8, 3:00p.m. via WebEx
- NYC Regional meeting May 3, 2022 10:00a.m.