

NYC Citizen Review Panel for Child Protective Services

Meeting Summary

March 3, 2020 • 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

110 Williams Street, NYC, 14th floor – Room 1406

Participants:

NYC Panel Members

Stanley Capela

Mathea Rubin

David Lansner

Marion White

NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS)

Phoebe Rubenstein

Stephanie Gendell

Andrew White

Aysha Schomburg

NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)

Shelly Aubertine-Fiebich

Renee Hallock

Welfare Research, Inc. (WRI)

Jennifer Goldman

Ellen Unruh

Handouts

Agenda 3.3.2020

Joint CRP Minutes 1.28.2020

3 for 5 Campaign Handout

Family First Prevention Services Act PowerPoint

Welcome – Stanley Capela, Panel Chair

NYC ACS Updates

- Panel members and ACS staff discussed the potential implications of the Governor's Executive Budget.
- Stephanie Gendell, Acting Deputy Commissioner, shared steps that are being taken to implement the federal Family First Prevention Services Act in New York City, including surveying congregate care providers to assess their readiness and what additional supports will be needed.
- Deputy Commissioner Andrew White reviewed the agency's continuous quality improvement process and presented statistics related to child protective services and children placed in kinship or foster care.
- Panel Chair Stanley Capela thanked ACS staff for joining the meeting.

NYS OCFS Updates – Shelly Aubertine-Fiebich and Renee Hallock

- Renee Hallock, Associate Commissioner, shared a proposal to implement host family homes in New York State. Host family homes have been already implemented in approximately 30 other states and is a mechanism for families, who still have custody of their children, to request a “host family” to take care of their children temporarily. Ms. Hallock stated that parents can request this support for reasons such as homelessness or parental hospitalization, and host family homes provide care for a short period of time, usually ranging from 21 to 40 days. The parents remain in contact with the child during placement and can end the arrangement at any time. Host family agencies recruit volunteers to become host family homes. The screening process includes a home study, background and child abuse registry clearance, and training. OCFS continues to explore the implementation of host family homes in NYS.
- Shelly Aubertine-Fiebich provided the following updates.
 - The workforce workgroup last met in September 2019 and is examining strategies for improving NYS’ child welfare workforce such as revising civil service testing and candidate qualifications, a statewide recruitment media campaign, agency-university partnerships, and improving racial equity and representation in the workforce.
 - OCFS continues to prepare NYS for the implementation of the Family First Act. Information about available funding and resources is on the OCFS website.
 - Notification of case outcome letters for mandated reporters continue to be generated through CONNECTIONS.
 - Raise the Age placements for juvenile justice involved youth ages 16 to 17 continues to slowly grow as the State completes the transition.
 - The implementation team for the Statewide Parent Advisory Group has recommended membership for 15 applicants and 2 alternatives. The Parent Advisory Group members; comprised of birth, kin, or adoptive parents with lived experience in the child welfare system; will provide the State with guidance on programs and policies and each serve a two-year term.
 - OCFS will be initiating a start-up for the newly formed Statewide Child Fatality Review Team.
- Panel Chair Stanley Capela thanked Renee Hallock and Shelly Aubertine-Fiebich for providing the OCFS updates.

Debrief and Next Steps

- Panel Members discussed recruitment efforts and meeting topics/guests for upcoming meetings.
- Panel Chair Stanley Capela adjourned the meeting.
- Next NYC Panel Meeting – May 5, 2019, 10:00 am to 11:00 am