

Eastern Citizen Review Panel for Child Protective Services

Meeting Summary
May 19th, 2022 • 9:00 AM

Attendees:

Eastern Panel Members

Eunju Lee
Kathy Halas
Kellyann Kostyal-Larrier
Sharon Chesna
JoAnn Merriman

Welfare Research, Inc.

Liz Roberts
Ellen Unruh
Felicia LaClair

Guests

Dave Bach, OCFS
David Haase, OCFS

Handouts

Social Media Handout – CRP
Schuyler Center’s Last Look at the NYS 2022-23 Budget

Welcome – Eunju Lee

Ms. Lee opened the meeting at 9:05 AM

OCFS Updates

In response to the Panels’ request for updates and data for the SCR reports, OCFS shared that a review of the pandemic’s impact showed a decrease of SCR reports and a decrease of fatalities. More information will be shared in September. OCFS stated the suggested disparities in kinship foster care removals are under review and OCFS will update the Panels when the data comes in. OCFS next discussed fiscal reports from the 2018-2019 year and the breakdown of federal, state, local, and administrative charges. OCFS also touched on federal adoption assistance for fiscal years of 2017-2018.

CRP Discussion

The Eastern Panel debriefed on the information shared by OCFS noting they would be interested in having a longer meeting in September to have local counties share information on their financial allocations.

Survey responses were shared with the panel pertaining to the Annual Report and meeting facilitation. Feedback included featuring smaller editing groups and more meetings to discuss the focus of the report. The panel was then presented with a social media handout and poll regarding the future of CRP social media. Many were in favor of the promotion of awareness days, Panel vacancies and the curation of a CRP LinkedIn page.

Chair Elections were then held. A unanimous vote welcomed Eunju Lee as Chair and Mary McCarthy as Vice Chair.

The panel then discussed recent articles and touched on the Court Improvement Project and noted it may be beneficial to have someone come and speak on the topic to all three panels – majority voted yes to slating it on the agenda.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:15 AM

Next Meetings:

- Joint Panel Meeting on June 9th at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom
- Eastern Panel Meeting on September 15th at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom