

# Joint Citizen Review Panels for Child Protective Services

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**Meeting Summary**  
**June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 • 10:00 AM**  
**Zoom Meeting**

## **Attendees:**

### Eastern Panel Members

Eunju Lee  
Kathy Halas  
Carrie Jefferson Smith  
Kellyann Kostyal-Larrier  
JoAnn Merriman

### NYC Panel Members

Marion White  
Jocelyn Brown  
David Lansner  
Mathea Rubin  
Wayne Ho

### Western Panel Members

Sarlyn Tate  
Todd Sage  
Ellen Kennedy  
Linda Brown

### Welfare Research, Inc.

Darlene Ward  
Ellen Unruh  
Liz Roberts  
Felicia LaClair

### Guests

Suzanne Miles (OCFS | Executive Deputy Commissioner)  
David Bach (OCFS)  
David Haase (OCFS)

## **Handouts**

ACS Flash Report May 2022  
Focusing on Race Equity Throughout Change and Implementation, Capacity Building Center for States  
Strategic Planning in Child Welfare, Capacity Building Center for States  
Current Members List, CRP (WRI)  
Panel Member Nominee List, CRP (WRI)  
National CRP Conference Reflections, (WRI)

**Welcome**—Sarlyn Tate, Western Panel Co-Chair  
Ms. Tate opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

**OCFS Updates**—Suzanne Miles, OCFS Executive Deputy Commissioner  
Panel members introduced themselves to OCFS Executive Deputy Commissioner, Suzanne Miles. Ms. Miles next introduced herself. She stated that she has reviewed the ABA report about racial bias and noted that their official response has been sent out. Regarding racial justice, OCFS has a leadership team who are dedicated to dismantle the issues for racial injustice for Black and brown children. They are actively looking into practices and policies on behalf of the Citizen Review Panels' recommendation to adopt the ABA policies.

Addressing the ABA report on body scans/strip searches, OCFS stated the policies are under review and changes would be issued through the CPS manual. Currently there is a series of considerations and guidelines within the manual, including a supervisor's review on a case by case scenario.

Prompted with the question on working together on how to get FAR implemented, OCFS stated they agree with and support FAR, but reiterated that it is up to the counties to opt-in.

### **CRP Discussion**

The Panels opened a discussion on racial equity. A consensus was made to create a working group that coordinates a statement and work plan to operationalize it. In addition, a recommendation was made to have the panel participate in conferences, in hopes to gain exposure. WRI will be curating subgroups for those interested in implementing, as well as reviewing the budget to support coverage.

Regarding the upcoming annual report recommendations, an additional subgroup was suggested to assist in drafting the annual report and its recommendations. Suggestions were made to incorporate a “bigger picture” vision for “bigger impact”, as well as having a legislator sponsor these recommendations. Many panel members agreed, noting a legislator could help gain traction for these recommendations, as well as give CRP exposure.

The Panels reviewed the standards for meeting materials, opening a conversation on the need to update meeting guidelines. The conversation led to a need for a meeting guidelines subgroup. WRI staff noted they will be sending out a follow-up for subgroup sign-ups and ideal meeting times.

### **Meeting Adjourned:**

Adjourned 11:51 AM

### **Next CRP Meetings:**

- NYC: September 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.
- Eastern: September 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.
- Western: September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 a.m.
- Joint Panels: October 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.