

Western Citizen Review Panel for Child Protective Services

Meeting Summary
May 13th, 2022 • 10:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Western Panel Members

Linda Brown
Ellen Kennedy
Todd Sage

Welfare Research, Inc.

Liz Roberts
Ellen Unruh
Felicia LaClair

Guests

David Bach, OCFS

Handouts

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

Welcome – Linda Brown

Ms. Brown opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

OCFS Updates

In response to the Panels’ request for updates and data for the Western region on child fatalities, David Bach described the fatality review process. Since January 2021, fatality reports are posted quarterly to the public website:

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/reports/cfrp/index.php?county=washington&year=2021&page=2>

OCFS decides if a report should not be posted in light of potential harm to a surviving sibling; this assessment is made using a Best Interest Determination (BID) process.

With regards to the Panel’s request for CPS trends in the Western region counties, David Bach provided a link to the Monitoring and Analysis Profiles (MAPS): MAPS

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/reports/maps/>

OCFS stated the suggested disparities in kinship foster care removals are under review and OCFS will update the Panels when the data comes in. Regarding the Panels’ request for a formal response to the American Bar Association’s (ABA) report covering the impact of body scans, the Commissioner plans on addressing this during the June Joint Panels meeting. 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 in fiscal years of 2017-2018. Finally, OCFS shared that a review of the pandemic’s impact showed a decrease of SCR reports and a decrease in fatalities.

CRP Discussion

The Western Panel debriefed on the information shared by OCFS and reviewed their current vacancies with the nomination list. Members stated they would reach out to the nominees and follow up with information to WRI.

The Panel discussed the preparations for their meeting with Dean Keith A. Alford from the School of Social Work at the University at Buffalo. They plan on discussing the implementation of a child welfare curriculum at the school.

WRI then shared survey results from a member survey, which highlighted editing and tracking difficulty during the Annual Report drafting process and virtual meetings limiting communication and discussion. The Panel next voted on social media questions, with a consensus of support for the creation of a LinkedIn page that raised awareness of CRP and promoted Panel vacancies. Members voiced they would like social media to be a place for information sharing among members and the public.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:40 AM

Next CRP Meetings:

- Joint Panel Meeting on June 9th at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom
- Western Panel Meeting on September 23rd at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom