

Minutes for Eastern Regional Panel Meeting Wednesday, July 16, 2025 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Agenda Item	Discussion (Decisions, Future Action, Highlights)	Decisions and Next Steps
Attendees	Kathy Halas (Co-Chair), Mary McCarthy (Co-Chair), Sharon Chesna, Kellyann Kostyal-Larrier, Tamaé Memole (PCA-NY), Elizabeth Stephenson (PCA-NY)	
Commissioner Meeting Debrief Identify areas for follow-up	• Solidify a list of questions with recommendations for OCFS and request feedback from the other panels in preparation for the joint meeting. • As an agenda item for the next joint meeting, ask local commissioners about their thoughts on including safe and together training as part of common core training for child welfare workers. • Chairs to meet shortly after the next joint meeting to brainstorm potential recommendations. These initial ideas will be shared with all panel members for feedback. Co-chairs to then reconvene afterward for a final discussion to refine and finalize the recommendations.	• The panel will review the list of questions and contribute recommendations. • Mary will email the other chairs to suggest a process for organizing recommendations for the coming year • PCA-NY will ask the other panels for their position on signing a non-disclosure agreement. • PCA-NY will request the following from OCFS: ○ Any responses that can be provided in writing prior to the meeting at least 3 days in advance. ○ Thoughts on a combined confidentiality/non-disclosure statement for panel members to sign in order to access draft materials. • 10/16/25: Proposed date for next joint meeting.
Next Quarterly Meeting Planning	• Consider NYPWA or local commissioners as guest speakers and open meetings to other panels for broader participation starting November 2025.	• Plan to hold 2026 quarterly meetings on 2nd or 3rd Thursdays, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM.

Panel Nominations Status update and nominating process	Clarification: Panels are charged with identifying candidates, not OCFS. PCA-NY helps to support the recruitment and nomination process by communicating with candidates, all appointing entities and OCFS.	- PCA-NY to send nomination tracker to panels and provide periodic updates. - Panel to confirm if anyone is missing from the tracking list and communicate accordingly. - Sharon to follow up about a candidate.
Recruitment Process Outline strategy to generate additional CRP candidates	Establish a future marketing campaign to recruit more panel members in the fall or winter once there is a settled recruitment and nomination process.	Panel to create list of potential candidates.
Governor's signing of the Anti-Harassment/Anonymous Reporting Bill Discuss strategy/tactics to employ	- The panel will develop a letter to the Governor on behalf of the entire CRP, in support of signing the Anonymous Reporting legislation and advocating for increased training for child welfare workers. - Contact the media with an open letter to the Governor.	- Kathy will draft the letter. - Mary will reach out to all chairs regarding letter. - Panel members will share letter to local legislators and local media outlets and report back on any feedback received. - Sharon will contact a representative at The Wall Street Journal. - PCA-NY will follow up on the stance of child advocacy and preventive service coalitions regarding the bill. - PCA-NY will request from OCFS a comparison report of NYC and NYS outcomes for anonymously reported cases over the past four years.
Next Meeting	Thursday, November 13th 10am-12pm	