

Citizens Review Panel
Minutes from the January 7, 2019 Meeting

In attendance: George, Stacy, Angela, Pam, Jen, Sarah, Kay, Ronna, Laura, and Lawrence

Meeting was called to order at 7:-5 p.m.

Child Welfare Report- Angela English:

1. So far this fiscal year, CWS has finalized 18 adoptions, including the adoptions that were finalized on National Adoption Day in November.
2. Stats for November 2018:
 - a. Calls to Screening- 1283
 - b. New AR cases- 102
 - c. New IR Cases- 109
 - d. ROA's- 78
 - e. Children/Youth in Out of Home Placements- 411
 - f. Families receiving In-Home Services-83
 - g. Number of Resource (foster) Homes- 195
 - h. Applications to become a resource home- 4
 - i. Angela reported that CWS holds information meetings every other month for people interested in becoming foster parents
 - j. Vacancies- Angela reported that CWS is doing pretty good with filling their vacant job positions. HR is trying new ways to interview candidates to help the process move more quickly. Angela stated part of the problem is having staff available to do interviews. A discussion was held about the reasons why every jurisdiction is having some difficulty with maintaining and hiring staff. Angela stated that they are finding an issue with retention, as workers are no longer staying with the Department for years.

Data and Data Access Sub-Committee Report:

1. Laura gave a report on the new computer system that CWS will be using, as they move away from using CHESSIE. The new system is called the Child, Juvenile, and Adult Management System (CJAMS). The sub-committee has spoken to Lisa Merkin about the system, and Lisa is reportedly cautiously optimistic about the new system. Laura had asked Lisa if she thought the panel might be able to be helpful in giving input on the shortcomings of the last system. Lisa felt that it might be too late for input. Two staff from CWS is participating in meetings about the system and are providing input. An in depth discussion was held. Please see Laura's written report (MC_CWS_Telcon_2019), which was shared in the Google group.
2. Next steps for the sub-committee:
 - a. Invite Lisa to come to our Panel meeting in February or March, and possibly the staff participating in the meetings about CJAMS.
 - b. Ask if there is anything the Panel can do to help.

- c. Ask Lisa if there's a way the Panel can help with the story lines. Laura will follow up. It was noted that it would be helpful to see the story lines to see if there are any gaps.

Outreach Sub-Committee Report

1. George is waiting to hear back from someone from the Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Commission (AODAAC) to see if they can come to the Panel's February meeting. George pointed out that they had questions that we need to get back to them about. Also, we need to think about what we want to ask them. Thoughts included:
 - a. Where do they get their information from?
 - b. What stats have they gathered?
 - c. What drives their recommendations and decision making?
 - d. What would they need to know to provide better services/make better recommendations?
 - e. With the new federal legislation on prevention, how are they going to partner in prevention?
 - f. How do they interact with the County Council?
2. Next steps for the sub-committee;
 - a. George and Ronna agreed to answer the questions the AODAAC had and will share for input.
 - b. George will set up a phone meeting with the sub-committee, aiming for Monday, January 28th. He'll send an email out.
3. New Buisness:
 - a. George indicated that April 13, 2019, is the last day of the CWLA conference and suggested people may be interested in attending. One of the trainings is on LGBTQ issues in child welfare.
 - b. Ronna also asked the Panel members think about other topics/priorities they may be inereested in exploring.

Meeting Adjourned around 8:20 p.m.