

Montgomery County Citizens Review Panel (MCCRP)

December 10, 2019 Meeting

Minutes

Persons Present:

Jen Carson	Pam Littlewood
Ronna Cook	Stacey McNeely
Laura Coyle	Marci McCoy-Roth
Angela English	Leslie Shedlin
Kay Farley	Sarah Stanton
George Gabel	Jane Steinberg

Welcome

Marci McCoy-Roth called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Suicide Ideation Brown Bag Session

Marci thanked all MCCRP members for the successful brown bag program. She especially thanked Jane Steinberg for recruiting Dr. Michael Shoenbaum, as he was a very effective and informative speaker. Angela English advised the social workers were ecstatic and very appreciative of the session. Other comments about the session included the following.

- The session was very well done and was very practical.
- Dr. Shoenbaum made research both important and practical.
- He advised that the most important thing is to ask questions and really made the point when he provided the example of the controlled research project in Australia where persons who attempted suicide by poison received follow-up postcards to show caring and reminding them that staff is available to talk with them if needed.
- Dr. Shoenbaum provided the social workers with simple questions that they can ask and encouraged them to practice asking the questions out loud.
- He also made the case for all pediatric practitioners to ask the questions to screen everyone.
- The session also had the benefit of letting the social workers know about the MCCRP, what the MCCRP does, and that the MCCRP is trying to help them.

George Gabel advised that both of his colleagues found the session very informative. One of his colleagues expressed interest in membership on the MCCRP when there is a vacancy.

George also asked whether CEUs are essential for a brown bag session. He was advised that they probably are essential, but not that hard to secure. Because of their work schedules, it can be difficult

for social workers to get the required number of CEUs. Brown bags with CEUs and food let them know that they are appreciated.

Agency Report

Child Welfare Report

Angela provided the CRP data for October 2019.

Screening Calls	1578
New A/R Investigations	116
New I/R Investigations	97
New Non-CFS (previously New ROAs)	90
Children/Youth in OOH Care	436
Families Receiving In-Home Svcs	83
Resource Homes	196
Resource Home Applications	7

George asked about the jump in screening calls. Angela advised that incidents reported in the news, such as the Damascus school scandal, impacts the number of calls.

Staffing

Angela indicated that the agency is contemplating some changes in the staffing for Resource Home recruitment. Final approval of the changes is pending.

START Program

Angela has been out of the office and will check on the status of hiring staff for this new project.

Children, Juvenile, and Adult Management System (CJAMS)

Staff in Washington County like the new system as it cuts down on redundancy. Angela will check to see if any problems have been identified.

Foster Parent Recruitment Subcommittee

The Subcommittee, comprised of George, Pam Littlewood, Leslie Shedlin, and Sarah Stanton, has met by conference call and provided a memorandum documenting their work to-date and plans for future work.

They have heard a lot about the day care reimbursement as a barrier for recruitment. The Subcommittee will be reaching out to other jurisdictions to see how they handle this issue, including Howard County, New York, and West Virginia.

They plan to summarize some of the literature on recruitment, which might be a topic of conversation for a future brown bag session.

Marci advised that Maryland has received a \$2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to pilot the foster parent training curriculum developed by the Children's Bureau.

Pam and Leslie will be attending the next recruitment meeting to get a better sense of the current process.

The Subcommittee wants to think about the processes, milestones, and data collected. They need to determine what data CJAMS will collect to help determine the kinds of reports that could be generated.

Stacey McNeely suggested that it would be helpful to know why potential foster parents drop out at various stages of the recruitment process. Survey Monkey might be a useful tool for gathering information. Sarah indicated that some people drop out when they realize that this is not the time to be a foster parent, but that they may be able to do it at a later time. Leslie reported that a friend has recently become a foster parent. Leslie will talk with her about her recruitment experience. Sarah noted that there was a recent Facebook posting asking "how hard is it to be foster parent". There were varied responses, which she shared as screen shots with the other Subcommittee members and can share with the rest of the panel. The Foster Parent Facebook group might be a good source for information.

Ronna Cook asked is the agency tells foster parents which daycare providers to use. Angela advised that the agency cannot dictate which providers to use. The agency, however, does provide foster parents with a listing of available providers that others have used.

Ronna reported that there is a Montgomery County Commission of Child Care. It would be helpful to invite a representation of that Commission to a future MCCRCP meeting.

Pam indicated that a friend identified a couple of potential untapped resources – Poolesville and youthful retirees. It was suggested that it would be helpful to do some geo mapping of current Resource Homes. Angela said that the agency could do this.

It would be helpful to also look at referrals and where children reside at the time they enter foster care. This would be more difficult to do.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Subcommittee

Marci asked for discussion on what is meant by services for kids and the panel might do related to services. Ronna indicated that it is more positive youth development, such as yoga for stress relief. The idea is to connect the youth with activities away from substance abuse and connect them with a positive-influencing peer group.

One idea might be to develop a list of resources/activities that could be included in the independent living classes.

Laura Coyle suggested that it is really about self-care and self-development. Therapeutic horseback riding would be an example that would benefit some children. There needs to be a variety of activities as what works for one child may not work for another child.

Jane suggested that the Subcommittee develop a list of graduation gifts for kids that complete a substance abuse treatment program.

The members of this Subcommittee were Ronna, Leslie, and Jane. Leslie is now on the Foster Parent Recruitment Subcommittee, so will drop off this Subcommittee. Marci indicated a willingness to help with this Subcommittee.

Other Discussion

Marci mentioned that the MCCRCP developed recommendations for improving the foster care training curriculum. It would be helpful to check back to see which recommendations have been implemented by the agency.

Discussion of the issue of transitions and mentoring will be taken up in 2020.

Stacey will send a reminder and provide a refresher to MCCRCP members on accessing the Google Docs folder.

Stacey asked about the status of the issue of retention of staff, which had been discussed as a possible priority issue for 2020. Marci thought that the MCCRCP may have done work on this in the past. It would be helpful for folks to look for prior materials. This is also something to talk with Lisa about.

The next MCCRCP monthly meeting will be held on January 7, 2020 at 7:00 PM in the 4th floor conference room.

The meeting adjourned.