

Montgomery County Citizens Review Panel (MCCRP)

December 8, 2020 Meeting

Minutes

Persons Present:

Wilma Brier
Kathleen Dunn
Angela English
Kay Farley

Marci McCoy-Roth
Stacey McNeely
Sarah Stanton

Welcome

Marci McCoy-Roth called the meeting to order.

Ms. McCoy-Roth advised that there are currently three vacancies on the Board. The terms for George Gabel and Jane Steinberg have expired and they are not eligible for reappointment. Lawrence Washington has advised that he will not be continuing on the Panel. Lisa Merkin is exploring the options for filling the vacancies.

Review and Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the November 10, 2020 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Sarah Stanton made a motion to approve the minutes. Wilma Brier seconded the motion, which was approved.

Agency Report

Ms. McCoy-Roth shared a comparison of 2019 and 2020 data. Angela English provided the October 2020 data.

<i>Data Element</i>	<i>Apr-Sep 2019</i>	<i>Apr-Sep 2020</i>	<i>% Change</i>	<i>Oct 2020</i>
Calls to Screening	5,831	4,319	25.9%	1,014
New Alternative Response (A/R) Investigations	397	200	49.6%	77
New Information and Referrals (I/R) Investigations	545	259	52.5%	69
New Non-CFS [previously New Requests from Other Agencies (ROAs)]	361	283	21.6%	62
Children/Youth in Out of Home (OOH) Care	413 (avg.)	434 (avg.)	5.0%	441
Families Receiving In-Home Services	87.5 (avg.)	102.5 (avg.)	17.1%	105
Resource Homes	190.8 (avg.)	214 (avg.)	12.1%	208
Resource Home Applications	24	21	13.0%	
Resource Homes Closed				

The number of Calls to Screening have been slowly increasing since July 2020. The agency continues to see reports involving drug abuse by parents. A few children have come into foster care as a result to the deaths of both parents due to COVID-19.

Some of the congregate care facilities have been hit hard with COVID-19 infections. Social workers are not able to visit these facilities in person and are unable to move children from a COVID positive facility to another placement. These facilities are trying to keep the COVID positive children separate from the

other children in an effort to contain the infections. The facilities are required to report the number of children exposed and testing positive. Ms. English will try to get that date for the Panel's January 2021 meeting.

Montgomery County HHS Council

In October 2020, Ms. McCoy-Roth presented a report regarding the work of the Panel to the Montgomery County HHS Council. The Council was particularly interested in the wellness training that the Panel was arranging for the agency social workers. The session, "Take a Break" will occur on December 10, 2020 from 12:00 to 1:00 PM. The session will provide instruction and practice to manage stress through breathing, light yoga, and stretching.

Recruitment and Retention of Resource Families

The panel members discussed how to best be of assistance to the agency related to the recruitment and retention of resource families. The following action steps were agreed upon.

- Ms. English will try to get the retention data on resource families in Montgomery County for the Panel's January 2021 meeting.
- At the January 2021 meeting, the Panel will review progress on implementation of the agency's strategic recruitment plan and implementation of the plan for restructuring the units within Child Welfare Services.
- At the February 2021 meeting, representatives from the Foster Parent Association will be invited to meet with the Panel. Ideally, there will be a mix of fairly new foster parents and longer-term foster parents.
- Another issue to explore would be barriers to establishing an expedited licensing process for relatives.

The meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: January 12, 2021