

Montgomery County Citizens Review Panel (MCCRP)

March 3, 2020 Meeting

Minutes

Persons Present:

Laura Coyle
Angela English
Kay Farley
Marci McCoy-Roth

Stacey McNeely
Sarah Stanton
Jane Steinberg

Welcome

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

Review and Approve Minutes

There was consensus to approve the February 4, 2020 minutes as distributed.

Follow up Items from February 4, 2020 Meeting

1. The panel is still wondering if similar geo-mapped information can be obtained for resource families in order to compare that data versus the need.

Agency staff have been immersed in CJAMS implementation.

Follow-up Item: Angela English will follow-up with staff to get the requested information.

2. Lawrence volunteered to follow-up on this subject more offline

Lawrence Washington sent an e-mail prior to the call to report he was establishing key contacts to discuss transitioning youth housing with HUD. It is not a simple process, but he should have an update mid-month. He will be talking with Angela next week to discuss this matter.

Follow-up Item: Lawrence will provide an update.

3. Ask Lisa if she is ok with involving Jennifer in the March meeting to discuss further. Lisa responded it's not a great time to do this, she can share more at in person meeting.

Marci advised that Lisa Merkin said that there was a lot going on with childcare currently. They are trying to figure out how to ensure timely payment of vouchers. They are also looking at information provided to foster parents and providers to make sure the information provided is consistent for both groups.

Follow-up Item: Invite Jennifer to a future MCCRP meeting.

4. Ask Lisa whether re-appointees can be part of the interview panel (since we're not technically active)

Marci reported that she had talked with Lisa. Lisa thought that the MCCRP members that were re-applying could remain on the interview panel for new applicants.

Lisa advised that 11 applications had been received. They anticipate that interviews would last 20 to 30 minutes and be conducted in the evening.

Laura Coyle and Kay Farley volunteered to be on the interview panel.

Follow-up Item: Lisa will contact county staff to double check her understanding regarding the re-appointees.

5. Once the proposal is updated, see about getting it reviewed by the county or 4 Montgomery's Kids

The agency is moving ahead on this project. Lisa advised that external funds already exist for the project through the Generous Jurors program. It is not necessary to submit the grant proposal. The social workers will be advised that they should be accessing the Generous Jurors funds as an incentive/reward for youth completing substance abuse treatment programs.

Follow-up Item: Jane will send a copy of her final grant proposal to Lisa and Angela so the language can be used in the communications with staff.

Follow-up Item: It would be helpful to keep track of the amount of funds used and for what the funds have been used.

MCCRP Operations

In a notice received from the county regarding panel vacancies, it was indicated that the panel was expected to meet four times a year. The possibility of meeting as a full panel quarterly, with sub-committee reports and informal meetings in between, was raised. The suggested full panel meeting schedule was March, June, September, and December. There was no opposition from those present to this change in schedule. The topic will be re-visited at the March meeting to confirm.

Agency Report

Child Welfare Report

Angela provided the CRP data for January 2020.

	7/19	8/19	9/19	10/19	11/19	12/19	1/20	TOTALS
Screening Calls	772	765	1191	1578	1361	1166	1387	8220
New A/R Investigations	42	28	77	116	91	95	103	552
New I/R Investigations	80	79	94	97	110	86	98	644
New Non-CPS Cases	69	64	71	90	50	70	80	494
Children/Youth in OOH Care*	415	415	425	436	428	426	426	424
Families Receiving In-Home Svcs*	92	90	85	83	81	96	100	90
Active Resource Homes*	185	189	191	196	198	198	199	194
Resource Home Applications	1	6	4	7	6	4	10	38
Closed Resource Homes	8	0	2	0	0	0	0	10

*average per month

START Program Update

Angela reported that the new coordinator is on board and working and was going through new employee orientation. There are 100 in-home cases. Under the START program, the coordinator is working with the parents.

CJAMS Update

Angela reported that all staff in Montgomery County are in CJAMS training. The supervisors had an overview last week and the system kept crashing. The training environment system is not as stable as the live production system. About 800 staff were trained in one day. After orientation, there is an additional 2-day training session.

Stacey McNeely advised that, often in a training environment system, users are given additional rights, which can lead to crashes. Additionally, the training environment system may not have been sized correctly for a large county, such as Montgomery County. This problem is not totally unheard of and may not reflect the live production system.

Angela advised that staff in the counties using the live production system are loving it. Staff testing the new devices are also very happy with the system.

It is not clear whether Montgomery County will still begin implementation on March 23rd. The e-mail addresses in Montgomery County are different from the state e-mail addresses. IT staff from Montgomery County and the state are talking about how to accommodate the differences.

Family First Implementation

Lisa has been participating in several meetings. The new state policy has been issued related to designating staff to serve as “qualified individuals” to assess a child’s need for placement in a treatment facility.

The agency is starting to adjust staff assignments to designate the staff that will serve as “qualified individuals”. These designated staff will participate in the Family Involvement Meetings (FIMs), as well as facilitate the assessments of the children needing services that can only be provided in a treatment facility.

The state is sending out a request for proposals for entities to apply to be qualified treatment facilities.

Under the Families First legislation, agencies must use evidence-based programs for providing services. Maryland currently only has 8 evidence-based programs. This is a challenge faced by states across the country.

Agency Staff Vacancies

Angela reported that a few new staff members have been hired. Agency staff have been participating in job fairs and are hopeful that this will result in new hires. Also, the state social worker list includes some candidates that the agency will be interviewing in the next few weeks. Additionally, spring graduation is coming up. Montgomery County tends to hire students that have interned with them during the school year.

Committee Projects

Transition and Mentoring (Lawrence and Marci)

Lawrence will be following up with HUD.

Operations: Foster Parent Recruitment (George and Sarah)

The subcommittee will be meeting with Angela and her team in the coming weeks.

Prevention and Substance Abuse (Jane and Stacey)

The agency is implementing the program recommended in the proposal using Generous Jurors funding.

Spring Forum (George and Kay)

Kay reported on the February 19th conference call of the AODAAC/MHAC/Citizens Panel for Children Spring Forum planning committee.

The theme for the forum will be “Many Pathways for Family Recovery”. Some of the issues/messages to be discussed include the following.

- Recovery applies to all family members, not just the person battling substance abuse and mental health issues.
- Different strategies and services work for different people.
- Multiple agencies partner to provide services to the families.
- The Family First and Prevention Services Act will impact service delivery for families.

The two speakers discussed were the CEO of Sheppard Pratt, Dr. Harsh Trivedi, and Latonya (Bunny’s wife). They also would like Lisa Merkin to be on the panel to tie in the prevention message. Diane Linger will be reaching out to Lisa about this.

There was also consensus to invite Councilman Gabe Albornoz to introduce the speakers as a strategy for getting him to be there.

To allow sufficient time for two speakers and the panel, there was consensus to drop the award presentations for this year.

The next conference call will be at 7:00 pm on March 11th. There will be two primary agenda items:

- The resource tables, including who should be invited to have a table; and
- Outreach efforts to advertise the forum.

On previous planning conference call, George Gabel had asked as to the target audience for the forum. On the call, it was clarified that the target audience is very broad and includes policy makers, professionals, and the general public.

The Spring Forum is scheduled for May 21st. Marci, George, Stacey, and Kay plan to attend the meeting.

Prior to the MCCRCP meeting, George forwarded an e-mail to Marci regarding the AODAAC Resource Fair, which will be held on March 14th.

Follow-up Item: Marci will forward the information to the MCCRCP panels for information.

Other Discussion

Marci asked for input on the idea of changing the meeting schedule to quarterly. After discussion, there was consensus to meet in-person in March, June, September, and December. Meetings in the off-months will be held by conference call.

The next MCCRCP meeting will be held on April 7, 2020 by conference call. The next in-person meeting will be held on June 2, 2020.

Follow-up Item: For future planning, the MCCRCP may want to consider hosting an annual training session for agency staff with food provided.

The meeting adjourned.