

Montgomery County Citizens Review Panel (MCCRP)

January 13, 2021 Meeting

Minutes

Persons Present:

Wilma Brier
Laura Brown
Angela English
Kay Farley

Marci McCoy-Roth
Stacey McNeely
Sarah Stanton

Welcome

Marci McCoy-Roth called the meeting to order.

Review and Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the December 8, 2020 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Sarah Stanton made a motion to approve the minutes. Stacey McNeely seconded the motion, which was approved.

Agency Report

Angela English provided the November 2020 data.

<i>Data Element</i>	<i>July 2020</i>	<i>Aug. 2020</i>	<i>Sept. 2020</i>	<i>Oct. 2020</i>	<i>Nov. 2020</i>
Calls to Screening	807	783	909	1,014	802
New Alternative Response (A/R) Investigations	37	44	68	77	56
New Information and Referrals (I/R) Investigations	54	42	56	69	67
New Non-CFS [previously New Requests from Other Agencies (ROAs)]	53	72	47	62	48
Children/Youth in Out of Home (OOH) Care	438	436	435	441	437
Families Receiving In-Home Services	97	95	101	105	115
Resource Homes	212	213	206	208	207
Resource Home Applications	2	3	4	6	3
Resource Homes Closed	4	4	12	4	4

The number of Calls to Screening remain below pre-COVID numbers because schools are operating in a virtual environment. The agency has received some calls from schools reporting that children are not appearing on screen for the virtual classes. As this is allowed by school policy, the agency has difficulty justifying intervention.

Maryland has extended benefits to youth that aged out of care during the pandemic through June 2021. The agency is working with 7-8 youth in this category.

Ms. McCoy-Roth reported that the second COVID relief legislation recently passed by Congress included an additional \$400 million nationwide in Chafee funds to assist youth between the ages of 16 and 24. The funds can be used for education, housing, financial assistance, and meeting their basic needs. A question was asked about how youth that had aged out of care prior to the pandemic would be advised of the new funds. Ms. English advised that the State agency send notifications.

Ms. English shared a copy of a new report, FY 21 Foster Parent Closing Tracker. The report includes information on the reasons given for people ceasing to be foster parents. The report confirmed the staff's sense that many people leave because they are getting older or they have adopted the children that were in their care. The report also indicated that some people just stop taking children and after a period of time their license ceases.

The implementation of CJAMS continues. The financial piece was finished, but the agency discovered that the social workers did not have access IV-E eligibility information. The programmers are working on a fix. Agency staff like the new system and are entering documentation. The agency is offering training to staff every other Wednesday to promote understanding of the system and consistency in use.

The Wellness Activity for agency staff in December 2020 that was sponsored by the MCCRCP was very well received by the staff.

Recruitment and Retention of Resource Families

Sarah Lewis was not able to attend the meeting, so the discussion of the agency's Recruitment Strategic Plan was deferred until the next meeting.

Citizen Review Panel 2021 Report Concept

Sarah Stanton drafted a concept for an MCCRCP annual report. In preparing the report, she researched state statutes, county codes, and the Montgomery County website.

Ms. McCoy-Roth, Ms. Stanton, and Kay Farley will work with Lisa Merkin to discuss further.

Stacey McNeely will contact Lisa Merkin regarding points of contact in law enforcement and the Department of Education.

Ms. Farley will contact the Administrator of the Maryland Citizens Review Board for Children regarding training of MCCRCP members.

2021 Spring Forum

Ms. McCoy-Roth was advised that the Spring Forum will be on May 6th. Laura Brown and Ms. Farley will participate on the Spring Forum Planning Committee along with Lisa Merkin on behalf of the MCCRCP. Ms. Farley will contact the Spring Forum Planning Committee organizer to check on the status of the planning.

The meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: February 9, 2021