

Montgomery County Citizens Review Panel (MCCRP)

April 13, 2021 Meeting

Minutes

Persons Present:

Wilma Brier
Laura Brown, Technical Advisor
Angela English, SSA
Kay Farley

Marci McCoy-Roth, 2020-2021 Chair
Stacey McNeely
Sarah Stanton

Welcome

Marci McCoy-Roth called the meeting to order.

Review and Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the March 9, 2021 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Laura Brown made a motion to approve the minutes. Stacey McNeely seconded the motion, which was approved.

Agency Report

A written report was provided for the February 2021 data.

| <i>Data Element</i> | <i>Oct. 2020</i> | <i>Nov. 2020</i> | <i>Dec. 2020</i> | <i>Jan. 2021</i> | <i>Feb. 2021</i> |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Assessment | | | | | |
| Calls to Screening Unit | 1,014 | 802 | 804 | 922 | 845 |
| New Alternative Response (A/R) Investigations | 77 | 56 | 54 | 70 | 60 |
| New Information and Referrals (I/R) Investigations | 69 | 67 | 61 | 69 | 61 |
| New Non-CFS [previously New Requests from Other Agencies (ROAs)] | 62 | 48 | 52 | 46 | 54 |
| In-Home | | | | | |
| Families Receiving In-Home Services* | 105 | 115 | 111 | 107 | 101 |
| Out of Home | | | | | |
| New Out of Home (OOH) Placements (Entries) | 12 | 9 | 9 | | |
| Children Who Left Care (Exits) | 6 | 18 | 16 | | |
| Children/Youth in Out of Home (OOH) Care* | 441 | 437 | 428 | 421 | 414 |
| Children in Foster Care | 265 | 261 | 255 | | |
| Children Placed with Relatives | 115 | 112 | 110 | | |
| Families Receiving In-Home Services | 105 | 115 | 111 | | |
| Voluntary Placement Agreements @ EOM | 7 | 10 | 6 | | |
| Voluntary Placement Agreement Requests | 1 | 4 | 7 | | |
| Active Resource Homes* | 208 | 207 | 199 | 185 | 185 |
| Resource Home Applications | 6 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 |

| | | | | | |
|--|----|------|----|----|---|
| Resource Homes Closures | 4 | 4 | 9 | 17 | 2 |
| Average Length of Stay for Children in Care (months) | 29 | 29.6 | 30 | | |

* average per month

Regarding the reduced number of children in out of home care, adoptions are being finalized and *younger children are being reunited with their parents. Older youth are staying in care due to the pandemic.*

The agency is processing several Resource Home applications. The licensing process was slowed down awaiting background check information from the Child Support Program. That issue is now resolved.

Action Item: Ms. English will provide the Supervisor Briefing-Data Update chart for future meetings.

The agency has been able to hire staff to fill some of the staff vacancies. Additionally, they are in the process of hiring 9 of the student interns, who will be available to begin work after their July 2021 graduations.

One of the remaining vacancies is the substance abuse counselor for the START program.

The moratorium on youth aging out of foster care has now been extended through September 30, 20201 due to the COVID pandemic. Local staff are awaiting final written policy instructions from state leadership.

MCCRP Vacancies

Lisa Merkin continues to work with the county to get the vacancies posted.

Action Item: Ms. McCoy-Roth will follow-up with Ms. Merkin.

LGBTQ Review

All MCCRP members were asked to review the DHS/SSA policy, *Working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth and Families* [SSA-CW #18-13 (revised)], prior to the meeting. MCCRP members also reviewed the results of MCCRP's *LGBTQ Survey* of agency staff (July 10, 2017). Additionally, MCCRP members reviewed the Los Angeles Foster Youth Survey Final Report, *Sexual and Gender Minority Youth in Foster Care: Addressing Disproportionality and Disparities in Los Angeles*, (August 2014).

Prior to the meeting, a subcommittee comprised of Sarah Stanton and Kathleen Dunn developed a preliminary set of questions to ask agency staff to confirm local agency practices and compliance with the state policy. MCCRP members reviewed the preliminary set of questions and suggested additional questions.

Action Item: Ms. Stanton will finalize the questions based on input at the meeting and send them to Ms. English. Ms. English will forward the questions to appropriate agency staff to answer the questions.

Recruitment and Retention of Resource Families

A subcommittee comprised of Laura Brown, Wilma Brier, and Kathleen Dunn reviewed recruitment and retention materials previously provided to the committee. Ms. Brown asked for a point of contact at the agency with whom the subcommittee could talk. Recruitment and retention responsibilities are shared by four social workers and two supervisors. Also, the Recruitment and Retention Committee has been reconstituted. The agency is currently focused on retention.

Action Item: Ms. English will identify a supervisor and social worker for the subcommittee.

Action Item: Ms. English will inquire about the existing postings so efforts are not duplicated and provide text/brochures that MCCRCP members can use for individual postings.

Action Item: The MCCRCP members would also like to invite a representative or two from the foster parent association to seek their input and learn from their experiences.

After some discussion, there was consensus to concentrate on the Family Resource Home policy as that policy impacts the recruitment and retention efforts.

Foster Resource Families

Background material provided prior to the meeting included the DHS/SSA Maryland Resource Parent Manual, *Maryland Resource Parent Handbook*, (2016) and the DHS/SSA policy, *Resource Parent Home Standards* (SSA-CW #19-15). SSA-CW #19-15 was issued on March 31, 2019 to be effective November 9, 2020.

Action Item: Ms. English will confirm whether SSA-CW #19-15 is in effect or delayed due to the COVID pandemic.

2021 Spring Forum - Confronting Barriers to Addiction and Mental Health Services: Equity, Isolation, and Digital Divide

The virtual event will be held on May 6th from 6:00 PM – 8:00 Pm using the Zoom platform. Kay Farley reported that the outreach flyer has been finalized. The flyer provides registration information. As of today, 128 people have registered for the event.

Action Item: Ms. Farley will e-mail a copy of the flyer to the MCCRCP members.

CRBC Training for MCCRCP Members

The State Board for the Citizens Review Board for Children (CRBC) met on April 8, 2021 and approved a plan for providing training to MCCRCP members. CRBC will be inviting new MCCRCP members to their pre-services training sessions to provide general child welfare background information, compiling additional resource and reference materials, and inviting all MCCRCP members to in-service training sessions.

To kick this effort off, Denise Wheeler, CRBC Administrator, will be sending an invitation to MCCRCP members for the current in-service training that is being offered virtually in April. That 2-hour session is titled “Trauma Informed Care and Decision Making” and being offered on Fridays from 10:00 – 12:00.

The next pre-services training session will likely be in June 2021, but the date has been confirmed yet.

Annual Report Review

Action Item: Additionally, for the May 11th MCCRCP meeting, members should review and comment on the draft annual report. The MCCRCP 2021 Annual Report should be submitted to the Montgomery County Council by August 31, 2021.

The meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: May 11, 2021