

Montgomery County Citizen Review Panel (MCCCRP)

May 11, 2021 Meeting

Minutes

Persons Present:

Wilma Brier

Kathleen Dunn

Angela English, SSA

Marci McCoy-Roth, 2020-2021 Chair

Stacey McNeely

Welcome

Marci McCoy-Roth called the meeting to order.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 13, 2021 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Stacey McNeely made a motion to approve the minutes, and Marci McCoy-Roth seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Agency Report

Angela reported that the agency is short staffed. They have 15 vacancies for social worker 2 and 3 positions. They have interviewed nine applicants, but five have already accepted positions with other agencies which offer more compensation. They have requested more interns, and they go to job fairs to recruit. They might need to adjust salaries. They have studied equity in salaries, but salary increases have not been approved. A social worker will start soon with the START Program which addresses substance abuse issues.

The agency is waiting for policy guidance on vaccinating foster children under 18. There is no current plan to require foster parents to be vaccinated. They are trying to convince foster youth 18 and over to get the vaccination.

Marci shared information on the Foster Care Club which has a good website. She also shared a binder with the agency. This binder organizes children's information such as medical and financial documents. Foster children now get this binder in their Life Skills class. There is also a booklet for younger foster children.

LGBTQ Information

Angela would like to address any questions we have as she prepares a document on serving this population. The agency will be bringing in training regarding implicit bias for the social workers. They are

trying to develop a closer relationship with foster parents to see what they need. There is new training material for foster parents in the PRIDE foster parent training curriculum.

Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention

The supervisors for foster parent recruitment and retention are Charonne Randall and Sarah E. Lewis. Angela will send us their contact information. We discussed sharing recruitment information on community listservs. Agency employee Mary Anderson has done this in the past. Angela spoke to her. She does not have a readily available list of the community groups right now. Angela will look into this further. We could invite someone from the Foster Parents' Association to give us more ideas on how to improve recruitment and retention.

Angela indicated that some foster parents consider their work a calling, and that not everyone is up to doing this work. Children in foster care often have multiple issues. Two more workers are being trained to conduct the foster parent training known as PRIDE.

Annual Report

We have to decide what we are looking for in preparing this report. We are still wrestling with what is the role of the Citizen Review Panel. Sarah's goal was to go through the policy and pull together a structure for our charter. We would review what we should remove and what we should elaborate on. Some of the sections in the draft report are placeholders for information to be added later. We are trying to support the work of the agency. Katy will look at what we have so far. We may be trying to do too much in the annual report.

Spring Forum

The Spring Forum event on the topics of mental health and addiction services was held virtually on May 6, 2021. Wilma Brier and Kay Farley participated in the planning meetings as representatives of the Citizen Review Panel. Stacey McNeely, Kay Farley, and Wilma Brier attended the virtual event. The presentations covered equity, pandemic isolation, and the digital divide. Materials will be shared with the Citizen Review Panel members.

The meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: June 8, 2021, 7:00

Wilma Brier, standing in for Kay Farley, Secretary