

## Montgomery County Citizens Review Panel (MCCRP)

### October 11, 2022 Meeting

#### Minutes

#### Persons Present:

Wilma Brier	Stacey McNeely, 2022-2023 Chair
Laura Brown	Lisa Merkin, CWS Administrator
Kay Farley, CRBC Representative	Ron Whalen
Marci McCoy-Roth	

#### Welcome

Ms. Stacey McNeely called the meeting to order.

#### Review and Approval of the Minutes

The draft minutes of the July 12, 2022 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Ms. Wilma Brier made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Ron Whalen seconded the motion, which was approved.

The MCCRP did not meet in August. A quorum was not present for the September meeting, so no business was transacted.

#### Agency Report

##### Data

Ms. Lisa Merkin reviewed the agency's data for August 2022.

Data Element	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22
<b>Assessment</b>					
Number of calls to screening unit	599	604			
Number of new Alternative Response (AR) Investigations	57	38			
Number of new Investigation Response (IR) Investigations	57	47			
<b>Out of Home</b>					
Number of new out of home placements (entries)	3	10			
Total children who left care (exits)	3	6			
Total out-of-home children in care at month's end	347	351			
<b>Placement</b>					
Number of children in foster care	206	218			
Number of children placed with relatives	76	73			
Number of children in residential placement	65	60			
<b>Length of Stay</b>					
Average (mean) length of stay in foster care (months)	33	33			
Median length of stay in foster care (months)	29	30			
<b>Reports</b>					
Reports of child maltreatment	386	383			
New non-CPS	49	56			

There were fewer calls because school was not in session, but there were ten new placements.

A request was made to receive the number of resource homes for future meetings.

The agency received the results of their Child and Family Services Review (CFSR), which was conducted by the federal government. There was only one finding, which is less than in prior CFSRs. The one finding related to timeliness of permanency. The agency is developing its continuous improvement plan to address the finding. A question was asked about how Montgomery County compares to other counties in Maryland. In comparing Montgomery County to other urban communities, the other communities had more CFSR findings than Montgomery County.

#### Staff Vacancies

The agency continues to have social worker vacancies and is working on recruitment. Leadership is interviewing for two supervisor positions and hopes to have those positions filled within the month. There is an open posting for two manager positions. That posting closes on October 31, 2022.

#### How MCCRCP Can Assist with Resource Home Recruitment

Resource home recruitment remains a priority. Leadership has been meeting with the agency's Public Information Officer to talk about how best to get the word out, including use of social media. The agency is putting final touches on standard language that will be used for recruitment.

**Next Steps: When the language is final and the logo is updated, Ms. Lisa Merkin will share the language with MCCRCP members. MCCRCP members then can assist with recruitment by circulating the standard language with their contacts.**

Ms. Marci McCoy-Roth advised that the [Discover Foster Parenting website](#) may be helpful for recruitment.

#### County Response to the Recent Open Meetings Act (OMA) Complaint

The County recently conducted a review of its advisory boards' compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Reports of compliance were provided to each board. The MCCRCP was cited for not consistently posting and providing links for meetings.

**Next Step: Ms. Merkin will circulate a document to the MCCRCP members to DocuSign and confirm that the compliance issues had been discussed by the membership.**

#### Collaborating with the Montgomery County Board of Social Services

Ms. McNeely will follow-up with the Montgomery County Board of Social Services regarding coordination on mental health issues. She will share information about the current work of the MCCRCP with the Board of Social Services leadership.

#### MCCRCP Annual Report

Ms. Merkin shared a copy of the final draft of the report with her director. She will recirculate the final draft to the MCCRCP members for a last review.

**Next Step: After the last review, the document will then be finalized and submitted to the County by Ms. Merkin.**

### **LGBTQ Response White Paper Update**

Ms. Katie Dunn was the lead on drafting this white paper. As reported in September 2022, Ms. Dunn has resigned from the MCCRCP. Ms. McNeely will review the document prepared by Ms. Dunn that summarizes the survey findings.

**Next Step: After reviewing the document, Ms. McNeely will determine future actions by the MCCRCP.**

### **Foster Parent Survey Update**

Ms. Laura Brown has prepared a draft report of the survey findings. Forty-nine responses to the survey were received, which represents about one-third of the resource homes in the county. She will circulate the draft report to the MCCRCP members. The draft report does not include recommendations at this point, as the recommendations should be discussed and developed by the full membership of the MCCRCP.

**Next Steps: Ms. Brown will circulate the draft report. Discussion of the survey results and possible recommendations will be priority for discussion at the November MCCRCP meeting.**

### **MCCRCP Committee**

#### Next Meeting

It was noted that the next regularly scheduled meeting will fall on Election Day. There was consensus to reschedule the meeting for November 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Next Step: Ms. Merkin will manage the public notification of the date change.**

### **Vacancies and Interview Process**

Ms. McNeely reported that a candidate was interviewed and recommended for approval.

Vacancies for the MCCRCP were reposted by the County. The closing day for the posting is October 12, 2022. The terms of several members are coming to an end. Most members are eligible to apply for a second term.

**Next Steps: Ms. Merkin will follow-up with the County on the recommended appointment of a new member, new candidates, and to confirm the process for current members to apply for second terms.**

### **Departing Member**

Ms. McNeely thanked Ms. McCoy-Roth for her years of service to the MCCRCP and, particularly, for her leadership as chair of the MCCRCP for two years. Her expertise and contributions will be sorely missed.

The meeting adjourned.

**Next Meeting: November 7, 2022**