

## Montgomery County Citizens Review Panel (MCCRP)

May 10, 2022 Meeting

### Minutes

#### Persons Present:

Wilma Brier  
Laura Coyle  
Kay Farley, CRBC Representative

Lisa Merkin, CWS Administrator  
Marci McCoy-Roth, 2021-2022 Chair  
Stacey McNeely

#### Welcome

Ms. Marci McCoy-Roth called the meeting to order.

#### Review and Approval of the Minutes

The draft minutes of the April 5, 2022 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Ms. Laura Coyle made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Stacey McNeely seconded the motion, which was approved.

#### Agency Report

Ms. Lisa Merkin reviewed the agency's data for March 2022 from the Supervisor's Briefing – Data Update report.

Data Element	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22
<b>Assessment</b>					
Number of calls to screening unit	1124	1023	929	1189	1378
Reports of Child Maltreatment	698	609	532	687	832
Number of New Alternative Response (AR) Investigations	124	82	83	91	130
Number of New Investigation Response (IR) Investigations	81	77	51	86	86
New Non-CPS	69	71	55	71	88
<b>In-Home</b>					
Number of Families Receiving In-Home Services	77	76	70	70	63
<b>Out of Home</b>					
Number of new out of home placements (entries)	3	18	7	8	16
Total children who left care (exits)	10	12	13	16	10
Total out-of-home children in care at month's end	342	348	342	334	340
Number of children in foster care	207	210	204	204	196
Number of children placed with relatives	76	80	79	71	71
Number of Voluntary Placement Agreements @ EOM	2	2	2	8	9
Number of Voluntary Placement Agreement Requests	8	8	7	1	7
Number of Resource Homes	178	176	166	165	181
Average length of stay for children in foster care (months)	32	31	31	31	31

Staff vacancies remains an issue. Recruitment is beginning for two Manager III positions. One vacancy is a result of Angela English's retirement. The second vacancy will occur at the end of the summer when the manager of the data and analysis team will retire. There are also two supervisor vacancies. The agency continues to have problems recruiting social workers, which is a statewide problem. The agency will be

able to fill some of the vacancies in the next couple of months by on-boarding some of the students that have been interning with the agency.

The agency is busy preparing for the federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR), which will take place in July. The agency just received the list of cases that will be reviewed.

The agency has been working with the Center for the Study for Social Policy (CSSP) to provide racial disproportionality and racial equity training for staff. They just finished a second training session. The sessions have been 6 hours in length. The agency will be using the training to inform their work and decision-making. As a result of the training the agency has developed a process map. The agency will select two to three processes for a deep dive analysis related to decision-making.

The agency continues to work with the Center for Excellence (CFE) on co-parenting training for resource home parents and families of origin. The training for the initial group of resource home parents is wrapping up. The agency is now focusing on monitor the families of origin to determine readiness for the training.

The agency recently hosted an appreciation dinner for resource home parents. About 110 resource home parents attended the dinner.

A follow-up item from the last MCCRCP meeting was to discuss how MCCRCP members could help with resource home recruitment by posting agency-approved language on Next Door and personal listservs. Ms. Merkin advised that the agency is launching a new recruitment effort with a few radio stations. She is interested in reaching a wider audience, especially in the faith community. She will reach out to Mary Anderson, who is the public information officer for recruitment and get back to the MCCRCP.

The agency is making some progress on resource home recruitment. As of the end of April 2022, the agency has sixteen home studies pending. The agency does try to track how potential resource home parents find out about the opportunity. The agency received thirty-seven inquiries in April 2022. The breakdown in how those individuals reported that they learned about resource home parenting is as follows.

- Internet – two
- Referral from an existing resource home parent – one
- Agency webpage - twenty-six
- Unspecified - eight

**Next Steps: Ms. Merkin will share a copy of the process map with the MCCRCP members. Ms. Merkin will follow-up on how the MCCRCP members can help with resource home recruitment.**

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

Ms. McCoy-Roth reminded the MCCRCP that the Montgomery County Board of Social Services had reached out to her and was interested in coordinating with the MCCRCP on two issues;

- Increasing internships and job opportunities for youth in the foster care system, and
- Increasing mental health support capacity for youth in the foster care system.

There was interest amongst the MCCRCP members to work on the mental health issue. Given the topic of the upcoming Spring Forum, there was consensus to see what issues come up in the discussion. The results of the Resource Home Recruitment survey may also be informative for possible action and activities.

### **Spring Forum**

Ms. Kay Farley advised that the 2022 Spring Forum will be on May 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 pm on the Zoom platform. The brochure for registering for the Forum was circulated to the MCCRCP members prior to the meeting. The U.S. Surgeon General was invited to speak about his recently released report on this issue, but is unable to attend. Dr. Melinda Baldwin from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will talk about implementation of the Surgeon General’s report. Dr. Jennifer Bienstock from the Center for Behavioral Change and Anxiety will talk about how parents can help their youth with Anxiety and Depression. The forum will end with a panel of youth talking about their needs, what works for them, and what doesn’t. For the first two presentations, youth will have the option to participate in a separate facilitated track talking with peers who have lived experiences.

### **LGBTQ Subcommittee**

The subcommittee is continuing to work toward a draft white paper.

**Next Steps:** Ms. McNeely will reach out to Ms. Katy Dunn.

### **Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee**

The final survey was distributed to the Montgomery County Foster Parent Association (MCFPA) membership. Twenty-two responses have been received to-date.

### **MCCRCP Committee**

Ms. Merkin advised that the County will be readvertising the MCCRCP vacancies.

Ms. McNeely will take over as the chair of the MCCRCP for 2022-2023 at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned.

**Next Meeting: June 14, 2022**