

Montgomery County Citizens Review Panel (MCCRP)

January 10, 2023 Meeting

Minutes

Members Present:

Laura Brown
Kay Farley, CRBC Representative
Shaoli Katana
Stacey McNeely, 2022-2023 Chair
Ron Whalen

Guests Present:

Marcy Frosh, Montgomery County Board of Social Services
Chante Leverette, Montgomery County Board of Social Services

Welcome

Ms. Stacey McNeely called the meeting to order.

Introduction Members

Ms. McNeely asked members and the guests to introduce themselves.

Board of Social Services Collaboration

Ms. Marcy Frosh advised that the Montgomery County Board of Social Services has identified transitioning youth as a priority area and are particularly interested in internships and job training opportunities. They identified this issue in consultation with Ms. Lisa Merkin. The Board is aware of the Chevy Chase High School internship program, which is a model for other programs. They are interested in identifying other model programs and making contacts with businesses. Their second priority issue is trauma-informed training.

Ms. McNeely described the MCCRP current priorities – recruitment and retention of resource homes and the handling of cases involving youth identifying as LGBTQ. Transitioning youth has been a previous priority issue and there continues to be significant interest in the issue. The MCCRP has been constrained due to a number of panel vacancies, which has limited its ability to take on new priority issues. Candidates were recently interviewed to fill the MCCRP vacancies. Once the vacancies are filled, the MCCRP will revisit its priorities and projects.

The MCCRP and the Board of Social Services representatives agreed to keep in touch for possible collaboration.

Review and Approval of the Minutes

The draft minutes of the December 13, 2022 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Mr. Ron Whalen made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. McNeely seconded the motion, which was approved.

Agency Update

Data

Ms. Merkin forwarded the agency's data for November 2022.

Data Element	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22
Assessment					
Number of calls to Screening Unit	599	604	1011	1109	1095
Reports of Child Maltreatment (referrals)	386	383	628	696	618
Number of new Alternative Response (AR) investigations	57	38	75	111	85
Number of new Investigation Response (IR) investigations	57	47	64	72	60
New non-CPS cases	49	56	67	68	59
Number of completed IR investigation findings – allegation indicated	45	29	28	38	44
Number of completed IR investigation findings – allegation unsubstantiated	35	29	14	5	12
Number of completed IR investigation findings – allegation ruled out	41	45	30	45	42
Out of Home					
Number of new out of home placements (entries)	3	10	5	9	7
Total children who left care (exits)	3	6	13	4	19
Total out-of-home children in care at month's end	347	351	343	348	336
Placement					
Number of children in foster care	206	218	220	230	217
Number of children placed with relatives	76	73	70	67	67
Number of children in residential placement	65	60	53	51	52
Length of Stay					
Average (mean) length of stay in foster care (months)	33	33	34	34	34
Median length of stay in foster care (months)	29	30	30	29	29
Resource Homes					
Number of licensed regular foster homes (does not include restricted/relative homes)	130	128	129	128	129
Number of newly assigned regular home studies	4	4	0	4	3
Number of recruitment inquiries	45	44	44	37	35

It was observed that the numbers had not increased as anticipated. Historically, November is a month with a greater number of calls and reports of neglect and abuse.

Mr. Whalen indicated that he was willing to put the data in a graphic format and show comparisons with prior years if that data can be made available to him.

At a future meeting, the MCCRP should discuss additional data that would be helpful. One example might be exit interviews with resource homes that close.

Resource Home Recruitment and Retention

The Supervisor vacancy for the Resource Home Unit has been filled recently. The new supervisor will be invited to the next MCCRP meeting for an update on current policy and procedures.

Prior to that meeting, Ms. Laura Brown will try to schedule a meeting with the new supervisor to review the results of the MCCRP survey of resource homes. Ms. Farley and Ms. Shaoli Katana volunteered to participate in the meeting as well.

MCCRP Committee Vacancies

Mr. Whalen and Ms. Kay Farley advised that they had interviewed three candidates and recommended them for approval. Ms. Merkin has forwarded the recommendations to the County Council for consideration.

Spring Forum

Mr. Whalen reported that the first planning meeting will be on January 23, 2023. He will participate on behalf of the MCCRP.

Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC)

Ms. McNeely reached out to the MHAC regarding possible collaborations. An e-mail response indicated the following.

1. MHAC is focused on expanding the adoption of the Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS), which is a best practice for crisis services to youth.
2. The MHAC Vice Chair is very interested in child-related mental health issues.
3. Another MHAC member, Celia Serkin, is the Executive Director for Montgomery County Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health.

Ms. McNeely will follow-up to invite a MHAC representative to a future MCCRP meeting.

Next Meeting

Due to conflicts on February 14th, the MCCRP will not meet in February 2023. The next meeting will be March 14, 2023.

The meeting adjourned.