

Montgomery County Citizens Review Panel (MCCRP)

October 10, 2023 Meeting

Minutes

Members Present:

Tinuade Akinshola	Kay Farley, CRBC Representative
Kenneth Beale	Stacey McNeely, Chair
Laura Brown, Technical Advisor	Lisa Merkin, CYFS Liaison
Laura Coyle	Elizabeth Simon

Ms. Stacey McNeely called the meeting to order.

Review and Approval of the Minutes

The draft minutes of the September 12, 2023 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Ms. Elizabeth Simon made a motion to approve the minutes Mr. Kenneth Beale seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Agency Update

Ms. Merkin reviewed the agency's data for September 2023.

As anticipated, there has been an increase in referrals and reports of abuse as school is back in session.

Out of home placements remained stable even with the increase in referrals. Referrals do take time to investigate. Additionally, the provision of in-home services reduces can address the issues that resulted in the referral.

There was an increase in the number of inquiries to be resource homes. The agency is looking into whether the increase can be attributed to recent outreach efforts, including information featured on the MoCo Show.

Data Element	May 2023	June 2023	July 2023	Aug. 2023	Sep. 2023
Assessment					
Number of calls to Screening Unit	1247	877	546	698	950
Reports of Child Maltreatment (referrals)	768	544	438	473	678
Number of new Alternative Response (AR) investigations	136	78	45	44	72
Number of new Investigation Response (IR) investigations	75	56	49	50	61
New non-CPS cases	71	84	63	66	63
Number of completed IR investigation findings – allegation indicated	63	53	50	37	32
Number of completed IR investigation findings – allegation unsubstantiated	20	16	28	18	20
Number of completed IR investigation findings – allegation ruled out	55	49	41	23	16
Out of Home					
Number of new out of home placements (entries)	10	13	6	7	9
13Total children who left care (exits)	12	11	12	4	12
Total out-of-home children in care at month's end	335	337	331	334	331
Placement					

Number of children in foster care	215	223	214	210	214
Number of children placed with relatives	79	71	70	71	69
Number of children in residential placement	50	43	47	53	48
Length of Stay					
Average (mean) length of stay in foster care (months)	34	33	33.5	33.8	34
Median length of stay in foster care (months)	30	27	27	27	26
Resource Homes					
Number of licensed regular foster homes (does not include restricted/relative homes)	131	127	126	125	125
Number of newly assigned regular home studies	2	2	4	1	0
Number of recruitment inquiries	40	31	37	32	54

MCCRP Committee

Recap of Quarterly Boards, Commissions and Committees Meeting

The Director of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services holds quarterly leadership meetings with the Boards, Commissions and Committees (BCC) to receive reports on activities completed, activities anticipated, collaboration with other Boards, Commissions and Committees.

Ms. Mc Neely reviewed the MCCRP activity report submitted for the September 20, 2023 leadership meeting. The report focused on three activities – 1) monthly review and analysis of data, 2) efforts to assist the agency with recruitment of resource homes, and 3) efforts to assist the agency with retention of resource homes.

County Health and Human Services Committee Meeting

Ms. McNeely advised that the MCCRP is scheduled to present its priorities to the County Health and Human Service Committee on October 12, 2023. She reviewed the written report that has been submitted in advance of the meeting, which focused on the following two priorities;

- Resource Home Recruitment - targeting untapped communities and strategies for emergency placement homes, and
- Resource Home Retention - helping resource families to deal with grief and loss at the time of reunification.

Ms. McNeely and Ms. Merkin will be presenting the MCCRP's priorities to the Committee on the 12th.

Resource Home Recruitment and Retention Sub-Panels

Helping Resource Families to Deal with Grief and Loss at Reunification Subpanel

The subpanel will be meeting soon to discuss next steps.

Targeting Untapped Communities and Strategies for Emergency Placement Homes Subpanel

The subpanel divided up the agency-approved list of personal connections and other groups to target for outreach. A draft email has been submitted to the agency for edits and approval. Once approved, the email will be used by subpanel members for outreach.

Reminder of Training Requirements for New Members

MCCRP members must comply with the County's training requirements for Board and Commission members. Training is required related to the ethics laws, the Open Meetings Act, and parliamentary procedures. Members needing assistance in verifying classes taken should contact Ms. Merkin.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be November 14, 2023.

The meeting adjourned.