

Montgomery County Citizens Review Panel (MCCRP)

November 14, 2023 Meeting

Minutes

Members Present:

Tinuade Akinshola	Lisa Merkin, CYFS Liaison
Laura Brown, Technical Advisor	Elizabeth Simon
Laura Coyle	Ronald Whalen
Kay Farley, CRBC Representative	

Ms. Laura Coyle called the meeting to order.

Review and Approval of the Minutes

The draft minutes of the October 10, 2023 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Mr. Ronald Whalen made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Elizabeth Simon seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Agency Update

Ms. Merkin reviewed the agency’s data for October 2023.

As anticipated, there has been an increase in referrals and reports of abuse due to school referrals. Out-of-home placements continued to be stable even with the increase in referrals. Out-of-home placements can be avoided with the provision of in-home services.

Data Element	June 2023	July 2023	Aug. 2023	Sep. 2023	Oct. 2023
Assessment					
Number of calls to Screening Unit	877	546	698	950	1194
Reports of Child Maltreatment (referrals)	544	438	473	678	790
Number of new Alternative Response (AR) investigations	78	45	44	72	76
Number of new Investigation Response (IR) investigations	56	49	50	61	83
New non-CPS cases	84	63	66	63	81
Number of completed IR investigation findings – allegation indicated	53	50	37	32	44
Number of completed IR investigation findings – allegation unsubstantiated	16	28	18	20	31
Number of completed IR investigation findings – allegation ruled out	49	41	23	16	30
Out of Home					
Number of new out of home placements (entries)	13	6	7	9	7
13Total children who left care (exits)	11	12	4	12	13
Total out-of-home children in care at month's end	337	331	334	331	325
Placement					
Number of children in foster care	223	214	210	214	212

Number of children placed with relatives	71	70	71	69	70
Number of children in residential placement	43	47	53	48	49
Length of Stay					
Average (mean) length of stay in foster care (months)	33	33.5	33.8	34	34
Median length of stay in foster care (months)	27	27	27	26	27
Resource Homes					
Number of licensed regular foster homes (does not include restricted/relative homes)	127	126	125	126	126
Number of newly assigned regular home studies	2	4	1	0	1
Number of recruitment inquiries	31	37	32	54	57

MCCRP Committee

Recap of County Health and Human Services Committee Meeting

Ms. Stacey McNeely, MCCRP Chair, presented the MCCRP priorities to the County Health and Human Service Committee on October 12, 2023. The report focused on MCCRP's current 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.

The Councilmembers in attendance will be submitting follow-up questions to the MCCRP in the near future.

Resource Home Recruitment and Retention Sub-Panels

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

Ms. Coyle reported for the subpanel. Efforts are underway to clean up the spreadsheet of potential resources. The subpanel is conducting an initial vetting of the potential resources to eliminate those resources not targeting resource families or that are too general. As discussed previously, the subpanel will try to identify a variety of formats to accommodate different learning skills.

Ms. Merkin advised that the agency has been in touch with Families Connected, which may be a resource for grief training for both resource families and staff. Additionally, Adoptions Together is hosting a meeting this week that will include discussion about how to identify resource families needing support.

Targeting Untapped Communities and Strategies for Emergency Placement Homes Subpanel

Ms. Laura Brown reported for the subpanel. The agency provided the subpanel with approved standard language to be used in all correspondence. The subpanel previously divided up the agency-approved list of personal connections and other groups to target for outreach. Outreach to those targeted organizations is beginning.

Mr. Whalen offered to assist with the outreach efforts.

Action Item: A question was raised about the possibility of putting the approved correspondence language on agency or county letterhead. Ms. Merkin will check to see if letterhead could be used by the subpanel for this purpose.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on December 12, 2023.

The meeting adjourned.