

MCCRP Agenda Minutes

June 11, 2024

Attendees:

Elizabeth Simon
 Laura Brown, Technical Advisor
 Laura Coyle
 Stacey McNeely, 2024-2025 chair

Lisa Merkin, CYFS Liaison
 Ronald Whalen
 Tinu Akinshola

I. Review Minutes from March

Laura Coyle moved to accept the March 2024 minutes contingent on correction, Tinu Akinshola seconded, unanimously approved.

II. Agency Update

A. Monthly data

1. May has been the busiest month with highest numbers since before the pandemic. Will likely be busy through June until school ends and camps have opened.

FY24 Data Review												
Data Element: Screening & Assessment	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Total
Number of Calls to Screening Unit	546	698	950	1,194	1,032	902	924	1,153	1,075	1,094	1,140	10,708
Reports of Child Maltreatment (Referrals)	438	473	678	790	731	648	693	830	777	686	879	7,623
Number of New Alternative Response (AR) cases	45	44	72	75	89	56	70	90	98	92	101	832
Number of New Investigation Response (IR) cases	49	50	61	83	65	51	64	64	66	61	87	701
New Non-CPS Cases	63	66	63	81	75	68	57	66	74	57	103	773
Number of Completed IR CPS investigation Findings-Indicated	50	37	32	44	44	35	47	32	38	59	41	459
Number of Completed IR CPS Investigation Findings Unsubstantiated	28	18	20	31	20	22	25	32	11	24	15	246
Number of Completed IR CPS Investigation Findings - Ruled Out	41	23	16	30	50	31	40	48	33	49	47	408
Data Element: Foster Care Entries & Exits	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Total
Number of OOH care entries	6	7	9	7	6	14	13	9	8	6	14	99
Number of OOH care exits	12	4	12	13	14	6	5	8	8	5	13	100
Total children in OOH care at month's end	331	334	331	325	317	325	333	334	334	335	336	330
												*AVG
Data Element: Out of Home	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Avg / month
Number of children in foster care	214	210	214	209	208	218	219	226	224	230	233	219
Number of children placed with relatives	70	71	69	68	60	58	65	63	65	60	60	64
Number of children in residential placement	47	53	48	48	49	49	49	45	45	45	43	47
Average length of stay for children in foster care (months)	33	34	34	34	34	34	34	33	33	33	33	34
Median length of stay for children in foster care (months)	27	27	26	27	28	28	28	26	27	28	27.5	27
Data Element: Resource Homes	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Total
Number of Licensed Regular Foster Homes (does not include Restricted/Relative Homes)	126	125	125	124	122	122	122	118	118	114	113	121
												*AVG
Number of Newly Assigned Regular Home Studies	4	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	3	2	1
												*AVG
Number of Recruitment Inquiries	37	32	54	34	33	32	27	34	40	39	33	395

B. Other:

1. Recruitment for resource parents: 14 inquiries, highest since December 2023.
2. Excellent event honored Emma Patterson for 30+ years of fostering a total of 33 children. Covered in the media; Agency hopes it will raise awareness about and encourage inquiries for being a foster parent/resource family.
3. Manger/Contractor who started in January 2024 has completed a recommended foster parent/resource family recruitment & retention (short-term/long-term) plan
4. For foster parent/resource family retention: first few months re: first placements are critical; grief and loss are also a factor in the reunification process
5. Agency will participate in Pride event in Silver Spring on June 30, 2024
6. University of Maryland at Shady Grove (Masters of Social Work) collaborative pilot with DHHS/CWS; student interns receive stipends; students are committed to work for CWS upon graduation/receiving their MSW license; so far, the Pilot is a success.
Total for FY25: 11 interns, 6 of which are in the new program.
For every year of support, interns will “owe” a year to the Agency.
7. Child Welfare Caseworker positions: requires an MSW, but no Maryland social work license; some positions within CWS.

III. MCCRCP Committee

A. Resource Home Recruitment and Retention Sub-Panels Updates

1. Helping Resource Families to Deal with Grief and Loss at Reunification: Sub-panel work completed
2. Targeting Untapped Communities and Strategies for Emergency Placement Homes: Sub-panel work completed

B. New panel focus possibilities

1. Developing a culture of support for agency staff
 - a) Ron Whalen will lead sub-panel. Members include Tinu Akinshola and Elizabeth Simon.
2. Support for transitioning youth.
 - a) Lisa Merkin noted that new guidance about and expansion on kinship care impact sub-panel’s work; SSA also focused on permanency for older youth (end “aging out”)
 - b) Stacey McNeely will lead sub-panel. Members include Laura Coyle, Laura Brown.
 - c) Aging-out/older youth need permanent connections like custodial guardian ship, for stability and practicality. Goal is to get older youth into permanency before aging out.

C. Panel training requirements

1. Reminder issued to complete training.
 2. After training, notify Stacey McNeely/Lisa Merkin.
 3. Ethics training is important.
- D. Spring Forum recording
1. Stacey McNeely will forward the link. No one from MCCRCP attended.
- E. Panel vacancy notice
1. Shaoli will not be returning now due to family commitments. She may reapply when things are sorted out if she wishes.
- F. Panel availability for July 9 meeting
1. Meeting moved to July 16 to accommodate schedules.