

Montgomery County Citizens Review Panel (MCCRP)

October 8, 2024 Meeting

Minutes

Members Present:

Tinuade Akinshola

Laura Coyle

Kay Farley, CRBC Representative

Stacey McNeely, Chair

Lisa Merkin, CYFS Liaison

Elizabeth Simon

Ronald Whalen

Ms. Stacey McNeely called the meeting to order.

Review and Approval of the Minutes

The draft minutes of the September 10, 2024 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Ms. Laura Coyle made the motion to approve the revised minutes. Ms. Elizabeth Simon seconded the motion. The revised minutes were approved.

Agency Update

Ms. Lisa Merkin presented the data for September 2024. She noted that the increase in number of calls to the Screening Unit was not surprising as school is back in session. She also called attention to the small drop in the length of stay for children in foster care.

Data Element	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	Aug 2024	Sep 2024
Assessment					
Number of calls to Screening Unit	1140	731	603	540	932
Reports of Child Maltreatment (referrals)	879	517	472	404	757
Number of new Alternative Response (AR) investigations	101	54	47	38	82
Number of new Investigation Response (IR) investigations	87	40	48	58	64
New non-CPS cases	103	57	76	57	86
Number of completed IR investigation findings – allegation indicated	41	56	59	28	39
Number of completed IR investigation findings – allegation unsubstantiated	15	21	53	12	14
Number of completed IR investigation findings – allegation ruled out	47	53	52	21	29
Out of Home					
Number of new out of home placements (entries)	14	8	5	8	4
13Total children who left care (exits)	13	8	8	9	6
Total out-of-home children in care at month's end	336	336	333	332	330
Placement					
Number of children in foster care	233	226	219	219	211
Number of children placed with relatives	60	69	72	74	79

Number of children in residential placement	43	41	42	39	40
Length of Stay					
Average (mean) length of stay in foster care (months)	33	33	33.5	33	33.5
Median length of stay in foster care (months)	27.5	27	27	32	28
Resource Homes					
Number of licensed regular foster homes (does not include restricted/relative homes)	113	114	115	116	115
Number of newly assigned regular home studies	2	5	1	0	1
Number of recruitment inquiries	33	33	26	37	97

Yearly HHS Committee Meeting

Ms. McNeely advised that she is scheduled to present the work of the MCCRP on October 16th to Montgomery County's HHS Committee. She shared a draft of her proposed MCCRP Priority Statement.

The HHS Committee Meeting can be viewed virtually. It is also recorded and posted on YouTube. Ms. McNeely shared information on viewing the meeting when she receives it.

Sub-panel on Developing a Culture of Support for Agency Staff

Ms. Coyle advised that Dr. Patricia Carrington, a psychiatrist who works mainly with children and adolescents, would be happy to give a talk to CPS staff. Dr. Carrington suggested speaking one of these topics, but she is also open to staff suggestions.

- the role of psychiatric medications in managing psychiatric condition
- anxiety disorders,
- ideas for how to connect with teens.

Dr. Patricia Mastrapa Carrington, MD, is a compassionate psychiatrist specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders in Chevy chase, MD. With expertise in both psychiatry and neurology, she offers comprehensive care to patients with a wide range of psychiatric and neurological conditions. Dr. Carrington completed extensive training in psychiatry and neurology and is dedicated to delivering patient-centered care with empathy and respect. At Dimensions, she provides a range of services, including psychiatric evaluations, medication management, psychotherapy, and brain stimulation therapies. Through her holistic approach and multidisciplinary care, she helps patients achieve mental wellness and improve their quality of life.

Ms. Merkin will share the proposed topics with staff for interest and possible other topics. She suggested scheduling a virtual event in early 2025.

Ms. Simon also advised that the play therapist she discussed at the last meeting is also interested in presenting a program.

Mr. Ronald Whalen, chair of the Sub-panel, advised of the opportunity of a PTSD class offered by the Department of Psychiatry. He will send information about the class to Ms. Merkin. Further he advised that a preliminary literature has been completed. The Sub-panel will now take a deeper dive.

Sub-panel on Support for Transitioning Youth

Ms. McNeely, chair of the Sub-panel, advised that the Sub-panel members will be meeting after the Montgomery County HHS Committee hearings. Those hearings provide an opportunity to determine if other Montgomery County Commissions have a shared interest in this issue.

Panel Training Requirements

Ms. McNeely reminded members to make sure they have completed the required training sessions and uploaded their certificates of course completions.

Panel Vacancy Notice

Ms. Merkin will work with County to get the MCCRP vacancy posted.

Panel Availability for November 12, 2024 Meeting

As several MCCRP members reported a conflict with the next meeting date, a decision was made to have the Sub-panels meet in November to continue work. The MCCRP is next scheduled to meet on December 10th.

The meeting adjourned.