

December 20, 2016 Minutes of the DC Citizens Review Panel

Time: 6:45 to 8:15 PM

Day: Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Place: Children's Law Center, 616 H Street, NW, Washington, DC

Caterer: Cosi

In attendance:

CRP members: Damon Andre King (Chairperson), Emily Goering (Vice Chairperson), and Marie Cohen

Facilitator: Joyce N. Thomas

Absent: Rick Bardach (Treasurer), Claesa Venson, Sherrill P. Taylor, and Michelle McLeod

Welcome/Introductions:

Damon King began the meeting at 6:45 PM and welcomed all individuals who were present. He reviewed and confirmed the agenda topics for discussion at this meeting. Again, the CRP did not have a quorum this evening; therefore, the panel can only acknowledge receipt of the minutes. If there are any corrections, they should be sent to the Facilitator.

Chairperson's Report:

Due to his heavy work responsibilities, Damon indicated he will resign as a Chairperson of the CRP. Tonight's meeting will be his last time to chair the quarterly meetings. In his report, Damon provided the panel with information regarding transitions in leadership at CFSA. He indicated that HyeSook Chung has been appointed to the position of Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services and Brenda Donald will return to serve as the Director of the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA). HyeSook Chung was formerly the Executive Director of DC Action for Children. Damon further indicated that other leadership transition at CFSA will involve appointments of a new Deputy Director of Community Partnerships, Deputy Director of Entry Services, and Principle Deputy Director.

Emily Goering will serve as Interim Chair until a new person is appointed by the Mayor's Office. Emily indicated that Damon will request her to be added to the CFSA notice listserve that he is on (not the general announce Emily is already on.) In addition, Damon will request Emily to be added to the national CRP leaders listserve and he suggested that the Interim Chair should try to connect with Betty Nyangoni (the former CRP Chair), Mayor's Office Contact on Talent and Appointments (MOTA) and Michelle at CFSA. This networking is for information sharing, and orientation to the role of CRP Interim Chair.

The Interim Chair will request a meeting with MOTA to discuss the urgency of new appointments and chair appointment. She will meet with Michelle at CFSA to establish connection and discuss possible new in-home project as a Task Force for the CRP.

Emily indicated that she will plan to meet with all individuals at some point during the first quarter. Other groups who might have shared interest with the CRP include the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect, the Center for the Study of Social Policy, and Child Fatality Review Committee. Finally, Emily indicated that she plans to reach out to FPAC about a possible foster parent to serve on CRP.

Treasurer's Report:

In Rick's absence, the Facilitator provided the treasurer's report. This is the last quarter for this grant year. A report was sent to Rick for review and approval. There are no carry over funds.

Task Force on Youth Aging Out of Foster Care:

Damon provided a brief report on the status of the Youth Aging Out Task Force. He indicated that no changes have occurred and since there is so much transition at CFSA, the group will follow-up when new staff members are in place.

Task Force on In Home Care:

Emily gave a report on the activities of the Task Force on In Home Care. Current members of this Task Force are Emily Smith Goering, Marie Cohen, and Claresa Venson. A task force meeting was held and the group is still sorting out issues and priorities.

Joyce Thomas mentioned her recent conversation with Marla P. Spindel, Managing Attorney of Child Advocacy Program with DC Volunteer Lawyers Project. Information and materials were obtained on kinship diversion i.e. copies on Parental Use of PCP Constitutes Per Se Neglect in the District of Columbia; The Kinship Diversion Debate: Policy and Practice Implication for Children, Families and Child Welfare Agencies;¹ and Kin Diversion Expert Interview Synthesis;² Joyce will forward electronic copies of resources that could be helpful for the task force. Discussion focused on other potential areas for the task force activities.

Facilitator Report:

Joyce Thomas provided the Facilitator's report to the group. The following is a summary of the report:

1. January 14, 2017 is the last day for the Center's grant with CFSA. Close out responsibilities have been provided by the contract office of CFSA. A new RFP has been issued and a decision will be made about the award by January 4, 2017.
2. Joyce gave a friendly reminder about the need to complete revisions of the By-Laws, to increase efforts for recruitment, and to fully develop task force activities.
3. Joyce reinforced the importance of CRP members to attend the National Conference and other Child Abuse Conferences (e.g. Children's Advocacy Conference, San Diego Child Maltreatment Conference, etc.) Greater visibility of CRP issues should be integrated in the field.

¹ The Annie E. Casey Foundation (2016)

² Allen, McKindon, Malm (2016) Child Trends

4. There is still a need to complete swearing-in for new members and the Facilitator will assist as needed to make arrangements with the Mayor's Office on Talent and Appointments and City Council.
5. Action items included:
 - Emily will serve as Interim Chair and become active in networking in DC and with the National CRP Resource Center.
 - Damon will send a formal letter of resignation as Chair. He will assist as needed for a smooth transition of leadership.
 - Joyce will forward resource materials on kin diversion to the task force.
 - Joyce will finalize all reports for close out of CFSA Grant for FY 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.