

September 13, 2016 Minutes of the DC Citizens Review Panel

Time: 6:45 to 8:15 PM

Day: Tuesday, September 13, 2016

Place: MLK Library, 901 G St NW, Washington, DC 20001, Room A9

Caterer: Cosi

In attendance:

CRP members: Emily Goering (Vice Chairperson), Rick Bardach (Treasurer), Claresa Venson, Sherrill P. Taylor, Michelle McLeod, and Marie Cohen

Facilitator: Joyce N. Thomas

Absent:

Damon Andre King (Chairperson)

Welcome/Introductions:

Emily Goering (Vice Chairperson) began the meeting at 6:45 PM and welcomed all individuals who were present. She reviewed the agenda and confirmed the topics for discussion at this meeting. The CRP did not have a quorum this evening, therefore, the Vice Chairperson indicated that the panel can only acknowledge receipt of the minutes and if there are any corrections, they should be sent to the Facilitator. Rick Bardach identified a spelling correction is needed on page 3. This change was noted and the correct spelling was provided.

Chairperson's Report:

Emily Goering (Vice Chairperson) indicated that since the Chairperson is absent, there will be no report from him at this time. She suggested we take time during this meeting to discuss the responsibilities and expectations of CRP as defined in the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment (CAPTA) legislation.

Treasurer's Report:

Rick Bardach provided the quarterly fiscal report to the panel. This report documents expenses as of September 30, 2016 which is estimated to be \$26,241.49.

During the first three quarters, approximately \$22,208.75 was used for personnel cost and benefits. About \$196.00 was spent for general office supplies, and \$340 was spent on quarterly meeting expenses. Emily will be reimbursed for additional expenses associated with ground transportation and development of a poster for the presentation. The CRP website cost for the nine months period was \$72.90. About \$2,250.00 was used to pay the indirect cost for expenses related to office rent, telephone, fax, insurance, utilities, and fiscal consultation. The total of the grant year-to-date expense is \$26,241.49.

Task Force on Youth Aging Out of Foster Care:

Rick gave a report on the activities of the Youth Aging Out Task Force. Current members of this Task Force are: Rick Bardach, Sherrill Taylor, Michelle McLeod, and Damon King. During this quarter, two task force meetings were held to follow-up on the recommendations as defined in the CFSA report on aftercare. Rick indicated that the first top priority as identified by CFSA and

CRP is to focused on releasing a Request for Proposal to identify a new after care provider (other than the Collaborative) that will be specifically dedicated to implementation and measurement of outcomes related to youth ageing out issues. The second priority of the recommendations is to select a new coordinator at CFSA who is assigned to aftercare issues. In June, Rick participated in personnel interviews for selection of a coordinator, but as of today, announcement has not been made regarding the new provider or the selection of a coordinator. Rick has been in communications with Dr. Ruby Nelson, Community Partnerships Program Manager to follow-up on the recommendations. Continued efforts will be made to partner with the Office of Youth Enhancement (OYE).

In August, the CRP Task Force met to review the Rapid Housing benefits for youth. Panel members discussed the need to engage youth in the planning process for enhancing services. The Task Force reviewed eleven cases of youth involved with Rapid Housing. In the future, this Task Force will further expand the focus on addressing the educational needs of youth ageing out. Based on information from OYE, Rapid Housing can be used by college students for room and board. There is a need for the establishment of guidelines to clarify the process related to Rapid Housing and college youth from the foster care system. It was noted that reaching out to youth must be done before they finish high school.

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. During this quarter, two task force meetings were held to begin to develop a set of goals and objectives related to issues of in home care services for at risk children. Damon participated in the initial meeting and in general the committee is concerned about cases of substantiated abuse in which children remain in the home after a CFSA investigation. The Task Force is seeking to gain greater clarity about the types of data that is being collected on this high risk client population, and to get an understanding of the policies and procedures related to the process of decision making. Marie Cohen mentioned her contact with the DC Volunteer Attorney's Office that is also concerned about this issue. A copy of the testimony for the DCVA was shared with the CRP. Joyce Thomas also mentioned her conversation with Marla P. Spindel, Managing Attorney, Child Advocacy Program, DC Volunteer Lawyers Project on this issues. It was determined that this task force should link with other groups such as Child Fatality Committee, Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP), Volunteer Attorneys, Young Women's Project, and others.

Facilitator Report:

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

1. As a reminder, we are in the final option year of our contract with CFSA. At the end of this fiscal year, (Sept 30th), CFSA will review information on the options regarding continuation of the grant. They will either do an extension or send out a new RFP. All official documentation of activities is stored on the Center's computer and will be sent to CFSA or to the new contractor at the end of the grant period in January 2017. The Center has operated under enormous fiscal constraints.

2. Joyce informed the group that the new National CRP website has been updated. Panel members were encouraged to check it out.
3. Hard copies of the 2016 annual report still need to be distributed. Please provide the Center with the names and emails of any new stakeholders that should receive a copy.
4. After this meeting the Center will try to meet with Andrea Reid to discuss grant issues with her.
5. There is still a need to complete swearing in for new members and I would like to make arrangements with the Mayor Office on Talent and Appointments and City Council.
6. Action items from prior meetings included:
 - There is a tremendous need to appoint new panel members because the CRP By-Laws are in need of revision and this can only be done when we have a quorum.
 - There is a need for CRP panel members to identify the names of new stakeholders that should receive a hard copy or electronic copy of the 2016 CRP annual report.
7. The Facilitator mentioned the following few issues that may be of interest to panel members:
 - The Mayor Advisory Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect plans to focus on ending corporal punishment as a strategy for the prevention of child abuse. There will be training session to be held in November on corporal punishment.
 - Children's National Medical Center's Safety Alliance is focusing on anti-bullying strategies.
 - The State Early Childhood Development Coordinating Council focuses on issues of quality assurance for child care providers.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.