



Citizen Review Panel

District of Columbia

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL

CRP Meeting

July 14, 2026 – 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

CRP Members present: Elizabeth Mohler; (Vice- Chair); Andy Miller (Treasurer); Theresa Gibson; Dr. Wanda Thompson; Dr. Tyra Moore; Deborah Kale; Emily Bloomfield, Meg Marcelli, Amanda Quiroz-Guajardo

Absent CRP Members: Shana Bartley, Whitney Miller; Carolyn Woods; Pierrea Wallace (Chair)

Workgroup Members: Rick Bardasch and Patrick Foley

Public Guests: None

Facilitator Team: Margie Chalofsky, Toni Carr

AGENDA ITEMS:

Welcome and Introductions:

Elizabeth Moehler, Vice Chair led introductions. Rick Bardach was in attendance; there were no other observers present. We determined that public notice requirement was satisfied

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the March 2026 meeting were sent out on June 10th via Board Spot. Some members had not received or located them. It was agreed the minutes would be re-sent after the meeting, and members could submit any comments thereafter.

National Conference Report (Amanda Quiroz- Guajardo) – [View Report Here](#)

Amanda Quiroz presented a report from the National CRP Conference held in San Diego, attended alongside Carolyn Woods. Key themes from the conference included:

- Relationships matter, prevention matters, community voice matters
- Strong CRPs are intentional and invest in their own infrastructure
- Common challenges across states: recruitment/retention, meaningful community engagement, and understanding the federal mandate
- Growing national conversation around mandatory reporting reform — shifting focus from investigation to family support

- Successful CRPs featured diverse membership, strong onboarding (up to a year), active annual work plans, and leadership succession planning

Amanda brought back a recommendation list including reviewing DC's CAPTA plan, strengthening member onboarding, learning outreach strategies from other states, and following mandatory reporting reform developments.

Facilitator Report – Margie Chalofsky

Annual Report

The annual report was distributed approximately one month prior. Amanda Quiroz-Guajardo suggested future reports include:

- A section tracking the status of prior recommendations (implemented, in progress, outstanding)
- Outcome documentation to measure long-term impact
- Potential use as part of a new member orientation packet

Appointment Process & Gridlock

Margie C. raised significant concerns about the mayoral appointment process:

- Every liaison assigned from the mayor's office has been reassigned or departed approximately every few months
- Two members (including Chrissy) have been waiting over a year for appointment certification
- Arbitrary and shifting requirements (e.g., child protection registry, FBI checks, financial disclosures) have been imposed and then rescinded
- The process is described as "complete and total gridlock," leaving CRP consistently at low capacity

Ideas Generated by the Panel

- Reach out to council/mayoral contacts to whom reports are submitted
- Testify at council hearings — CRP previously testified regarding the Ombudsman
- Coalition building with other similarly situated panels experiencing the same appointment gridlock
- CRP Advocacy committee or work group to address foundational issues on an ongoing basis
- Member sign-on letter to the mayor's office or council
- Op-ed / press engagement
- Prepare talking points in advance for whoever becomes the next mayor
- Interim meeting to discuss strategy without waiting until the September meeting

Margie Chalofsky noted that CFSA's program and practice partnership has been positive; the challenges are specific to the DC government/mayoral appointment side.

Summer Gathering

- Proposed dates: Tuesday August 18, Wednesday August 19, or Thursday August 20
- As of the meeting, Wednesday the 19th and Thursday the 20th were tied in votes; four members had not yet voted
- Event to be held at Margie Chalofsky's home
- **Action:** Members who have not voted are asked to respond promptly

Thank you to Shana Bartley

Margie Chalofsky acknowledged Shana's significant contributions as vice as well as interim chair and noted her departure due to a job change requiring frequent travel.

Fiscal Report (Andrew Miller)

Andrew Miller presented the Q4 Fiscal Year Report (April–June 2026):

- Total Q4 expenditure: \$12,519.58
- Year-to-date total: \$48,869.37
- Remaining balance: \$1,130.63 (requested to carry over to FY 26-27)
- New FY 26-27 Purchase Order: \$12,807.35 (invoice submitted, awaiting clearance)
- A second invoice of \$37,192.65 will be submitted October 1st
- A check was mailed on July 11th; transition to direct deposit is in progress
- Reminded members that the full report is located on the board portal

Work Group Updates

Youth Aging Out – Meg Marcelli & Andrew Miller

- Piloted the older youth survey with Children's Law Center Guardian Ad Litem; received approximately 13 responses
- **Upcoming event:** *Vision and Voice* — July 29, 4:30–6:30 PM, in partnership with CFSA's Office of Youth Empowerment (OYE); youth will complete vision boards, have pizza, and fill out surveys
- A smaller event is also planned with DC Family and Youth Initiative (DCFYI), led by Rick Bardash
- Target: 50 survey responses across all events
- Foster parent surveys to be distributed electronically through agency contact lists; Andrew Miller is coordinating with FAPAC
- Additional distribution through CFSA or NCCAF to be discussed
- Panel members who are not in the work group are welcome to attend the July 29th event

Family Time – Dr. Wanda Thompson & Dr. Tyra Moore

- Work group has received CFSA-issued laptops to review case files; 10 cases accessible, with 4 selected for in-depth review
- Cases span four outcome categories: open/reunification goal, open/adoption goal, closed/reunification, closed/adoption

- Review focuses on: type of maltreatment, timing of entry into care, amount and type of family time, and barriers to unsupervised visitation
- Focus groups in development with judges (family court), CFSA workers (two groups scheduled), and parents with lived experience
- **Challenges:**
 - Difficulty recruiting attorneys who represent parents (only 2–3 responses so far)
 - Difficulty recruiting birth parents with child welfare involvement within the past 24 months
 - Limited data from STAND (CFSA's new data tracking system); transition from FACES has created gaps in legacy data
- **Action:** Margie Chalofsky to provide contact information for CFSA's PEER program (former birth parents who work with current birth parents) to assist with recruitment

Prevention – Elizabeth Mohler & Amanda Quiroz-Guajardo

- Mandated reporter survey finalized and converted to a Google Form by Toni Carr
- Survey piloted among CRP work group members; confirmed operational with no significant technical issues
- Survey questions were revised based on feedback from Roni and Dr. Tyra Moore regarding CFSA's limitations on disclosing case status information
- Broader distribution link and sample outreach text (for email and social media) sent to all CRP members approximately two weeks prior to the meeting
- As of the meeting, no responses had been received from outside the CRP pilot group
- **Action:** All panel members are asked to identify at least one network that includes mandated reporters and send the survey link
- Amanda Quiroz-Guajardo offered to support individual members in following up with their contacts if responses are not coming in

Public Comments

No members of the public were present.

Closing

- Minutes to be re-sent to all members, comments welcome after distribution
- **Next CRP Meeting:** September 8, 2026
- Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:26 PM