



# Citizen Review Panel

## District of Columbia

### CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

6:30 to 8:30 PM

### DRAFT MINUTES

**Present members:** Emily Bloomfield, Theresa Gibson, Andy Miller, Elizabeth Mohler, Dr. Tyra Moore Dr. Wanda Thompson Carolyn Woods

**Absent members:** Pierrea Wallace, Whitney Miller (came only for a few minutes), Shana Bartley

**New members to be sworn in:** Deborah Kale, Amanda Quiroz-Guajardo, Meg Marcelli

**Community workgroup members (former CRP members):** Rick Bardach, Patrick Foley, Dr. Meghan Schott

**Facilitation team:** Margie Chalofsky and Toni Carr

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#### Welcome/ Introductions

Margie Chalofsky led the first part of the meeting. She welcomed new members and announced that Elizabeth Mohler will take over facilitation when she arrives at 7:00 pm as Pierrea Wallace, CRP Chair, is out of town. She announced that we will hold determination of quorum and any votes until a few others arrive. Quorum was achieved at approximately 7:00 pm. Margie C. noted a mistake on our agenda that mistakenly identified the minutes to approve as July 2024; however, they are March 2025. There were no amendments to these minutes. She also announced that there is a modification to the meeting: BEGA will not be coming to do the training, so the meeting will be shorter than planned.

#### Swearing in of new members

Vida Rangel, Director of Operations for MOTA, swore in Deborah Kale, Amanda Quiroz-Guajardo, Meg Marcelli as new members by oath on behalf of Steve Walker, Director of MOTA and Mayor Muriel Bowser. A printed certificate will be sent to each new member. Pierrea Wallace needs to be re-sworn in but is not at the meeting so she will need to make other arrangements. Margie C thanked Vida Rangel and requested that they meet to discuss the appointment process. She also told new members that she will reach out to schedule a new member orientation.

#### Fiscal report

Andy Miller, CRP Treasurer, gave the fiscal report covering from March 2025.

Toni Carr will reach out to new members to get them onto the board portal so they can see the full report and other information. Meghan Schott. questioned about our fiscal year, Toni Carr. explained that our contract is July 1- June 30 and crosses two of CFSA's fiscal years.

### **Facilitator report and updates**

Margie C. gave the facilitator report. She explained that we are waiting on Elizabeth Mohler's formal appointment from Council as new Vice- Chair, taking over from Shana Bartley. She reiterated that she would reach out to new members for an orientation. We had a discussion and vote about changing the time of the meeting to 7:00 pm so that Elizabeth M. could be there for the full time. This should not impact meeting legislative requirements. There was no disagreement, so the vote was unanimous to give this a try. We can revisit if we find that this isn't enough time.

Margie C. then discussed the idea of having small gatherings in the summer so members could get to know each other in person. These would not be business meetings. Members responded very positively to this idea.

Margie C. then updated members about the change in requirements that recently occurred. Previously, members were told that they had to submit Financial Disclosure statements. The facilitator team questioned BEGA about this, as the forms didn't seem applicable to those working outside of DC government. However, after members been repeatedly told they had to do them, the night before this meeting we were told that emergency legislation was passed, and CRP members will not have to do this requirement until 2026. Margie C. acknowledged the frustration this may have caused members and asked any member who has already submitted their statement to let her know if they want her to try to get them back from BEGA. We were also told that the Ethics training is also not required at this time, so therefore BEGA cancelled coming tonight.

Margie C. announced that we had thought we were filling five slots on the Mayor's side, but we only filled three so if anyone has any recommendations of new members to please let her know. She also stated that she wants to meet with MOTA about the bifurcated and complicated process of appointment and might pull in some members to join that meeting.

### **Workgroup announcements and needs**

Workgroups gave descriptions of projects for new members and provided brief updates.

Theresa Gibson gave a brief presentation of the history of the YAO workgroup. She explained that the group is almost ready to go into community with surveys and is interested in new members as well as anyone who just wants to volunteer to help with surveys even if not a YAO member. The surveys will be administered electronically even when given in person, so that we can keep names confidential to fulfill our IRB exemption (surveys attached to numbers instead of names) and collect data more efficiently.

Dr. Wanda Thompson and Dr. Tyra Moore gave a brief presentation about the Family Time workgroup. This group is looking at the impact of family time on reunification and comparing CFSA policies to other jurisdictions. They explained that they are doing their project at an interesting fork in the road because they will need to get trained on the new CFSA data system (STAND) and to decide whether to look at historical cases from the old system (FACES) or wait for data from the new system. Meghan S. asked if the workgroup would also be looking at visits

with siblings, or just parents/ guardians. It was noted that looking at sibling visitation could be a project down the road but that at this point the group is focused upon parental/ guardian family time and its relationship to reunification.

Elizabeth M. presented about the Prevention workgroup. She explained that the group has is struggling to narrow down into a doable project and there has been a lot of back and forth with CFSA. Meghan S. added that although the group has targeted the screen out process, there has been some pressure to focus on the Warmline, which isn't the same path the group is exploring.

Margie C. stated that during these hard times, members are involved in many things which impacts the capacity of how fast things can move so we have to acknowledge that reality. She also shared that each of the workgroup projects could set the stage for future "spin off" projects based upon member interest and community input.

### **Public comments**

There were no outside observers so there were no public comments.

Meghan S. asked if she and Patrick were considered outside observers. Margie C. responded that she would not put them in that category as they are former members and still involved in workgroups; therefore, they are not the general public.

### **Final comments**

Toni C. will reach out to new members to sign the confidentiality agreements. Carolyn Woods announced that a lot of employers are being let go at HUD and there is talk about cutting section 8 so we need to be watching how that may impact youth aging out.

### **Closing and adjournment**

Elizabeth M. thanked everyone for their work and commitment and again welcomed new members.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.