



DC Child and Family Services Agency

June 27, 2025

Margie Chalofsky, CRP Facilitator
Citizen's Review Panel

The Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) received The Citizen's Review Panel Annual Report May 1, 2024 – May 13, 2025. We are appreciative of the Citizen's Review Panel's (CRP) thoughtful, comprehensive efforts of the standing workgroups (i.e., Family Time, Youth Aging Out and Homelessness, Prevention (Secondary), and Public Outreach). Members of the CFSA Executive Leadership Team reviewed the report. Collectively, we've provided responses to the recommendations from the CRP Annual Report.

This letter will outline the specific recommendations beginning on page 21 of the report focused on data and programmatic issues that arose in the CRP's initial exploration for each workgroup and CFSA's responses to them. We are happy to speak with you in detail about any of our responses.

Again, we appreciate your commitment to the children and families of the District of Columbia and look forward to our continued collaboration.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Brandynicole Brooks, the Acting Deputy Director for the Office of Planning, Policy, and Program Support at brandynicole.brooks@dc.gov.

Sincerely,

Tanya Torres Trice, Director of CFSA

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Tanya Torres Trice
Agency Director
DC Child and Family Services Agency



DC Child and Family Services Agency

Recommendation	Page #	Response
Based upon national data showing a correlation between family time and successful reunification, we recommend that for families in out-of-home care—especially those with a goal of reunification—the length and frequency of family time be frequently tracked throughout the case, from the beginning to the end. Additionally, any barriers to increasing family time or transitioning to unsupervised family time should be consistently evaluated and documented.	21	Recommendation already in place with the implementation and launch of STAAND and the Family Time Plan.
We recommend that CFSA begin designing a pre-test and then implement periodic post-test measures to assess the factors they want to see present in families prior to reunification, based on the qualities and traits they have observed in successful reunifications.	21	Recommendation under consideration. CFSA is committed to gaining feedback from biological parents to inform practice and will determine the best clinical approach to obtain this information.
To our knowledge, the only housing data CFSA has for youth aging out of care is on the actual date they leave care. We recommend that youth be followed for a year to better understand outcomes regarding housing.	21	CFSA agrees with this recommendation and recognizes the value in collecting post transition data. We will do so for youth who opt-in to Youth Aftercare Services post involvement with CFSA. We also commit to continuing collaboration with DHS for youth who may require additional supports and services.
To our knowledge, although CFSA may offer older youth many resources, none are required and all are voluntary. Although we understand wanting to build youth autonomy and empowerment, as most parents know, older youth often don't know yet what they will need in their future, so parents need to place some requirements. As CFSA holds the parental authority regarding what is required of youth and what cannot be, we recommend that there be ongoing decision making on this issue that balances the interest in giving youth choice with preparing them for the future.	21	Recommendation under consideration. CFSA will work with the Citizens Review Panel's Youth Aging Out Workgroup in consultation with the Office of the General Counsel to determine the most appropriate legal approach to addressing lack of youth engagement. The youth's voice and choice must remain at the forefront when planning their transition from care.
Youth aging out of care require a full District effort. We recommend that CFSA lead a process to ensure that all other District agencies- DBH, DCHA, DHS, etc.- share responsibility for our vulnerable youth	22	CFSA agrees with the concept of this recommendation, and recommends this be elevated by the Citizens Review Panel to the Deputy Mayor of Health and Human Services as CFSA



as they face adulthood on their own and work together to ensure positive outcomes in housing, vocational opportunities, etc.		remains an Agency that is a part of the system that supports the District's residents.
We recommend that CFSA track recidivism on cases that were not opened as investigations (i.e., if a family has received multiple reports but none rise to the level of CPS involvement), we recommend tracking data on whether the resources being offered actually decrease future foster care involvement.	22	Recommendation already in place with the implementation of the District-wide 211 Warmline. Data related to resources and support will be made District-wide.
We recommend that CFSA management support the panel in its efforts to work with the Council and MOTA on the appointment process. (Please note we have not requested CFSA's involvement prior to this recommendation.)	22	CFSA requests additional information related to this recommendation as it is unclear what the Agency would be supporting related to the Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments and its relation to child and family well-being.