



Citizen Review Panel

District of Columbia

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY

CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

6:30 to 8:30 PM

MINUTES

Present: Pierrea Wallace, Chair

Panel members: Wanda Thompson, Elizabeth Mohler, Meghan Schott, Theresa Gibson, Andrew Miller, Tyra Moore, Carolyn Woods, Patrick Foley

Absent members: Shana Bartley, Emily Bloomfield, Whitney Miller

Guests: Rick Bardasch

CFSA: Roni Seabrook

Facilitation team: Margie Chalofsky and Toni Carr

Welcome and Introductions:

Pierrea Wallace, Chair led introductions. Rick Bardach was in attendance; there were no other observers present. We determined that public notice requirement was satisfied, and January 2025 minutes were approved. Due to the transitional nature of one member's appointment, we held up determination of quorum until Elizabeth Mohler could be on at 7:00. No business requiring quorum was conducted until that time and quorum was then determined. The agenda was modified to remove Member Sharing thus to go straight to facilitator report, then into workgroup (public outreach) presentation and then fiscal report.

Facilitator Report:

Margie Chalofsky, Facilitator, presented her report:

- Patrick Foley leaves his appointment due to moving out of DC. Thanks to Patrick for his long-term commitment to the CRP, for onboarding the facilitator team and for continuing to serve on a workgroup as a community member.
- Updates on MOTA and Council: Four new members are in the pipeline. Margie C. expressed frustration with the long and inefficient process of appointing new members. Margie drafted a firm email that expressed the need to build capacity of the panel by getting the new members on board. She asked if anyone has any issues with her sending this email. No objections were raised.
- BEGA ethics training: Toni Carr presented the options for taking the Ethics training, a requirement for members that we were originally told was optional, but which has become mandatory. We can invite BEGA to our next meeting and/or members can take it either on the online dates listed on the website OR on their own schedules by demand. The group

decided to invite BEGA to our meeting; however, in the meantime if members wanted to take it on their own they could and should let the facilitators know.

- BEGA Public Financial Disclosure Statement: There was a robust and complicated discussion about the new requirement for Financial Disclosure forms. Although BEGA informed the Facilitators that there was only one form for everyone, some have seen examples of other forms, specifically the “in lieu of” questions given to the members most recently confirmed, as well as another form someone noticed online. Significantly, the form that BEGA wants members to use seems written exclusively for DC government, and inappropriate for non -DC employees. There were privacy concerns expressed, as well as questioning why CRP members need to fill out this form when volunteers from some other boards do not, especially since CRP has no funding powers or gives any grants. The facilitator team asked members if they wanted them to question the requirement and the relevance of the form to volunteers. Members expressed that they do want the facilitators to ask those questions. Toni C. will call BEGA again and communicate back the response by email.

Work Group Presentation:

Pierrea Wallace presented about the Public Outreach meeting held between herself, Dr. Wanda Thompson, and Margie Chalofsky. She started with reading the requirements for CRP Outreach as defined in DC CODE. (*i. D.C. Code §4–1303.51(c). Establishment of the Citizen Review Panel; purposes; duties. 1. The Panel shall solicit public outreach and comment in order to assess the impact of current policies, practices, and procedures of the child welfare system on children and families in the District of Columbia.*).

A very productive conversation followed about public outreach goals both related to the statute and in addition to the statute. Members shared these statements about the importance of public outreach:

Public Outreach could:

- Help to ensure what we produce is filtered through lived experience, so we don't develop bias as a group.
- Provide checks and balances for workgroups to get input from the general public to give feedback and input into the projects we are currently working on.
- Give us recommendations for new areas of research.
- Educate us about what is going on in the community.
- Be a venue to share with the public about the work of CRP and CFSA.
- Help us get educated about what is going on in the community.
- Facilitate finding new members and volunteers.

These were seen as potential challenges regarding public outreach:

- Deciding on outreach events that align with realistic capacity of members to do them. (It was suggested that perhaps virtual forums with break out groups might be more in line with member capacity than in person requiring childcare, food, etc.)
- Decisions as to how to reach as much public as possible with resources and people power that we have.
- Making the space (in person or virtually) conducive to productivity given that asking these questions could elicit heavy emotional responses especially for parents who may be angry at how they have been treated by the system.
- Separating CRP from CFSA and “the system” necessary to build trust with community.

- Ensuring that the next steps after our public sessions are meaningful and respectful of the time and effort we are asking people to give. “Begin with the end in mind.” We can’t approach it as just getting information; we have to be accountable and transparent as to how we will use it. With prior CRP reports, as well as with the last CRP Town Hall, it was not clear how much CFSA has really utilized the information to inform policy/practice.
 - Suggestions-directly tie feedback/input to workgroups?
 - Distinguish ourselves from CFSA and claim responsibility for our own use of the information to inform our agenda, our workgroups, so even if CFSA doesn’t do anything with the information, we can.

More comments on outreach:

- Should not be just one event: we should be incorporating the public and lived experience into our practice as the experiences of most of our members are not mostly from that perspective.
- Who do we want to target for general outreach?
 - Target market more generally to public- explain our projects, then ask for input on new aspects we should be looking at.
 - Anyone who plays role in prevention of abuse and neglect- young people, parents, foster parents, social workers, civic and faith leaders, educators, counselors, CFSA, community organizations.
 - Workgroup specific targets-YAO would want to target youth aging out ages 18-21, foster parents, CFSA, community organizations; Prevention is focused on what resources are offered to families where referral is made but screened out. It was suggested that this group focus on the wards that have most families at risk of referrals but keep open to others attending.
- Marketing of events need to explain our intentions for the information gathering.
- Some of the workgroups might have completed their research so we could bring “this is what we found. Do you have anything to add or next steps to suggest for this project?”
- Public Outreach is hoping to have another meeting before our May meeting.

Fiscal report

Andrew Miller gave his first fiscal report as our new Treasurer. Complete documents are in the board portal under portal/ documents/financials. He thanked Toni C. for training him in the role and acknowledged Patrick F. for his past work as Treasurer.

Member comments/questions/ announcements

- Dr. Tyra Moore asked about the CFSA forum on STAND and whether it would be relevant to CRP members. Pierrea W. responded that it would be relevant to their workgroup. Margie C. expressed that she didn’t think it was needed for other groups as they don’t have access to use it.
- Dr. Wanda Thompson brought up the difficulty in getting into CFSA pop ups. Margie concurred and stated she has reported it to CFSA but could try again.
- Margie C. reminded members that we have a lot of gift cards for incentives. Cards are in increments of \$25 and the pot is approximately \$2000. YAO and Family Time workgroups expressed interest.
- Pierrea W. announced that she was giving a virtual training on April 25 for CCAN attorneys on looking at ASFA through a racial justice lens. She invited members to attend.

- Toni C. announced she would fix the zoom settings so that people could get back in if they drop off to address the issue Pierrea W. had at this meeting.

Public Comments:

No public comments were made

Closing and Adjournment:

Pierrea W. closed and adjourned the meeting at 8:23 pm.

Future CRP Meetings	
Date	*Location
May 13, 2025	Zoom
July 8, 2025	Zoom
September 9, 2025	Zoom

*Location subject to change