

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Child and Family Services Agency**



July 23, 2024

Pierrea Wallace, Chair  
Citizen Review Panel  
c/o Margie Chalofsky, CRP Facilitator

Dear Ms. Wallace,

The Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) received *The Citizen Review Panel's Annual Report May 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024*. CFSA deeply values the Citizen Review Panel's (CRP) commitment to the children and families of the District of Columbia. Your work is integral to our mission of supporting improvement in outcomes and services for children, youth and families.

CFSA greatly appreciates the CRP's thoughtful approach in identifying this year's three workgroups, which will address Family Time: Family Visitation after CFSA involvement, Youth Aging Out and Homelessness, and Prevention with a focus on the relationship between the "screen out" processes and services offered to prevent child welfare involvement. The CFSA teams look forward to continuing collaborative planning on data exchanges and review processes with the workgroups and receiving the workgroup outcomes and recommendations once completed.

CFSA thanks the prior CRP Older Youth Workgroup for evaluating services to support older youth in foster care at the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA). The evaluation culminated in the District of Columbia Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA): Preparing Older Youth for Independence report, which provided several findings and recommendations for youth's financial readiness and educational achievement in foster care ages 15-21. CFSA received the report on January 9, 2022. On February 9, 2022, CFSA leadership convened a virtual meeting with the CFSA Office of Youth Empowerment (OYE) and the CRP. CFSA discussed our Agency's preliminary response to each recommendation and followed up with a written response after the meeting. Based on our commitment to transparency and collaboration, in October 2022, CFSA also participated in a CRP information session, where the Agency's OYE presented a slide deck and held a discussion with the CRP members on the progress made with the recommendations in the older youth report. Related systemic changes in progress include:

- OYE will continue to work on developing a youth preparedness assessment tool during FY24.

- The CRP's financial literacy recommendations and the passing of the Preserving Our Kids' Equity Through Trusts Amendment Act (POKETT) of 2022 legislation have a degree of overlap and CFSA will continue the work to strengthen engagement with youth and their support teams related to social security income.
- CFSA's Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System STAAND will have better information related to available services and programming for older youth. This system is expected to go live in summer 2025.

CFSA applauds the many accomplishments of the Panel this year. The appointment of the new chair and updated website with the member portal are commendable and indicative of the Panel's commitment to continued growth and overall excellence.

CFSA also acknowledges the challenges that come with the bifurcated process for member appointment and will continue to support the CRP in its efforts to navigate this process and fill vacant seats.

Additionally, CFSA hears the concerns about the hurdles experienced by the contractor and is committed to strategically thinking through a less complicated process.

Lastly, CFSA deeply appreciates and respects the dedication of the CRP members who volunteer their time to this important work. We also value Margie Chalofsky's role as CRP facilitator and Toni Carr's role as administrative support and thank them for their dedication to working with the busy professionals who serve as volunteers on the Panel to carry out the CRP mandate.

We look forward to continued collaboration with the CRP to benefit the children, youth, and families served by CFSA and our child welfare partners across the District.

If you have any questions, please email Roni Seabrook, Planning Specialist in the Office of Planning, Policy, and Program Support, at [Roni.Seabrook@dc.gov](mailto:Roni.Seabrook@dc.gov).

Sincerely,



Tanya Torres Trice, Interim Director  
DC Child and Family Services Agency