Citizen Review Panel
District of Columbia

# CRP November 2026 Meeting

November 10, 2026
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

DRAFT MINUTES

**Panel Members:** Pierrea Wallace (Chair), Elizabeth Mohler (Vice Chair), Andrew Miller (Treasurer) Carolyn Woods, Dr. Wanda Thompson, Dr. Tyra Moore, Deborah Kale, Theresa Gibson, Meg Marcelli, Amanda Quiroz-Guajardo
**Absent Members:** Whitney Miller, Emily Bloomfield
**Workgroup Participants:** Patrick Foley, Rick Bardach
**CFSA:** Roni Seabrook; Chrysanthe Courniotes
**Public Observer:** Lamarria Cooper, Howard University
**Facilitator Team:** Margie Chalofsky and Toni Carr

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**1. Welcome and Introductions**
Pierrea Wallace (Chair) opened the meeting, noting the presence of a public observer and welcoming Roni Seabrook's new supervisor, CC (Chrysanthe C.); members went around sharing tenure and background. Margie also noted it was Dr. Wanda Thompson's birthday and wished her a happy birthday.

**2. Procedural Items**

- **Quorum:** Confirmed met
- **Public Notice:** Satisfied
- **Minutes Approval:** September 2026 meeting minutes approved by voice vote ("Aye") with no adjustments needed
- **Agenda:** No modifications or amendments proposed

**3. Member Announcements**
Amanda Quiroz-Guajardo announced that, following participation in the National CRP Conference in San Diego (attended with Carolyn Woods) she has been invited to serve on the National CRP Steering Committee, and looks forward to bringing ideas back to the panel.

**4. Facilitator Report and Discussion (Margie Chalofsky)**

- **Membership Updates:** Shana Bartley resigned as a panel member due to job-related travel. We thus now have two openings on the mayor's side and one on the council side. Chrissy Weeks will be recommended for one of those slots; therefore, we will have two left. Margie C. noted MOTA's process has been "extremely slow" and stagnant and encouraged members to recommend candidates to her so that we can get them involved while they are in the pipeline process. The panel also discussed revisiting a previously held-open slot for a birth parent member, paused earlier due to MOTA process frustrations.

- **Strategic Planning:** No responses yet to Margie C's email seeking subgroup meeting times; she will resend a Doodle poll for strategic planning and is seeking one or two volunteers to help reach out to the mayor elect.

- **Contract/Facilitator Role:** The CRP facilitation contract's five option years are up, and it will go back out for RFP; Margie C confirmed she will reapply.

- **CFSA Response to CRP Report:** Margie C reported that Dr. Brooks had responded on behalf of CFSA, indicating willingness to work with the panel to help clear the MOTA pipeline and support action on outreach; Margie noted the CFSA response was largely about infrastructure/government relationships since work group recommendations were not yet finalized.

- **MOTA Challenges:** Margie C. described MOTA as a long-standing, unresolved problem — turnover among MOTA staff, lost continuity, and our most recent members never received certificates. Margie plans to pull in one or two panel members to meet with Dr. Brooks, Roni S., and CC (Chrysanthe C.) to develop a plan, and will pursue filling the council-side slot in the meantime.

**5. Citywide Steering Committee Update (Carolyn Woods)**

Carolyn Woods shared reflections on a recent conference, highlighting the "211" resource network and its range of services — utilities, housing, family support, emergency help, food benefits, and employment assistance. She noted that CFSA hosts such sessions quarterly at different sites, with the next anticipated in February. The contact shared was: **211** **WARMLINE@dc.gov** 1.

Amanda Q-G added that a key takeaway was the opportunity to strengthen awareness of community resources and better understand referral pathways, especially for families who don't meet the threshold for a CPS investigation. Margie C. asked whether linkage from a CFSA phone call to the warm line was discussed; Carolyn W. responded it was not covered in detail. Roni S. offered to help arrange a future presentation from Deputy Director Sheriff Dean or someone from the warm line.

**6. Fiscal Report (Andrew Miller, Treasurer)**

Andrew M. announced that the fiscal report covered in this report is September and October 2026 and announced that the  quarterly report to be presented at the January meeting) 1:

- **Total grant amount:** $50,000
- **Payments received:** $12,807.35 (July 20, 2026) and $37,192.65 (October 17, 2026) — all FY payments received
- **September spending:** $3,795.30 total — salaries $3,749.99, Zoom storage $10.30, Homestead website maintenance $20.07, panel member travel reimbursement $14.94. Total spent to date: $11,531.02; remaining balance: $38,468.98
- **October spending:** $3,780.36 total — salaries $3,749.99, Zoom storage $10.30, Homestead website maintenance $20.07. Total spent to date: $15,311.38; remaining balance: $34,688.62
- Full report available on the board panel under Documents ("CRP Budget and Expenses")

**7. Work Group Updates**

**Youth Aging Out (Chair: Theresa Gibson)**

- Purpose: assess whether youth aging out of foster care are prepared, examining (1) youth knowledge of CFSA housing services, (2) foster parent knowledge of those services, and (3) best practices from other major cities compared to CFSA's practices
- Surveys have been disseminated to both youth (ages 18–21) and foster parents; **43 completed youth surveys** collected with help from Children's Law Center, CFSA/ OYE and the group is ready to begin analyzing that data
- Only **3 foster parent surveys** completed so far; goal is 30–40. A follow-up meeting was planned for the following week to discuss strategies
- Andrew  M. needs to follow up with NCCF and confirm FAPAC distribution 1.
- Meg M. has submitted a draft write-up on best practices, currently being reviewed/edited by Theresa G. and Margie C.
- Toni C. was recognized for driving to OYE to deliver gift cards/consent forms and for ordering event supplies for a youth vision board event that helped generate survey responses

**Prevention Work Group (Reported by Elizabeth Mohler, with Amanda Q-G)**

- Focus: survey of mandated reporters in DC, primarily developed and disseminated by Amanda
- **27 responses** received so far (updated live during the meeting from an initial report of 25), against an initial goal of 200–300
- Distribution so far includes: Amanda's LinkedIn network, Safe Shores, DCAEYC (DC Association for the Education of Young Children), DCPS administrators and several schools (via Chrissy), Early Childhood Charter Alliance and Charter School Leaders (via Emily), and a potential connection through a physician at Children's National (via Margie)

- Amanda Q-G noted the biggest challenge is reaching individual mandated reporters directly rather than going through organizations, since emails to individuals may land in spam; the group will now send from the CRP prevention email address
- Target distribution deadline was originally **November 13**, with survey closing **November 30**, but the group agreed this timeline likely needs to be extended given new outreach suggestions raised in the meeting
- The survey is anonymous except for an optional follow-up contact question; Dr. Tyra Moore raised the question of whether potential reporters feel hesitant or uncertain their feedback will lead to change, and suggested brief calls rather than relying solely on email to convey that participation matters
- Roni S. offered to connect the group with the Children's Justice Act task force, including Dr. Allison Jackson (Division Chief, Child and Adolescent Protection Center), who may help with outreach to mandated reporters and the mandated reporting website

**Family Time Work Group (Reported by Pierrea Wallace, with Dr. Tyra Moore)**

- Originated from Dr. Wanda T's observation that children in care consistently express wanting to go home; the group studies the relationship between family time/visitation and reunification outcomes, informed also by Pierrea W's guardian ad litem experience
- Initial quantitative approach (correlating case file data with reunification rates) was found infeasible given group size and access constraints; the group pivoted to a qualitative case study using focus groups with judges, parent counsel, parents, social workers, and guardian ad litems
- Focus groups completed for judges, social workers, guardian ad litems, and (a smaller) parent counsel group; **recruiting birth parents has been the biggest ongoing challenge**, despite offering $50 gift cards and support from CFSA in disseminating an eligibility survey
- All focus group sessions (roughly 90 minutes each) are being transcribed with volunteer support from Children's Law Center, expected complete by month's end; the group has begun drafting its findings/recommendations report, which will include a comparative look at other jurisdictions' family time practices
- CC (Chrysanthe C.) suggested incorporating the resource/foster parent perspective on family time logistics; Pierrea W. noted the initial scope centered on legal duties tied to birth parents/caregivers from whom a child was removed, but said the group remains open to additional stakeholder input
- Dr. Tyra M. explained that an earlier effort to connect with CFSA parent peers stalled after the peer group's lead stepped back once Roni S. and CC (Chrysanthe C.) became involved, and that outreach to community organizations for parents with past CFSA involvement has not yet yielded participants, possibly due to anxiety about anonymity/risk despite assurances
- Roni suggested contacting **Joe Patterson at Parent Watch** (which has an office in the courthouse) as a possible connection to birth parents 1. CC (Chrysanthe C.) also offered to connect the group with guardian ad litem Barry Lynn Tapia (well-

connected in the Latino community and with LAYC) as another potential birth-parent contact
- Eligibility criteria for parent focus group participants require cases that are neither too new (e.g., open only a month) nor too old, to ensure sufficient family-time experience; two potentially eligible parents have been identified so far

**8. Cross-Cutting Discussion: Participation and Engagement**
Amanda Q-G noted a common theme across all three work groups — difficulty getting mandated reporters, foster parents, and families/professionals to participate — and suggested the panel consider a shared engagement strategy as part of strategic planning, emphasizing that outreach and genuine engagement are not the same thing. Pierrea W. agreed this should be added to the strategic planning agenda, noting that even some judges in focus groups were unfamiliar with what the Citizens Review Panel is.

Dr. Wanda T. proposed developing an introductory video explaining who the CRP is, what the work groups do, and soliciting support, noting time pressures on social workers may be a factor in participation challenges, and suggesting the video emphasize that the panel's goal is to make helpful recommendations, not to get people in trouble. Margie C. and Pierrea W. both responded favorably to this idea.

**9. Public Comment**
Lamarria Cooper (public observer, Howard University criminology junior) introduced herself, expressed interest in juvenile justice law, and offered to help with community involvement and outreach, including sharing contact information in the chat. Margie C. and Pierrea W. welcomed her involvement.

**10. Adjournment**
With no further items raised, the meeting was closed at 8:28 pm.