

### Children's Services Review Panel (CAC) Minutes

28 October 2024 4:30 – 6:30 PM

<https://zoom.us/j/98236935012?pwd=1aQdPvVwuW8V310V5V3vYcJs7BcCem.1>

Members Present: Molly Evans, Lynette Renner, Ankit Sood, Casey Acord, Rae Johnson & Tonya Long

Ramsey County Staff: Alex Cleveland & Cassaundra Adler

Guests: Laura Gapske (DCYF)

Introductions:

**Chair Update:**

Approval of minutes.

**County Update:** Alex Cleveland

The Office of Civil Rights (OCR) formally made a complaint against the State of Minnesota earlier this year. Interviews are being conducted with Hennepin County and Ramsey County being the biggest counties. As they begin their process to determine how to take action about disproportionality that exists within the system -- child welfare system specifically. A new administration comes in, there may be a pause for the next few months as they determine next steps and they make decisions on who might be interviewed next, what information they might need, based off of interviews, etc.

Minnesota African American Family Preservation Act (MAAFPA) was passed by the legislature to able create a responsibility that requires *active efforts* versus *reasonable efforts* in child welfare. In active efforts, smaller caseloads to focus as much as possible on removing barriers and keep families together. Implementation starts January 1, 2025, and goes across the enterprise: social services, public health, county manager's office, housing support and stability, etc. These changes are designed to improve the child welfare system for the better.

DCYF Laura Gapske provides child protection overview during CSRP onboarding. PowerPoint will be attached.