

Chisago County Citizen Review Panel Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2024, 12:00-2:00 PM

Present:

- Chisago County: Todd and Karlene
- State (DHS, OAIF): Gapske, Jill
- Community panel members: Karen, Peter, Nancy, Carol, and Deb

I. Welcome and introductions:

- Introductions
- Recap last meeting minutes
- Jill shared there will be MIFPA bill proposals this legislative session to strengthen the current bill. The proposal is not public yet. The legislative session starts 2/12 to mid-May.
- The Salvation Army has a great capital campaign handout for human trafficking signs and resources This would be an excellent resource for law enforcement and school staff to have access to in their interactions with youth. **ACTION ITEM: Karlene will reach out to BCA Rep Taylor. Debbie will research the Salvation Army cards.**
- The Chisago County Child Protection team has a new forensic interview room which will be installing interview equipment soon. There is also a visitation room that will be utilized.

II. Budget update

- Todd's board proposal for panel regarding stipends will be for \$55/meeting. This action was prompted by the panel not spending their grant funds. Discussion was held regarding the expense total and how else members would like to see the funding spent.
- The current 5k in the account will expire on June 30th. On July 1st, another 5k will be available. Funds unspent are not able to be carried over.
- It would be great to send someone to the attend National Citizen Review Panel Conference. Potentially a new member would be interested in attending.
- Panel members mentioned the postcards they spent funds on in the past. There are still a large amount of them available and being unused.
- Panel members decided it would be a good use to bring the printed child abuse awareness materials to April Child Abuse Prevention Month activities. **ACTION ITEM: Each panel member will identify an event or location to distribute the materials by the next panel meeting.**

III. Recruitment and Appointment Process Update:

- Applications and interviews schedule/occurred with:
 1. Lisa Rydning -Recommendation from interview panel to approve referral for appointment
 2. Wendy Zitzloff- Recommendation from interview panel to approve referral for appointment

- Update on newspaper article included Bob’s approval and guidelines for interview. Due to having two great applicants. It’s not as high of a priority although it could be used as an opportunity to elevate the work of Chisago working with a panel.

IV. **Reconsideration and Child Mortality Review**

- Todd congratulated the panel on conducting 8 reconsiderations in 2023. Well done!
- Todd shared the difficulties of the content and appreciation for your involvement. A reminder to reach out to Todd or Laura Gapske if you ever would like to debrief in addition to debrief at the panel meetings.
- One theme that came up at the last child mortality review meeting was the lack of Safe Sleep education provided to parents. This prompted outreach to the Public Health department.
- Karlene shared there was a 12% increase in reporting, 7% increase in screened-in reports, and zero increase in staffing at the Chisago County Child Protection Unit.

V. **2024 Project Identification and Planning:**

- Revisit work focusing on mandated reporting in schools
 - See attachments from outreach to school on child abuse reporting policies and body safety education; North Branch, Chisago Lake Schools, St. Croix River Educational District and Rush City
 - The school districts were not enthusiastic in their responses to our inquiries. This didn’t seem like a project that was feasible for those reasons.
- We reviewed the purpose of the panel to review polices, procedures, and protocols.
 - With the new forensic interview space, it seems appropriate to review the Chisago County multi-disciplinary team (MDT) protocol.
 - The process for reconsiderations is another policy the panel could review.
 - Both will be reviewed at the April meeting which is aligned with the work the Children’s Justice Act Task Force is conducting around MDT training and protocols.
 - The panel could use funds, if identified as a need, to provide an expert to facilitate MDT protocol and procedures collaborative meeting.

VI. **Upcoming dates to consider for events or projects:**

- April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month**
- September 5th is National Child Protection Week**

Next Meeting

- Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 12:00-2:00pm (1st Tuesdays every other month)
 - **NEW** Location: Large Conference Room within the human services offices
 - Virtual: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MDg5ZWE0MDAtYzY3Yy00MDIILThkODItNDcyMmRjNTM1NmJi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%22eb14b046-24c4-4519-8f26-b89c2159828c%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22b57c8b63-675f-4c8d-9c46-84ab1f089826%22%7d