

Chisago County Citizen Review Panel

April 4, 2023, 12:00-2:00 PM

Present:

- Chisago County: Todd McMurry, Christine Johnson, Karlene Smith
- State (DHS): Vicki White
- Community panel members: Carol Schumann, Deb Kerschner, Karen Kennedy, Nancy

Meeting Minutes

- Welcome and introductions
- Panel Leadership Updates
 - Community members (Carol S. Deb K. Karen K. and Nancy) met on March 2023. Carol S. was elected as the chair of the Chisago CRP.
- Maltreatment reconsideration discussion:
 - December reconsideration: finding was upheld by panel and county
 - Resume practice of having post-reconsideration discussion at panel meetings following panel review of reconsideration.
 - The reconsideration case was completed by the panel was an ICWA case.
 - Discussed ways to identify conflict of interest earlier on in the process.
 - Vicki – provided the Minnesota Child Welfare Data Dashboard. *The Child Welfare Data Dashboard is intended to provide information to the public as well as county and tribal decision-makers on nine state measures and seven federal measures used to monitor the status of children served by Minnesota’s child welfare system. The measures are separated into two distinct dashboards: One for state measures and another for federal measures. Although the dashboards use different measures and performance standards, they were designed to present information in parallel ways.*
The link is: <https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/news-initiatives-reports-workgroups/child-protection-foster-care-adoption/child-welfare-data-dashboard/>
 - Vicki – discussed information about Eco-maps, like genograms are a visual tool that can provide very useful information for workers and clients in the process of developing case plans. Eco-maps are a visual map of a family's connections to the external world. This tool is what case workers in Minnesota child protection agencies use to identify family connections. It is especially important when working with an ICWA/MIFPA case.
- Panel project discussion of Purpose/scope
 - Founding federal law for panels: [Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment Act](#) (CAPTA) states, “Each panel...shall, by examining the policies, procedures, and practices of State

and local agencies and where appropriate, specific cases, evaluate the extent to which State and local child protection system agencies are effectively discharging their child protection responsibilities...”

- [Minnesota Statutes, section 256.01, subdivision 15](#) states that panels “examine the policies and procedures of state and local welfare agencies to evaluate the extent to which the agencies are effectively discharging their child protection responsibilities.”
- Minnesota CRP **mission**: “To ensure Minnesota’s child welfare systems are protecting children”
- Chisago County CRP **mission**: “To provide an opportunity for citizens to play a role in ensuring children are protected from abuse and neglect, and to encourage and help build nurturing homes for children in our communities.”
- Minnesota CRP **vision**: “Community members are powerful partners in shaping local and statewide child welfare policy and practice.”
- Other States’ panel projects examples
 - Maryland: <https://dhs.maryland.gov/citizens-review-board-for-children/publications/>
 - Pennsylvania: <http://www.pacwrc.pitt.edu/CRP/AnnualReports.html>
 - New York: <https://citizenreviewpanelsny.org/annual-report/>
- Annual CRP report reviewed by members, submitted to DHS, will be posted on [MN DHS website](#) (scroll down to “Citizen Review Panels” to see 2019, 2020, and 2021 reports).
Submit annual CRP report in collaboration with panel members, and Chisago staff completed the annual report. Todd submitted to Sarah (2022). Karlene assisted due to minimum panel membership.
- Panel leadership needed (only community members are eligible). Recommended to have two co-chairs. Duties include:
 - Assist with panel meeting preparation/agenda in collaboration with DHS/Chisago and preside over meetings
 - Debby will provide written minutes (abbreviated minutes)

Panel chairs often attend the National CRP Conference (eligible expenses reimbursable with CRP funds)

- Sarah accepted new position at DHS; Vicki will return to provide coverage support
- Project Ideas:
 - Case studies
 - County surveys
 - Support CP workforce
 - Other idea?

Updates:

Chisago County Staff:

Todd – stated the 2022 annual CRP report is emailed.

Karlene – Chisago staff – provided update on staffing of child protection investigator position. There is an increased number of intakes for screening in educational neglect.

Christine – provided an update on child protection staffing and future staffing plans.

Minnesota Ombudsperson for American Indian Families absence due to attending a NICWA conference.

The link to the ombudsperson is:

<https://mn.gov/oaif/#:~:text=Meet%20the%20Ombudsperson,University%20of%20Hawaii%20at%20Ma%20noa>

Child Safety and Permanency Division, DHS

- National CRP conference/MN to host and plan a 2023 CRP conference and a planning committee is currently meeting monthly.
- Mandated Reporting Training by DHS
- April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month
Child Abuse and Neglect in the BIPOC Communities Panel Discussion:
[REFA Child Abuse Prevention Month Panel Event Flyer.pdf](#)
- Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act – The Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act was enacted in 1985 to strengthen and expand parts of the federal law. On March 9, 2023, legislative members voted 128-0 that would add the federal provisions — including procedures and requirements for child protection, placement, and permanency proceedings in ICWA child protection cases.

Next Meeting

NEXT STEP: community members do a meet n greet in person (without county/state staff present) to discuss interests, ideas, panel leadership

- June 6, 2023, 12:00-2:00pm (1st Tuesdays every other month)
- Location: June meeting will be in person at Large conference room Center City, Mn