

The mission of MCWAP is to assure that the state system is meeting the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and families through assessment, research, case reviews, advocacy and greater citizen involvement. Our goal is to promote child safety and quality services for children, youth and families.

Maine Child Welfare Advisory Panel

October 2nd, 2020 / 9 a.m.- 11 a.m.

Virtual: Meeting held over Zoom

Co-Chair: Bobbi Johnson

Co-Chair: Deb Dunlap

Panel Coordinator: Kathryn Brice

Agenda

9:00 a.m.- Welcome and Introductions

Virtual attendance: Esther Anne, Betsy Boardman, Kathryn Brice, Marie Briggs, Jamie Brooks, Travis Bryant, Ahmen Cabral, Adrienne Carmack, Lyn Carter, Susan Clardy, Kelly Dell'Aquila, Deb Dunlap, Lanelle Freeman, Christine Hufnagel, Jim Jacobs, Alana Jones, Annette Macaluso, Ashley McAllister, Deb McSweeney, Brittany Raven, Tammy Roy, Erin Whitham.

Panel Vote on Potential New Member: Reminder that the Panel had decided in the past to vote in seats for organizations rather than voting in individual members, allowing for more flexibility for the organizations who are represented in the Panel. However, there is one parent representative on the Panel, and we have an opportunity to add a second parent representative from the Parent Partner program. Unanimous vote to accept Brittany Raven as a full voting member, with the understanding that this would mean adding a second voting Parent Partner to the Panel. The Panel welcomed Brittany.

9:10 a.m.- New Business

Retreat Debrief: The Panel acknowledged that there was an abrupt ending to the retreat, which may have left things feeling unfinished for folks. Several Panel members provided feedback that it was very informative- whether a new member or seasoned member- to hear more about the roles, purpose and struggles of national Citizen Review Panels (CRPs). The Executive Committee reminded members that that portion of the retreat was recorded and would be available for onboarding purposes as well as a refresher for those who were not able to be present at the retreat (see link below). Members also provided feedback that it was helpful to be part of the retreat insofar as understanding why the Panel chose the subject areas at hand. The Panel then discussed how/if to incorporate last year's topics into the new ones discussed at the retreat. These subject areas were presented for the discussion:

1. Case Endings and Planning for Co-Parenting/DV Issues
 - a. Staff training (coordinate)
 - b. Reviewing practice including PR&R
2. Effective Communication/Coordination for the Care of Children Entering the System
 - a. Binders for all
 - i. Including all info on developmental and behavioral issues

- b. Education and support info on development, behavioural, medical issues for teams (foster parents, caseworkers, providers)
- 3. Child Welfare Staff Training
 - a. Review existing training
 - b. 4 objectives
 - c. Topics to include:
 - i. Binders
 - ii. Empathy
 - iii. Fatherhood engagement
 - iv. Co-Parenting/DV issues
 - v. Developmental/behavioral health issues
- 4. Family quality engagement policy and practice related to fathers and other legally recognized family structures
 - a. Listening sessions
 - b. Caseworker training coordination
 - c. Parent survey follow-up

Plan Moving Forward: The Panel discussed streamlining these various topics, as well as what work is left to be done from the topics chosen last year. Panel members were asked to join the groups they are interested in being a part of (see below). The Panel agreed that since every groups had questions about training, it would be helpful for a representative from the Muskie School to attend our next Panel meeting and provide information about the training for new caseworkers. Through the discussion on streamlining topics, the Panel decided on forming the following groups:

1. Family-centered policy and Practice

Kelly, Betsy, Lyn, Lanelle, Brittany, Esther, Jamie, Annette

- a. Father listening sessions
- b. Coordinating with caseworker training group
- c. Parent survey follow-up
- d. Case endings and planning for co-parenting/DV issues

2. Effective communication/coordination for the care of children entering the system

Alana, Cindy, Jim, Ahmen, Deb McSweeney, Marie

- a. Binders for all
 - i. Including all info on developmental and behavioral health issues
- b. Education and support info on developmental, behavioural, medical issues for teams (foster parents, caseworkers and providers)

3. Child welfare staff training

Erin, Ashley, Tammy

- a. Review existing training
- b. 4 objectives
- c. Topics to include:
 - i. Binders
 - ii. Empathy
 - iii. Fatherhood engagement
 - iv. Co-parenting/DV issues
 - v. Developmental/behavioral health issues

10:00 a.m.- Standing Agenda Items

Approval of September 2020 Minutes: Unanimous vote to approve minutes from September 2020 retreat.

Fatherhood Recommendations: Unanimous vote to adopt fatherhood recommendations and include them in annual report.

Annual Report Writing: Members were asked who would like to participate on the committee to help with writing the annual report; Erin, Esther, Annette, Ahmen and Kelly volunteered to do so.

Panels Website: The Panel was provided an update on the Panels website, which will be going live at the end of October/beginning of November. All three CRPs will be equally represented on the new website, which will replace the website that is currently in existence but has not been updated since ~2015.

OCFS Updates: The Panel did not have any questions for OCFS re: the updates that went out by email prior to the meeting. Kudos were given for the success of the recent YLAT conference, in which 70 individuals participated virtually.

10:15 a.m.- Breakout Discussions

Each subcommittee identified earlier in the meeting were split into breakout rooms over Zoom to begin working on their topics.

11:00 a.m.- Adjourn and Next Steps

Subcommittee leaders will email breakout room session notes to Kathryn.

Kathryn will disseminate subcommittee notes to the rest of the Panel.

Report-writing subcommittee will convene.

Next Panel Meeting: Virtual Meeting, November 6th, 2020, 9 a.m.- 11 a.m.

Here's the link to the Zoom video:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1O5UJEHAD6W5qZJQrxkGnZnCznxB6jMSd/view?usp=sharing>