

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, 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 3, 2025; 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Co-Chairs: Ahmen Cabral; Andrea Mancuso

Panel Coordinator: Jenna Joeckel

Minutes

9:00 a.m. - Welcome and Introductions:

Attendance: Jenna Joeckel, Ahmen Cabral, Andrea Mancuso, Rebecca Richardson, Sarah Langevin, Christine Hufnagel, Kristina Famolare, Jamie Brooks, Senator Donna Bailey, Taylor Kilgore, Erika Simonson, Molly Owens, Brent Beaulieu, Julie Smyth, Rebecca Richardson, Kathryn Brice, Michelle Westbrook, Adrienne Carmack, Carlie Fischer, Travis Bryant, Kaela Scott, Chelsea Peters, Maura Keaveney, Heidi Aajker,

Opening Statement:

Members shared the opening statement

We are a federally mandated group of professionals and private citizens who are responsible for determining whether state and local agencies are effectively discharging child protective and child welfare responsibilities. The mission of the panel is to assure that the state system is meeting the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and families through assessment, research, advocacy, and greater citizen involvement. Each of us brings to this table a different set of experiences and opinions. Every voice is valued, and all perspectives are needed. Our shared goal is to promote child safety and quality services for children, youth, and families. This is the task to which we continually commit ourselves, and we hold our relationships in trust.

Members participated in a review of the Panel Values Statement.

9:15 a.m. MCWAP Housekeeping:

The panel voted on and approved the September minutes

The Annual Child Welfare Conference is taking place on November 7th. A suggestion was made for the Panel meeting to be rescheduled to December 5th. The date will be determined and communicated via email after the meeting.

The link to the Annual Retreat Evaluation was provided and members were encouraged to complete the survey. The link can be found here: <https://forms.gle/RHGv2zpjD4mMbiHa7>

The link for the compiled recommendations was shared and can be found here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HimbpldXTsHsWyc0YVaotxuexTgHgsK-cjfN2Xy6-WM/edit?gid=0#gid=0>

Members were encouraged to add updates to the document along with their initials and were reminded that it is subject to FOAA.

9:30 a.m. MCWAP Subcommittees:

Members were asked to join the Citizen Engagement Subcommittee or the Family Centered Policy and Practice Subcommittee breakout rooms. Members were asked to add comments to the compiled recommendations.

Family Centered Policy & Practice Subcommittee: Christine Hufnagel offered to co-chair the Family Centered Policy & Practice Subcommittee. During the breakout session, members of the subcommittee focused on compiling recommendation updates and next steps.

Citizen Engagement Subcommittee: At the retreat, subcommittee members discussed the Parent brochure that is provided to parents when OCFS becomes involved with families. This project has been worked on as a collaborative effort with OCFS and is going to be finalized soon. Some of the ongoing efforts include having pamphlets for stages of the OCFS investigation process. Additional platforms for the brochure are being explored including virtual platforms. Members discussed the benefits of making various Bills of Rights more understandable to partners.

Next Panel Meeting: TBD, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.