

## Montgomery County Citizens Review Panel (MCCRP)

April 8, 2025 Meeting

### Minutes

#### Members Present:

Tinu Akinshola

Kay Farley, CRBC Representative

Lisa Merkin, CYFS Liaison

Stacey McNeely, Chair

Elizabeth Simon

Ms. Stacey McNeely called the meeting to order.

#### Review and Approval of the Minutes

The draft minutes of the March 11, 2025 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Ms. McNeely made the motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Elizabeth Simon seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

#### Agency Update

Lisa Merkin presented the March 2025 data.

Data Element	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025
<b>Assessment</b>					
Number of calls to Screening Unit	968	917	894	949	1031
Reports of Child Maltreatment (referrals)	707	667	666	688	814
Number of new Alternative Response (AR) investigations	89	52	70	90	104
Number of new Investigation Response (IR) investigations	73	67	59	63	60
New non-CPS cases	52	66	49	50	65
Number of completed IR investigation findings – allegation indicated	34	52	46	31	37
Number of completed IR investigation findings – allegation unsubstantiated	17	21	20	19	23
Number of completed IR investigation findings – allegation ruled out	33	28	53	36	37
<b>Out of Home</b>					
Number of new out of home placements (entries)	7	7	14	4	13
13Total children who left care (exits)	20	5	11	8	6
Total out-of-home children in care at month's end	325	327	330	326	333
<b>Placement</b>					
Number of children in foster care	205	205	199	192	197
Number of children placed with relatives	78	81	87	87	93
Number of children in residential placement	42	41	44	47	43
<b>Length of Stay</b>					
Average (mean) length of stay in foster care (months)	32.5	32.5	32.5	33	33

Median length of stay in foster care (months)	24	24	23.5	24	24
<b>Resource Homes</b>					
Number of licensed regular foster homes (does not include restricted/relative homes)	113	109	105	103	
Number of newly assigned regular home studies	3	1	2	2	0
Number of recruitment inquiries	43	34	32	37	28

It was noted that there was an increase in the number of screening calls in February and March. That trend is likely to continue in April.

A question was asked about the decline in the number of resource homes. There have been closures as resource parents have adopted the children in their care and families moving out of the area. The agency is also going through a process of cleaning up data. Additionally, there has been an increase in the number of kinship placements as the agency has been able to license the kinship homes.

The agency has set a goal of 50% of placements to kinship homes by next year and are making progress toward that goal.

The data report does not currently include kinship homes/placements. It will be added to the data report. Currently, 93 youth are placed in 62 kinship homes. The 62 homes are up from 41 in January.

### **2025 Spring Forum**

A flyer for the upcoming forum was distributed. "Effective Communication Strategies for Substance Use and Mental Health" is scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM. This year the meeting will be held in-person in Montgomery County.

The MCCRP is not a co-sponsor of the Spring Forum this year. Ms. Merkin will reach out to inquire about possible participation in the planning for the 2026 Spring Forum.

### **Sub-panel Discussions**

Ms. Merkin will ask the agency managers for input on agency-wide issues.

### **Panel Vacancies**

Ms. McNeely advised that a new member has been appointed as a result of the December 2024 posting. She hopefully will be able to participate in the May 2025 meeting.

The second posting resulted in additional candidates. The agency is awaiting the names. When received, interviews will be scheduled.

### **Panel Availability for May 13, 2025 Meeting**

The next meeting will be May 13<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting adjourned.