

Montgomery County Citizen's Review Panel for Children (Panel)

December 9, 2025 Meeting

Notes

Members Present:

Tinu Akinshola	Elizabeth Simon
Laura Erstling for Lisa Merkin, CYFS Liaison	Lisa Winer
Kay Farley, CRBC Representative	Jane Yamaykin

Ms. Elizabeth Simon called the meeting to order.

Review and Approval of the Minutes

The draft minutes of the October 14, 2025 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Ms. Lisa Winer made the motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Jane Yamaykin seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Draft notes of the November 18, 2025 were also distributed prior to the meeting. There was not a quorum at that meeting, so no actions were taken.

Agency Update

Ms. Laura Erstling presented the November 2025 data.

Data Element	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sep 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025
Assessment					
Number of calls to Screening Unit	675	571	1107	1172	917
Reports of Child Maltreatment (referrals)	458	435	776	816	713
Number of new Alternative Response (AR) investigations	41	46	78	88	69
Number of new Investigation Response (IR) investigations	54	37	82	65	68
New non-CPS cases	56	50	71	70	48
Number of completed IR investigation findings – allegation indicated	62	39	24	42	48
Number of completed IR investigation findings – allegation unsubstantiated	48	33	30	22	11
Number of completed IR investigation findings – allegation ruled out	52	30	29	40	33
Out of Home					
Number of new out of home placements (entries)	9	3	7	11	9
Total children who left care (exits)	12	4	6	12	18
Total out-of-home children in care at month's end	334	333	331	330	321
Placement					
Number of children in foster care	190	189	190	189	183

Number of children placed with relatives	101	100	99	99	99
Number of children in residential placement	43	41	42	42	39
Length of Stay					
Average (mean) length of stay in foster care (months)	33.5	34	34	34	34
Median length of stay in foster care (months)	24	24.5	24	25.5	23
Resource Homes					
Number of licensed regular foster homes (does not include restricted/relative homes)	96	95	94	92	94
Number of Kinship Homes	72	65	68	62	59
Number of newly assigned regular home studies	2	4	2	2	2
Number of recruitment inquiries	18	26	33	38	27

Ms. Erstling advised that the data was as expected and followed the pattern of prior years.

New Panel Member(s) Update

Five candidates are progressing through the appointment process. If approved by the County Council, two voting members and three non-voting members will join the Panel, bringing the total number of members to ten. It is hoped that new members will be able to attend the January 2026 meeting.

CRP Meeting Responsibilities

Until a new chairperson is selected, the Panel members will rotate responsibility for developing the agenda and chairing the monthly meetings. Ms. Yamaykin volunteered to chair the January 2026 meeting. Ms. Kay Farley agreed to work with Lisa Merkin to develop the January 2026 meeting agenda.

MCCRP Sub-Committees

Resource Home Recruitment - No new information was available.

Multi-complex Services for Youth and Families - No new information was available.

Panel Availability for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Panel will be January 13th. Members present indicated they were available on January 13th.

The meeting adjourned.