

Montgomery County Citizens Review Panel (MCCRP)

September 9, 2025 Meeting

Minutes

Members Present:

Kay Farley, CRBC Representative

Elizabeth Simon

Stacey McNeely, Chair

Lisa Winer

Lisa Merkin, CYFS Liaison

Jane Yamaykin

Ms. Stacey McNeely called the meeting to order and welcomed Lisa Winer as a new member of the Panel.

Agency Update

Lisa Merkin presented the August 2025 data.

Data Element	Apr 2025	May 2025	Jun 2025	July 2025	Aug 2025
Assessment					
Number of calls to Screening Unit	938	1152	789	675	571
Reports of Child Maltreatment (referrals)	674	825	561	458	435
Number of new Alternative Response (AR) investigations	90	105	56	41	46
Number of new Investigation Response (IR) investigations	67	82	54	54	37
New non-CPS cases	59	77	56	56	50
Number of completed IR investigation findings – allegation indicated	57	27	64	62	39
Number of completed IR investigation findings – allegation unsubstantiated	31	57	35	48	33
Number of completed IR investigation findings – allegation ruled out	25	37	42	52	30
Out of Home					
Number of new out of home placements (entries)	11	8	6	9	3
Total children who left care (exits)	11	2	8	12	4
Total out-of-home children in care at month's end	333	339	337	334	333
Placement					
Number of children in foster care	203	202	192	190	192
Number of children placed with relatives	86	93	101	101	100
Number of children in residential placement	44	44	45	43	41
Length of Stay					
Average (mean) length of stay in foster care (months)	33	33	33.5	33.5	34
Median length of stay in foster care (months)	25	24	25	24	24.5
Resource Homes					
Number of licensed regular foster homes (does not include restricted/relative homes)	101	102	94	96	95
Number of Kinship Homes	63	68	69	72	65
Number of newly assigned regular home studies	0	0	4	2	4
Number of recruitment inquiries	24	25	30	18	26

The number of licensed kinship homes is down as a home is not counted unless a child is in residence, which is different than a resource home. A resource home is counted whether a child is in residence or not as they are an available placement.

The agency has created a new part-time recruitment and retention position, which hopefully will result in new resource homes.

Hilary Laskey, manager of the agency's recruitment and retention efforts, was not available to meet with the Panel tonight but will be available for the October 14th meeting.

Review and Approval of the Minutes

The draft minutes of the August 12, 2025 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Ms. McNeely made the motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Jane Yamaykin seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Panel Topic Discussion

Multi-Complex Services

Ms. Merkin clarified that the agency is hoping that the Panel will be able to identify innovative system of care models that address complex cases in which youth have multiple needs.

Resource Home Recruitment

Ms. Mc Neely will ask Ms. Laura Brown to re-circulate the list of resources for outreach that the MCCRPP previously developed. Members are asked to review the list for additions.

The prior foster parent survey questions also will be re-circulated. It was suggested that Hilary Laskey be asked if she has thoughts about new or edited questions.

Montgomery County Council HHS Committee - Annual BCC Priorities Meeting

Ms. McNeely advised that the Montgomery County Council HHS Committee will be holding its annual review of the priorities for its Boards, Committees, and Commissions (BCC) in October. The MCCRPP is scheduled to present its priorities on October 22nd. Ms. McNeely, as the MCCRPP chair, and Ms. Merkin will present the Panel's priorities.

As before, the Panel must provide a one-page overview in advance of the meeting. Ms. McNeely will work with Ms. Merkin to draft the one-pager. Ms. McNeely will circulate the draft to Panel members for their review and input.

The Montgomery County Council HHS Committee meeting is an open session, which can be viewed virtually or in-person. A recording will also be posted on YouTube afterwards.

Panel Vacancies and Interviews

Panel vacancies have been posted three times over the last few months. The most recent posting resulted in ten resumes. Ms. Merkin and Ms. McNeely are in the process of setting up interviews with the applicants. Six interviews have been scheduled so far.

Ms. McNeely advised that her current term expires in October 2025. She is not eligible to reapply. She asked for members to let her know if they have interest in being the new Chair.

Panel Availability for October 14, 2025 Meeting

The next meeting will be October 14th.

The meeting adjourned.