

## Montgomery County Citizens Review Panel (MCCRP)

June 10, 2025 Meeting

### Minutes

#### Members Present:

|                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tinu Akinshola                  | Lisa Merkin, CYFS Liaison |
| Kay Farley, CRBC Representative | Elizabeth Simon           |
| Stacey McNeely, Chair           | Jane Yamaykin             |

Ms. Stacey McNeely called the meeting to order.

#### Review and Approval of the Minutes

The draft minutes of the May 13, 2025 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Ms. Tinu Akinshola made the motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Jane Yamaykin seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

#### Agency Update

Lisa Merkin presented the June 2025 data.

| Data Element   | Jan 2025 | Feb 2025 | Mar 2025 | Apr 2025 | May 2025 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>Assessment</b>  |          |          |          |          |          |
| Number of calls to Screening Unit  | 896      | 956      | 1044     | 938      | 1152     |
| Reports of Child Maltreatment (referrals)                                  | 666      | 688      | 814      | 674      | 825      |
| Number of new Alternative Response (AR) investigations                     | 70       | 90       | 104      | 90       | 105      |
| Number of new Investigation Response (IR) investigations                   | 59       | 63       | 60       | 67       | 82       |
| New non-CPS cases  | 49       | 50       | 65       | 59       | 77       |
| Number of completed IR investigation findings – allegation indicated       | 46       | 31       | 37       | 57       | 27       |
| Number of completed IR investigation findings – allegation unsubstantiated | 20       | 19       | 23       | 31       | 57       |
| Number of completed IR investigation findings – allegation ruled out       | 53       | 36       | 37       | 25       | 37       |
| <b>Out of Home</b>   |          |          |          |          |          |
| Number of new out of home placements (entries)                             | 14       | 4        | 13       | 11       | 8        |
| Total children who left care (exits)                                       | 11       | 8        | 6        | 11       | 2        |
| Total out-of-home children in care at month's end                          | 330      | 326      | 333      | 333      | 339      |
| <b>Placement</b>   |          |          |          |          |          |
| Number of children in foster care  | 199      | 192      | 197      | 203      | 202      |
| Number of children placed with relatives                                   | 87       | 87       | 93       | 86       | 93       |
| Number of children in residential placement                                | 44       | 47       | 43       | 44       | 44       |
| <b>Length of Stay</b>  |          |          |          |          |          |
| Average (mean) length of stay in foster care (months)                      | 32.5     | 33       | 33       | 33       | 33       |

|  |      |     |     |     |     |
|--|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Median length of stay in foster care (months)  | 23.5 | 24  | 24  | 25  | 24  |
| <b>Resource Homes</b>  |      |     |     |     |     |
| Number of licensed regular foster homes (does not include restricted/relative homes) | 105  | 105 | 103 | 101 | 102 |
| Number of Kinship Homes  | 41   | 55  | 61  | 63  | 68  |
| Number of newly assigned regular home studies  | 2    | 2   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| Number of recruitment inquiries  | 32   | 37  | 28  | 24  | 25  |

It was noted that there as it is approaching the end of the fiscal year, the numbers are similar to last year. The agency is placing more children with relatives. About 50% of the children in foster care are placed with relatives. Recruitment efforts for non-relative resource homes also continue.

A question was asked about the small number of newly assigned regular home studies. There is a combination of factors – 1) kinship homes have fewer licensing requirements, 2) some people who express interest in being resource parents are not a good fit for the foster parent population, and 3) some people do not follow through after initially expressing interest.

### **2025 Spring Forum**

The 2025 Spring Forum, “Effective Communication Strategies for Substance Use and Mental Health” was on May 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM.

### **Panel Topic Discussion**

Ms. Merkin asked the agency managers for input on agency-wide issues. The suggested topic was multi-complex services. The agency is interested in learning how other jurisdictions coordinate and deliver services to children and youth that have multiple needs, such as mental health, substance abuse, behavioral issues, etc.

Panel members expressed interest in pursuing this topic along with continuing to look at resource home recruitment.

Ms. McNeely indicated that she would share a link with to the Panel’s previous work.

### **Panel Vacancies and Interviews**

Ms. McNeely advised that interviews were scheduled with two applicants. One applicant did not participate in the interview. The other applicant is under consideration.

The county has issued a third vacancy posting for this Panel.

### **Other Business**

A question was asked about whether the immigration raids are impacting the agency. The agency is not seeing an impact in child welfare. There are resources in the county outside of the child welfare agency for families in need of services.

**Panel Availability for July 8, 2025 Meeting**

The next meeting will be July 8<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting adjourned.