

Montgomery County Citizens Review Panel (MCCRP)

May 13, 2025 Meeting

Minutes

Members Present:

Tinu Akinshola
Laura Brown
Jane Yamaykin

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 April 8, 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 April 2025 data. It was observed that there was a higher number of completed IR CPS indicated findings than the agency has had in a while, but there is not believed to be any specific reason for that increase. It was pointed out that the number of kinship homes have really increased based on the new policies but the agency is now caught up on the backlog of new kinship homes. During the summer months with schools out of session it is expected that there will be a decline in some of the reports. The number of OOH care entries for March and April is larger due to some sibling groups. There were no new assigned regular home studies because there are not any resource homes which were at that stage in the licensing process. There were kinship homes and out of state (ICPC) homes which involved home studies.

Ms. Merkin mentioned that the agency does want more regular foster homes. There was some data updating which brought that number down recently.

It was asked whether the sibling groups have a chance to stay together. Ms. Merkin responded that it depends on multiple factors including, but not limited to, abuse accusations, sibling ages, etc.

2025 Spring Forum

It was mentioned that the 2025 Spring Forum is this upcoming weekend, May 17th from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM. The flyer for the forum was distributed again. "Effective Communication Strategies for Substance Use and Mental Health" is the theme.

There was a member of the public, Chantale, who joined the meeting. She is a nursing student who decided to join the panel meeting based upon a requirement for school.

Sub-panel Discussions

Ms. Merkin asked the agency managers for input on agency-wide issues and one topic which was brought up is how the community can best serve youth that need multi-complex services. In these cases, it is not just a CWS case but could also involve other groups such as juvenile justice or mental health. These cases could come to CWS because a parent or school calls and indicates they need assistance managing the needs of the youth. Often these youth do not fit into a systems box and would need a local coordinating team (LCT). The family may have had pages of services assessment.

The panel could potentially research how other states handle multi-complex services. What have other states or jurisdictions offered? Are there any evidence-based practices?

Another topic for consideration of panel attention could also be to revisit resource home recruitment. Ms. Merkin offered to re-send the recruitment info for the panel to potentially circulate.

Panel Vacancies

Ms. Merkin shared that the second vacancy posting resulted in 2 additional candidates and interviews will be scheduled.

Also there will be a third vacancy posting for the panel.

Ms. Merkin has offered to check when existing panel members are expected to re-apply.

Panel Availability for June 10, 2025 Meeting

The next meeting will be June 10th.

The meeting adjourned.