

Citizen Review Panel
Tuesday, April 1, 2014
3:30 to 5:00 p.m.
Teleconference

Present: Diwakar Vadapalli, Ph.D. (Chair), Dana Hallet (Vice-Chair), Ben Creasy, Rodreshia Dunbar, Kristin Hull, Margie McWilliams, and Bettyann Steciw

Absent: None

Minutes

1) Introduction and welcome of new members Rodreshia and Bettyann

New members Rodreshia Dunbar and Bettyann Steciw were introduced and welcomed. They were both on the previous call with OCS Director Lawton. Chair Vadapalli asked their impression of that call. Nearly everyone agreed that OCS staff seemed defensive as the Kodiak trip report was discussed.

Member Dunbar informed everyone that she will be moving to Anchorage on Sunday.

2) Update on Chair Vadapalli's communications with OCS

Chair Vadapalli reminded the Panel that requesting data was part of our annual work plan and that he had sent a clear e-mail to Director Lawton outlining what data we were requesting and what we planned to do with it. He detailed that he was satisfied with the data received related to PSRs, but that the in-home data was inadequate in part because it was only a snapshot. Director Lawton indicated that she did not share more data because they have no confidence in it.

As directed by the rest of the Panel, Chair Vadapalli e-mailed Director Lawton directly. He outlined that all state CPS agencies have rocky relationships with CRPs and that we need to work through this. He stated that one way to do so is by sharing information. We need data to evaluate OCS. We can't evaluate them without information. If all we have is information from community partners, that's not a full picture. He asked Director Lawton if CRP and OCS can have a formal data sharing structure. This would eliminate the need to route every request through the Director's office. Then if we request something, her staff can just send it. If something requested is beyond the scope of the agreement then we can discuss it.

Chair Vadapalli stated he had emailed her on March 15th and heard back today. Director Lawton indicated she didn't think the CRP-OCS relationship had any tension in it. But she's open to discussion on various options. Chair Vadapalli felt

OCS will not share any more in-home data. He indicated that we need to include time frames in the annual report so they can respond and we will have something to hold them to.

Chair Vadapalli noted that Director Lawton had shared OCS' IV-E waiver which outlines their in-home model. OCS is focusing on Mat-SU and Juneau. It may not be applicable for Northern and Western. They say Anchorage has a workable model. OCS gets credit for working on in-home. Chair Vadapalli noted that the Title IV-E grant has to be evaluated and that will be done by the evaluation program at the UAA School of Social Work.

Dana joined the call.

Chair Vadapalli noted that OCS wants to implement their model and test it out. OCS is trying to build wraparound services and connect families to services more quickly.

Chair Vadapalli noted that Director Lawton indicated that she's open to the issues he highlighted in his email about data and the relationship being more structured. Member Hallett noted that it has always been the Panel's practice to talk to people in pairs and suggested having another Panel member be part of that conversation. Member Creasy noted that we need to not assume bad faith on Director Lawton's part. Chair Vadapalli noted that he doesn't believe Director Lawton is comfortable with data. Member Steciw noted that her tribe had just received a data sharing agreement from OCS. Member Creasy suggested filing a FOIA request.

- 3) Review work plan to assess progress on different aspects towards finishing up the Panel's annual report

Chair Vadapalli noted that the Panel had four goals for this year and that and it had made progress on the first one. He stated that he didn't think we had knew much on Goal 2 although there is some material in the OCS P&P. He also noted that Kim Guay shared materials that are relevant. He noted that on Goal 3, the IA backlog, he felt the Panel had received as much as OCS wanted to share and that is was good material.

Margie joined us.

Member Hallet noted that we need to continue to monitor this. Updated numbers will be requested for inclusion in the annual report. Chair Vadapalli stated that he feels like the Panel abandoned Goal 4 since we never requested the information. Sylvan was directed to ask Director Lawton for the information.

The Chair stated he felt like we're in a good position for the annual report. Member McWilliams noted she feels like we've been busy and have done a lot.

Member McWilliams noted that the Chair had sent an iPad app on the Child Welfare Academy and requested it be resent.

Member Creasy wondered how housing, retention, and some other old issues would fit into the annual report. Chair Vadapalli stated that the work plan will be a major part of our annual report, but we also need to connect this with that. Issues include housing and turnover. Member McWilliams stated that we also need to include Western Region staffing.

4) Update on Bethel trip report

The Bethel trip report was sent out for review. It was agreed members will send comments to Sylvan by end of the day Thursday.

5) Update on approaching AHFC

Member Hallett has been trying to connect with former member Pat Hefley for advice on how best to approach AHFC regarding the housing issue in St. Mary's. Pat suggested contacting Katie Baldwin Johnson at the Trust to help the CRP set up a plan for how to sell this to AHFC and the Legislature. If someone knows her, that will help. The Trust has small grants that could fund selling this. When we talk with Katie, we need to lay out the problem and what we've done to try and get housing over the years. The hook is that we're advocating for the same population that the Trust does. Member Hull asked if OCS should be doing this. Member Hallett said Pat indicated they are limited in how they can do it. Pat indicated this is long term process and we need to have patience.

6) Discuss and confirm plans for Talkeetna retreat on June 7-8th

Agreement was reached that the meeting will begin on Friday, June 6th at 10:30 a.m. and end at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, June 8th. Member Hull noted she was not 100 percent sure she would be able to attend the meeting.

7) Next meeting dates and suggested agenda items for teleconference with Director Lawton

- Friday, April 11th Noon to 1:00 p.m. Teleconference with Christy Lawton, Travis Erickson and Bethel staff
- Friday, April 11th 1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Teleconference to debrief about conversation with OCS staff

Suggested agenda:

- Bethel trip report
- Discussion of the documents shared by Director Lawton, especially IV-E model grant application
- Director Lawton's choice

Minutes accepted by Panel on XXXX.

Diwakar Vadapalli, Chair