



OCS Monthly Teleconference  
September 15, 2020 – 12PM to 1PM  
Call In Number: 1-888-601-5515 no pin

## MEETING NOTES

### ATTENDEES

- Sonya Hull, CRP (Acting Chair)
  - Cameron Adams, CRP
  - Lucinda Alexie, CRP
  - Mariah Seater, CRP
  - Natalie Norberg, OCS
  - Travis Erickson, OCS
  - Denali Daniels, Coordinator
  - Elizabeth Shea, Coordinator
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- ***CRP Update – Acting Chair Hull***
    - CRP held Annual Workplan retreat. The new regulations were reviewed and developed the work plan for the next year.
    - OCS was able to join on the retreat agenda, and updated the CRP on their PIP process, and discussed possible alignment.
    - CRP is working on policies and procedures internally; the panel has developed a matrix to assess membership according to the new regulatory requirements.
  
  - ***CRP Regulations Discussion***
    - Panel has started to create a list of questions for OCS, also wants to know how familiar they are with the new regs. Who should panel be consulting at OCS with questions on the regs?
      - OCS responded questions should be addressed to Natalie Norberg.
    - Coordinator needs to be clear on what the transition looks like to the new regulations begin and when to fully implement. There may be some new steps to take, specifically in the appointment process.

- The coordinator reviewed some of the substantive questions on the regulations that had been identified to start the conversation, knowing follow up questions will likely be needed.

Regulations questions and discussion:

- **Page 3 – “the panel shall consult with the director before appointing a member” – how should this be implemented?**
  - This step was included in regulations to add to the background check. The intent was to avoid including a CPS background check explicitly in the regulations while allowing a step to identify any obvious red flags when appointing a new member. OCS wanted that part of the background check to be carefully considered and not exclude people who have experience in the system, while providing input if proposed panel member has questionable history with CPS.
  - The coordinator would do the initial review; a name-check with the troopers that is about \$25. A form that is on the state website needs to be filled out.
  - Another option would be the full background check process; however, that may be more formal than necessary.
  - There was further discussion about in-state checks only. The CRP may need to clarify in its policies and procedures that we are only looking at background in state of Alaska.
  - The panel needs to have a discussion about how to best implement the regulations, and understanding this intent is helpful.
- **Page 3 – Regarding term limits, how should the panel proceed with starting the clock on its current terms?**
  - The new regulations do not include guidance that would allow term limits to be retroactive.
  - As an example, the acting chair would be one of the members that would be affected by the new regulations.
  - The panel is currently developing an approach that already does respect the intent of the regulations, but some of them need interpretation for compliance.
  - It was agreed that there is a reasonable period of time for implementation of the new term limits, as long as the panel is migrating toward compliance.

- **Page 4-5 – There is suggestion that the panel would review individual case files, which would be a new practice. What is the intent of this language and how might this be put into practice?**
  - OCS learns a lot from doing individual case files; to examine systemic patterns; things like access to resources, court functioning, etc.
  - The intent here was that the CRP, in addition to other sources, might do case reviews if that would be relevant. This could include topics like barriers to permanence and other large-scale issues.
  - At times, OCS has case reviews when there is something major, CRP might want to also review these specific files.
  - CRP panelists could sign documentation and get access to electronic files.
  - Panelists are invited to become more involved in the casework and data and surveys that OCS conducts; rather than just doing site visits and soliciting feedback.
  - This work could yield a lot of rich information, if panel could have access to data and results before conducting site visits.
  - The panel might be able to participate and learn how to better conduct and incorporate case reviews as part of evaluation of OCS.
  - It was clarified that this is another tool available to the panel to conduct it's work.
  
- **Page 8 – This section describes the annual report process, and the question is whether the language mirrors the current process with the annual report and recommendations occurring in the spring with an annual workplan developed at the start of the fiscal year?**
  - No changes to the current process of developing the workplan and annual report; and the regulations were intended to mirror current process.
  
- **Page 7 – The note that the CRP chair and the OCS director will meet quarterly – are we meeting the requirements with the current monthly meetings taking place?**
  - These meetings count, however the requirement in regulations will help assure ongoing communication into the future.

- **Other question (coordinator): Can OCS provide specific guidance to the CRP regarding how it should be following the Open Meetings Act?**

- This includes noticing meetings, how much notice time is required, and are there meetings that do not require public notice? The CRP has been attempting to meet requirements, however it would be helpful to be able to cite applicable rules as we update the policies and procedures.
- OCS will consult with the Ombudsman Office for more official language to pass along.

- **Other panel business - Questions?**

- OCS has made staff survey and foster parent survey available to panel, if they would like to discuss then OCS would be happy to. There is a lot of good information that CRP has access to.
  - The annual workplan was sent out for comments, coordinator put in quarters. There were no concrete changes from panel members.
  - We need to finalize the annual workplan – send to the graphic designer. The next step will be to send a final for a pane vote.
  - Panel needs to define “transaction of business”, what requires a vote and what needs a quorum?
  - One more draft of the workplan will be sent out, as well as proposed dates for the October quarterly meeting.
- There was no public comment.
  - Adjourn - Chair