

Chisago County Citizen Review Panel Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2025, 12:00-1:30 PM Hybrid: Center City HHS Conference Room & Teams

Present:

- Chisago County: Todd, Karlene, and Chris
- State (DCYF, OAIF): Gapske, Jill Esch
- Community panel members: Nancy, Lisa, Karen, Deb,
- Absent: Peter

I. Topic: Welcome

- Get to know you question
- Amendments to edit meeting mins from May and June agenda due to minor errors

II. Topic: Recruitment for citizen review panel seat vacancy

- No applications received as a result of newspaper ad. Too expensive to run again. Panel wants to explore other free methods of advertising and spreading the word.
- Discussion on social media locations.
- The correct flyer was emailed out to all panel members. ACTION: Share with one place or group of community members.
- Notice of two vacant seats still remains on the Chisago County website. ACTION: Todd will reach out to Health and Human Services to see if they would be willing to post it on their website landing page, too.
- Suggestion to reach out to PTO/PTA's in the Fall to reach parents in local school districts.
- Istanti County Newspaper has a section focused on Chisago County. ACTION: Gapske will reach out to them about potential story or possible ad. She will also call Matt Silver due to no email reply at the Chisago County Press.
- Panel wants to explore a Letter to the Editor due to no cost. (ACTION: Gapske will follow up on this.)
- ACTION ITEM: Recommendation to NOT appoint Kathryn Stanek pending references and background check clearance. (MOTION TO NOT APPOINT PASSED)

III. Updates from Chisago County and DCYF

a. Chisago County:

- i. They have seen an influx of cases in the past two weeks including many children placed in out-of-home placements.
- ii. There have been many that were placed under supervision prior to the court process including 12 minors within this two-week timeframe.
- iii. Their afterhours calls have increased while the staff are keeping up on the new DCYF trainings and changes to practice.
- iv. Gift cards for children in out-of-home placement will receive the gift cards purchased to buy necessary items needed for placement.

b. DCYF Updates

- i. Reviewed CFSR Process and data submitted to the Children's Bureau for the development of a Program Improvement Plan (PIP)
- ii. Reviewed legislative session updates shared by DCYF.

IV. Chisago County Tableau screenshared to evaluate and compare to DCYF data

- Review Chisago County process and check lists (attached)
 - Process and protocol shared with the panel to ensure documentation is completed.
- Identify and review cases without medical exams to better understand any barriers or concerns with access for children in out-of-home placement.
 - ACTION: Chisago County will look into cases without a medical exam to provide information on barriers or rational for not meeting the well-being check on the few cases without them.
- Develop survey questions for similar sized counties with below data threshold for medical exams to explore if rational is SSIS/staffing barriers or something else.
 - Counties for comparison to Chisago census of 59,809 residents: Ottertail, Mahnommen, Clay, Goodhue, and Pine. All of these are slightly larger or smaller counties.
 - Survey questions to explore and reach out to counties with:
 - How do you ensure your county meets the child or youth well being medical exam standard?
 - If your county is not meeting the standard, what barriers are you experiencing?
 - What would you recommend as potential solutions?

V. Annual Retreat ideas/topic/logistic ideas

- a. A survey will be sent out in the next two weeks to gather input for the annual retreat.
- b. Re-evaluation of the surveys from last years retreat will be reviewed again.

VI. Informational: Stipend reminder and reimbursement for milage

VII. Public comment(s): None.

VIII. Next meeting: No July meeting. Have a wonderful holiday!

IX. Next meeting:

| Meeting-Hybrid | Schedule | Date |
|---|--|-------------|
| Chisago County Citizen Review Panel meeting | Every First Tuesday of the Month noon-1:30 pm | Aug 5, 2025 |