

Children's Services Review Panel (CAC) Minutes

October 27th, 2025; 4:30 – 6:30 PM

<https://zoom.us/j/98236935012?pwd=1aQdPvVuw8V310V5V3vYcJs7BcCem.1>

Members Present: Ankit Sood, Tonya Long, Casey Accord, Molly Evans, Beth Salzl, Kat Ruth-Leigh

Ramsey County Staff: David Herrera

MN Dept. of Children, Youth, and Families: Laura Gapske (DCYF)

Guests: Jill Esch, Beth Salzl, Kat Ruth-Leigh

Reminder of Agreements:

If you would like a copy of agreements, please reach out to Laura Gapske.

Ice Breaker: Favorite thing about fall

New Actions:

- Approval of June. September minutes
 - Passed unanimously

County Update; David Herrera Santacruz

1. Brief update about County Commissioners' discussion on Friday around federally supported benefits. David will send out the link whenever available, for those who couldn't watch it.
2. Children and Family Services (CFS) is currently hiring some positions. David will be part of the interviews this week and he will update the group as we move forward.
3. There current is reorganizing happening in the county due to budget cuts and new leadership.

DCYF Update

From Gapske:

Not much from DCYF besides trying to stay updated on the federal shut. Still unsure on how things are playing out, but Gapske will continue to update as things develop.

Project Discussion

Flyers

Ankit made a mock flyer that we can formalize.

Feedback:

- QR code can sometimes be a barrier or confusing; can we use a simplified url code, as well as a the QR code
 - Do we need to use the page from Commissioner Groups? Or the CAC page?
 - [Community Advisory Council | Ramsey County, Minnesota](#)
- You can also work in RC to apply; lets clarify this.
- We can add the email for applications as well
- Change "Citizens Review Panel" to "Children Services Review Panel"

David will attached Ankit's flyer and ask for feedback by **Nov 6th**. From there, David will share all feedback, flyer to Ramsey County Communications for help finalizing it.

Recruitment

As we discuss a flyer, where would we want to post our finalized flyer?

- Ms. Jill believes Chisago County sends the flyers to the counties' biggest employers, sent to school parent, student groups, and placed it on cars' windshields.
- Churches and places of worship are always a good idea.
- Some schools have newsletters. We can always see if we can add a little add in their newsletter
- David can reach out to Elijah Norris-Holiday, who leads a youth group in Ramsey County
- David believes Social Services has a budget for social media ads.

Who are we missing in this group?

- Health care staff play a big role in our CFS system
- Youth, who are 18+

Project Selection

MAAFPA-CWDA leading group for RC is currently looking at TST recommendations, which gives us an opportunity to work with another group on TST.

When thinking about MAAFPA-CWDA, there is an opportunity for the panel to serve as case reviewers, which is a mandate of the law. Ramsey County need to have a review by January 1st, 2026. Panel members could participate in the review that needs to happen.

- This could be similar to the review CSRP has served in the past as a part of the Child Death, Near Death Review.
- The panel also would review other case related documents, like independent skills, aging out documents, etc.

Reviewing of cases, for MAAFPA or something else, could be a good way to learn more about the system, act on something, and then next year, we can create a more robust project.

David will bring the possibility of case review by members to the managers and see how the group can be involved.

- MAAFPA and death, near death reviews

Funds Discussion (Stipend; CRP Conference, 26)

Please send stipends to David; they take a long time to process 😞

CSRP Conference

Some of the members believe the 2026 conference might not be worth our while, as we are getting established. Perhaps in 2027, as we are more established would be a better time to go. Evermore, could it be more worthwhile in a year where we can present at the conference.

Announcements/ Updates

Nov. meeting: This is during the thanksgiving meeting. Do we want to move it?

- David will add this in the email and ask the broader group

Ms. Jill: Is anyone interested in attended a meet and greet for an ICWA Meet and Greet, on Nov 17th for lunch.

- Ms. Jill will send out the email

Kat created some doodle polls for informal meetings and get together. She will send to David and he will get them out.