

Children's Services Review Panel (CAC) Minutes

February 23rd, 2026; 4:30 – 6:30 PM

<https://zoom.us/j/98236935012?pwd=1aQdPvVwuw8V310V5V3vYcJs7BcCem.1>

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

Absent:, Rae Johnson, Jill Esch

Ramsey County Staff: David Herrera

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

Guests:

Reminder of Agreements:

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

Ice Breaker

Old Actions:

- MAAFP Case Reviews
- Flyer Updates
- Foster Care Survey

New Actions:

- Approval of January Minutes
 - Ankit motions, molly seconds; all Approved
- Recommendation of Hibak
 - Beth moves, Ankit seconds. All approve

Annual Conference Discussion

Historically, and in the operation procedures, one of the co-chairs usually goes. Ankit is unable to go, but Tonya is able to go.

DCYF Updates; Laura Gapske

MAAFPCWDA: Continuing to implement and role it out until there is clarity from the courts.

Gapske has received 102 responses from counties around the child welfare safety plan. There are still some counties who have not answered, which Gapske plans on following up.

Listening sessions for lived experiences in child welfare are still happening; there was one last week canceled due to weather.

Foster Youth Wellbeing survey is happening, and Ramsey County is one of the partners. 5 counties are participating, with a goal of 300 responses. The goal is to have 75% response rate from RC. There are \$50 gift cards as compensation. There will be a presentation to the youth who

participated, along with a conversation with youth on recommendations from them to DCYF. Gapske has sent the questions that are in the survey and is currently seeing if we can get the survey results.

Gapske is currently looking into updating the Operating Procedures. One of the things that is changing is the stipend. If there is something outside of these meetings that you would like to attend, and seek compensation, members will have to seek approval from the panel. Another change is, if a member has a child welfare case open while on the panel, they will be asked to take leave until the case is closed. This would be seen as a conflict of interest as they are making recommendations to the state.

Ramsey County Updates; David Herrera

MAAFPCWDA: The court case that was happening in Hennepin County came to a close, and the judge deemed the phase in period unconstitutional. There is no clear direction at the moment, but we will continue to update the panel as we hear more.

Project Discussion and Timeline

Project Goal: Provide actionable recommendations for updating child protection screening guidelines and/or screening guidelines training

Project Summary: CSRP members review existing child protection screening guidelines and do research to make recommendations for updating the guidelines. 2026 project (part 1) will focus on recommendations. 2027 project (part 2) will focus on working with partners to implement the guidelines.

By March meeting:

- Group: read all docs related to screening guidelines - list/links to come

In March meeting:

- Discuss what we learned and what direction we want to make to explore issues/recommend changes

Between March and April:

- Do research to figure out if we took on a specific area of changes to recommend, what speakers/education/etc do we need ?

In April meeting:

- Outline research plan together

April through June:

- Research, groundwork, etc updating our plan and understanding as we go
- Document possible recommendations along the way

In August meeting: (or a month later if this is the break month):

- Review existing draft recommendations
- Brainstorm more

Between August and Sept meetings:

- Finalize draft of recommendations and send to members for review

In September meeting:

- Review and confirm draft recommendations
- Plan next steps for distribution/review with DHS and Ramsey County partners

September/October:

- Review recommendations with DHS and the county and adjust - goal would be to align together on course of action based on recommendations

November/December:

- Work with county to plan timeline for implementing recommendations with training in 2027

Molly motions to make the Screening process as a project for the CSRP; Ankit seconds
6 approvals, one abstention

Comments/Requests

- David will follow up on members coming to watch screening and intake happening in real time.
- David will look into TST mock screening and other recordings
- Can the panel see the tools, checklists, or scripts that Screeners use?

Project Ideas

- Mandated reporting training
 - This was recently updated

Announcements/Comments

- Foster Youth Bill of Rights is currently being drafted. However, it seems like it is too long. The way it is currently written is not tailored for youth.
- Foster Advocates Legislative agenda has come out - [2026 Legislative Agenda — Foster Advocates](#)
- Jill will look at hosting us in person in June