

Children's Services Review Panel (CAC) Minutes

January 26, 2026; 4:30 – 6:30 PM

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

Members Present: Ankit Sood, Tonya Long, Beth Salzl, Kat Ruth-Leigh, Rae Johnson, Jill Esch, Casey Accord

Absent: Molly Evans

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: What is something that an elder shared for you?

For future meetings:

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New Actions:

- Approval of November Minutes
 - Approved

DCYF Guest, Naomi Thyme MAAFPCWDA Presentation:

Presentation will be sent out in minutes.

Questions:

- Is there a margin of error that the law considers?
 - This is a tough question. The State does not have a definition for “disproportionate enough;” we currently trust the data we have, but it will be interesting to see how this law affects the numbers we currently have and see.
- Why is the age of disability 5 and over?
 - We are using the groups from the census data, which are viewed as 5 and over. From these 5 and over data, we will compared these disabilities between CPS and general population. If there are any overrepresentations of these disabilities, they will be counted for MAAFPCWDA regardless of age.
- Do the categories for MAAFPCWDA have a priority order?
 - No. if a child has one or any of these categories under the law, they will qualify under MAAFPCWDA
- What is the purpose of MAAFPCWDA? This seems reactive and not proactive in keeping families out of the system.
 - This law is to help families and communities who are disproportionately in the CPS receive cultural support, active efforts, and to reduce the number of out of home placements.

Annual Report, Review and Approval

Ankit shared screen and we edited it together.

Tonya motions to approve the document with the suggested edits; Ankit seconds.

DCYF Updates; Laura Gapske

No update; will continue to work on getting answers to questions members have on current federal agent presence in Ramsey county and its effects on the CPS.

Ramsey County Updates; David Herrera

MAAFPCWDA continues to move forward. The County finished the case reviews for 2025 in December, which was around 130 cases. The percentage of cases we will take under MAAFPCWDA in 2026 will be 60%.

We have been approved to hire 11 staff for Children Services Review Panel, which will be of help as MAAFPCWDA is worker intensive.

When the panel was discussing a survey creation for Foster Care, there was a potential partnership with DCYF that fell through due to different needs from the Panel and DCYF. We have recently found out that Ramsey County. The Panel would like to have DCYF staff working on this survey to come present.

Safe Passage and Federal Update, Conversation**Announcements/Comments**

- Would be a good idea to have a meeting where we create a "Project Map" for 2026, to work towards a concrete goal.
- Interest in Foster Care payment process