

April 7, 2026, noon-1:30 pm

Chisago County Citizen Review Panel meeting minutes

Attendees: Karlene Smith, Jill Esch, Karen Kennedy, Laurel Dreckman, Laura Gapske, Deb Kerschner, Nancy Grossman, Laurel Dreckman, Heather Scott, Andrea Thompson, and Lorraine Swenson

1. Welcome-Get to know you question (Karen)

2. Recruitment-flyer, double check QR, webpage w/ IT-Karlene

- Nancy will drop off fliers at three locations (wellness center, senior center, and another public location).
- Gapske will post on Chisago County community social media page and drop off a poster at the North Branch Human Services building today.
- Nancy will step down after the June meeting. We will have two seats to fill and recruit to fill as soon as possible.

3. Reconsideration in March (Karlene, Nancy, Karen, and Deb)

- Deb participated in the last reconsideration. She had knowledge of how predatory offender registration impacts parent's that have not committed a sex offense charge. This language can cause a lot of confusion. There are issues for child protection on how this impacts their cases for "threatened sex" which make it look like the maltreatment allegation was sexual abuse. It's still labeled as a predatory offense. It would be helpful if the legislature could address this confusion and statutory language on this topic. There have been two or three other cases like this in the past few years.
- We could offer future educational opportunities or presenter on the process or statutes (sexual abuse definition), Department of Corrections (DOC) processes, and child protection intervention needs for offender registry.

4. Vote Operating Procedures vote (come with opinion and vote)

- Nancy Gross-made a motion to approve updated CRP Operating Procedures; unanimously passed via vote.

5. Presentation from Heather Scott with Chisago County

- Overview of Chisago County Foster Care licensing provided by Heather Scott.
- Foster parents do not have 'custody' of the child and cannot make legal decisions for the child. The County maintains those powers. The agency holds the responsibility to make placing

decisions based on the best interest of the child. The state gives counties authority to license families.

- Licensing requires multiple steps and requirements; often this can take two months, but the state sets a maximum amount of time to finalize it.
- Family members are not automatically made as foster parents because the county has the responsibility.
- Understand licensing process, including any differences for family member licensing.
- Understand any costs, barriers, issues for recruitment and licensing.
- Review current numbers and any identified county needs. (Data will be emailed following the meeting).

6. April Child Abuse Awareness Month subcommittee report with Laurel, Lorraine, Nancy, and Karen

- Distributing materials on child abuse that was specific to Chisago County resources. Outreach at the library, baby blanket, churches, law enforcement, food pantries, schools, and other various locations.
- There were some challenges with connecting with the schools.
- There were great responses from many partners that were reached.
- Zero Abuse Project Prevention Curriculum
- Future ideas for community awareness with a proclamation with the city mayors and/or County Board.

7. Any follow up steps for Foster Care Awareness Month in May

- Briefly mentioned we should look for future ideas for community awareness with a proclamation with the city mayors and/or County Board for this month next year.

8. Stipends amount and reminder of CAPTA funds

Next meeting:

Meeting-Hybrid	Schedule	Date
Chisago County Citizen Review Panel meeting	Every First Tuesday of the Month noon-1:30 pm	May 5, 2026

