

Chisago County Citizen Review Panel 2019 Annual Report

Mission Statement

To provide an opportunity for citizens to play a role in insuring children are protected from abuse and neglect, and to encourage and help build nurturing homes for children in our communities.

Panel Members

Traci Besch, resigned in April 2019

Sarah Kerkes, joined in June 2019

Bethany Kozel

Cheryl Jelinek

Sara Smit

Meetings

The Citizen Review Panel met eleven times for the year of 2019. Three meetings were held at the Chisago County Public Health building, in North Branch, Minnesota. Seven meetings took place at the Chisago County Government Center in Center City, Minnesota. One meeting was cancelled due to weather.

Activities

- April 2019 – Child Abuse Prevention Month materials were posted in public places and provided to various entities throughout the county. Sara Smit attended a QPI learning session and a presentation of the Collaborative Safety process. Received update from Public Health regarding use of educational dolls (2017 project)
- September 2019 – Presentation to North Branch Lions club regarding panel activities and search for new members
- October 2019 – Foster Care provider survey development begins; Presentation to Chisago Lakes Rotary club regarding panel activities and search for new members
- The Chisago County Citizen Review Panel participated in 8 redeterminations

2019 Project

In the spring of 2019, the Chisago County Citizen Review Panel sought to saturate the local area with information on Child Abuse Prevention. Materials were displayed at local libraries and various businesses. Fliers were also distributed to local social service providers, shopping areas, and churches. While some of the materials were purchased from a national distributor, others were compiled by panel members using existing information and images. An article was also published in a local newspaper.

An online survey is currently being developed as a follow-up to the foster parent focus group that occurred in June 2018. The survey questions will address the experience of foster care providers

especially related to having the preparation and tools necessary to successfully care for children in their home as well as a beneficial connection with their county worker. Anticipated completion of the survey document is January 2020 at which point all county licensed non-relative foster care providers will be invited to participate.

Grant funding was used to purchase and print materials to increase awareness of Child Abuse Prevention. Because panel members were unable to attend the annual CRP conference, two county supervisory staff members were able to attend the conference using grant funds.

Looking Ahead

Completion, distribution, and evaluation of the foster care provider survey will take place in 2020. The Chisago County Citizen Review Panel will continue to focus on member recruitment.