

FAMILIES, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

September 11, 2007

Committee Members

In Attendance: Judy Myers, Chair, William Burton, Lois Bronz, Clinton Young, Kenneth Jenkins and Martin Rogowsky.

In Attendance: CEO: Bill Randolph DSS: Nancy Travers Law: Charlene Indelicato, Kitley Cavill DA's Office: Maryanne Luciano, Melissa Benjamin BOL: Legislator Vito Pinto, Neal Rentz, Larry Goldstein, Alyssa Jacobs, Teresa Toscano, Christina Giliberti and Melanie Montalto.

Items Discussed: Agenda item #68, Child Fatality Report, and the Child Fatality Review Team.

Minutes

Chairwoman Myers called the meeting to order at 12:18 p.m.

Moved by Legislator Burton and seconded by Legislator Bronz the minutes of July 24, 2007 passed with a vote of 5-0.

Moved by Legislator Jenkins and seconded by Legislator Burton the minutes of August 14, 2007 passed with a vote of 5-0.

Kitley Cavill of the County Law Department gave a brief overview of the Child Fatality Review Team. The Team Consists of the District Attorney's Office, the Law Department, Department of Social Services, EMS, Victims Assistance, Community Mental Health, OCFS, State Police, officers involved in the case, the ME, and other therapeutic agencies.

The team convenes within ten days of a child fatality to review the specifics of the incident and the procedures that followed. The team also has a standing meeting once a week at the Child Advocacy Center.

County Attorney Charlene Indelicato explained that the main purpose of the team is to focus on the reaction of the County from a fatality and how to improve our services and procedures.

Nancy Travers, Deputy Commissioner of Social Services, invited the Committee to come see the Child Advocacy Center.

The team explained that agenda item number 68, child fatality report # 96-06-013 was the first report that the team prepared. Before the Child Fatality Review Team was formed the State Office of Children and Family Services conducted and wrote the reports which would take approximately two years to complete.

The members of the review team explained the procedures of the team and stated that the team is viewed so highly by the State OCFS that they are bringing another county that is starting a review to observe the Westchester team as a model.

A discussion ensued between the Committee and the members of the Child Fatality Review Team with regards to Committee questions and the specific incident in agenda item number 68. Nancy Travers stated that DSS has seen a large increase in abuse and neglect cases over the past two years due to prior incidents in New York City that received a lot of media attention.

Moved by Legislator Burton and seconded by Legislator Bronz the Committee on Families, Health and Human Services adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

A complete audio recording of the meeting is available for review upon request.