



HAWNY Monthly Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information

Date: Wednesday November 15th, 2023

Time: 3:02 PM - 3:36 PM

Location: Zoom

Attendance (60): Alissa Steele, AloraL, Angela Furmanek, Ashley Matrassi, Bailey Norris, Bianca Logan, C Waters RSI, Caitlin Bauer, Carmen Lozada, Carolyn Brunelle, Carrie Borges, Casisah Gilvin, Celina Bryan, Chris Brown, Christine Slocum, Dan Gordon, Daniella Gallego, Darwin Rosales, Deanna Atkin, Deanna Workman, Diana Proske, Erika McGriff, Gigi Grizanti Cooke, Haley Diagostino, Jada Porebski, Jarrett Steffen, Jean Bennett, Jenifer Kaminsky, Jessica Wence, Jill Mattson, Jody Tassone, John Banas, Jonnie Martin, Joshua Zicarelli, K Lingos, Kathy Leonard, Katrina Cropo, Kexin Ma, Kristin Rivera, Kristin Tanner, Kristina - Harvest House, Larissa Liburd, Little Portion Friary, Maggie Hersee, Maria Pedro, Matt Urban PSH Director, Nate Pyzikiewicz, Phone 1, Ryan Trubits, Samantha Crance, Sara Carlson, Sara Gartland, Sara Pisa, Sarah Poczciwinski, Scott Millspaugh, Stacy Arlain, Stephanie Mejia, Thanh Nguyen, Will Marcy, WYNIL

1. Introduction

2. Guest Speaker- Jessica Wence Assigned Counsel Program

- Erie County Assigned Counsel Program is a program to help individuals who cannot afford representation during legal proceedings by providing mentoring, case conferencing, CLE, and social worker assistance to the client.
- A breakdown of what is considered abuse and neglect in New York along with the standard of removal of a child from a parent or caregiver through evidence and court approval.
- CPS investigation, within 24 hours of receipt of a SCR report, Erie County must begin an investigation, which needs to be completed within 60 days. The investigation must reveal a fair preponderance of the evidence that the abuse or maltreatment is taking place.
- Unfounded reports are maintained at the SCR but are sealed while indicated reports are kept at the SCR until the youngest child named is 28 years old

which may affect a person's ability to obtain employment in childcare, to become a foster parent, or to adopt.

- Currently, there is no requirement that CPS advise the clients of their constitutional rights. Even if a person under CPS investigation knows and asserts their legal right to consult with an attorney, there is no program that provides free legal representation or advice to those who cannot afford an attorney at the investigation stage.
- Individuals rights during a CPS investigation
 - Know the details of the allegation;
 - To speak to an attorney before speaking with CPS;
 - To refuse CPS entrance to their home without a court order
 - To keep their immigration status private
 - To have an interpreter if one is needed
 - To refuse mental health or drug test evaluation without a court order
 - To refuse to have CPS question children without a court order
 - To refuse services recommended by CPS
- When contacted by CPS, people can call 716-846-1181 hotline to consult with a legal advisor to discuss your rights free of charge
- Contact information for Jessica is jwence@assigned.org or 716.368.0429

Full powerpoint slide can be found here:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/11t-9lhYo4Hc6yMAV6tWw2wHPLSSU86XI/edit#slide=id.p1>

3. CoC Updates

- Point In Time
 - HAWNY reminds everyone about the upcoming Point in Time Count (PIT) on the night of Wednesday January 24th, and day of Thursday January 25th, 2024.
 - HAWNY is seeking volunteers to participate in the PIT, if you are interested please sign up here:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSegNsnuYhwLrQzJ1uwHC2eUL55sRbqBK0IBuvj5B-jlNDkaJg/viewform>
- HAWNY Luncheon - Fri, Dec 8, 2023 at Classics V
 - Tickets Available at <https://2023hawnyluncheon.eventbrite.com/>
 - HAWNY still seeking award nominations through HAWNY's website:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/15EUSBCIAcdk4_eYpxK9KO48n-VNsmjD-mzC1iw6QRo/edit
 - Large raffle items have started to be released and will continue over the next month via our website, email, and social media.
- HAWNY announces that the Youth Action Board (YAB) donation drive for the PIT count will be collecting specific items for giveaway bags that will be given away to any individuals encountered during the PIT count. The

donation drive will be on December 15th, at The Exchange at Beverly Gray, which is on 500 Seneca street, 3rd floor.

- Announcement for the Lived Experience Focus group on November 30th from 11am to 1pm at the Salvation Army. The topic of the focus group will be apartment choice and safety. Participants will receive 20 dollars an hour along with a free lunch that will be provided.

4. Community Announcements

- Angela from Soldier On announces that in early 2024, new apartments on Carolina street will be opening for veterans. These apartments are also open to National Guard vets as well, with the apartments all being single units.
- Jean Bennett from on behalf of the coalition announces that the Code Blue shelter is now open at 586 Genesee Street. In addition, the Salvation Army will be opening a second Code Blue location shortly with the hours of operation being from 8pm to 8am. Code Blue is looking for donations of items such as pillows, oatmeal, peanut butter, creamer, syrup, coffee, cereal. These items can be dropped off at RSI at the 66 Englewood Avenue location. For Code Blue alerts, people can text CodeBlueBuffalo to 898-211 to sign up for the text notification or the CodeBlueBuffalo Facebook page.

5. Adjournment