



State of Hawaii Department of Human Services
Social Services Division
Child Welfare Services Branch
810 Richards Street, Suite 400
Honolulu, HI 96813
ATTN: Elladine Olevao

May 28, 2021

Dear Ms. Olevao:

Since its inception, Nā Kupa Alo Ana O Hawai'i Citizen Review Panel has worked collaboratively with Hawaii Child Welfare Services on achieving its goals on behalf of Hawai'i's abused and neglected children. With our sincerest apology for the delay, please find the following report of the Panel's activities for the fiscal year 2019 to 2020.

In Appreciation

The Panel would first like to thank Florence Calderon, Assistant Program Administrator, Program Development, Child Welfare Services' Citizen Review Panel Liaison, for her support to Nā Kupa Alo Ana O Hawai'i. Without her efforts, Nā Kupa Alo Ana O Hawai'i would not be able to accomplish its goals. Florence meets with the Panel monthly to share information regarding Hawai'i's child welfare system and participates in the Panel's discussions. We sincerely appreciate working with Florence, as we continue to build our relationship with the Department.

We would also like to thank the Department's staff for coordinating our travel so that the Panel can be effective in addressing issues and achieving goals.

Mahalo to Office of Hawaiian Affairs for graciously providing us with a beautiful meeting room when Nā Kupa Alo Ana O Hawai'i conducts face-to-face meetings on O'ahu.

Finally, we would like to thank Blake Jones, Program Coordinator of Citizens Review Panels, College of Social Work, University of Kentucky, for his continuing guidance, friendship, and support of Nā Kupa Alo Ana O Hawai'i.

Membership

Chairperson: Monica Ka'auwai, Partners in Development, Kaua'i

Co-Chairperson: Crystal Chong-Wong, Community Partner, Oahu [currently vacant as of the date of this report]

Panelist: Jeny Bissell, Department of Health, Maui

Panelist: Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka, Hale Kipa, O‘ahu

Panelist: Rona Martin, Hawaii Child Welfare Continuous Quality Improvement Project, Maui

Panelist: Marcie Ventura, Department of Education, Maui

Sharie Liden (Department of Education, Lanai), Marci Lopes (Domestic Violence Action Center), Jaqueline Perry (Hawaii Child Welfare Continuous Quality Improvement Project, Maui), and Maylyn Tallett (Department of Health, Hilo) left the panel during the fiscal year 2019-2020.

Summary of Panel Activities

Hawaii Citizen Review Panel Retreat October 10-11, 2019: The retreat was held at the Ala Moana hotel and facilitated by Blake Jones, Program Coordinator of Citizens Review Panels. Blake presented on CRP history, best practices, national trends, and lessons learned from research. Members were led through a SWOT analysis of the Panel by Blake and brainstormed Panel activities and areas of focus for the next fiscal year. Sub-committees were created to start planning for our identified projects: Recruitment and Domestic Violence. Finally, we want to thank you for presenting to the Panel an update on Hawaii’s Child Welfare Services. Three new members (Marci Lopes, Rona Martin, and Marcie Ventura) were able to participate in the retreat, as well as Chair Monica Ka‘auwai, Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka, Sharie Liden, and Jacqueline Perry.

Monthly Meetings: The Panel met on the following dates:

- July 19, 2019 (in-person on O‘ahu)
- August 22, 2019 (via Zoom)
- September 16, 2019 (in-person on O‘ahu)
- October 24, 2019 (via ZOOM)
- November 21, 2019 (in-person on O‘ahu)
- January 23, 2020 (in-person on O‘ahu)
- February 27, 2020 (via Zoom)
- March 13, 2020 (in-person on O‘ahu)

There were no meetings after the March 13, 2020 meeting during the fiscal year 2019-2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CRP National Conference 2020: The conference was to be held June 3-5, 2020 in Ohio and Rona and Florence were scheduled to attend. Marci was the alternate if someone was unable to attend. However, the conference was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Projects

During the CRP Retreat, the Panel identified 2 projects to focus on for the fiscal year 2019-2020: Recruitment and Domestic Violence.

The recruitment sub-committee consisted of Monica, Marcie, Sharie, Jackie, and Crystal. The committee discussed with the general group the membership by-laws possibly reconsidering some of the articles, particularly staggering membership.

The domestic violence sub-committee consisted of Marci, Jaque, Rona, and Jeny. Discussion with the larger group that this topic is not aligned with the PIP and the Panel would need to hone in on what the CRP can actually support, as it relates to domestic violence.

Member Rona Martin brought forth another potential topic of focus for the group to consider. She described a "meditation" or "wellness" room for CWS staff to utilize when they need a break, to decompress, and engage in self-care. Staff wellness is an area of focus on the PIP, so the Panel decided to move forward and explore this option. Rona provided the Panel with articles on the use of these rooms in the workplace to support staff wellness. Florence worked with CWS to determine feasibility of sending out a survey to the staff on their wellness needs and wants.

CRP Recommendation

We offer this following recommendation with the utmost respect and gratitude for all the work you and the department do to keep our keiki safe.

As the "Wellness Room" progresses along to fruition, we hope that the Department supports and welcomes this space where workers are freely allowed to decompress and recharge their day.

Final Thoughts

The Panel looks forward to the continued partnership with the Hawaii Child Welfare Services in order to ensure that families involved in the child welfare system have positive outcomes. We appreciate your support of the Panel's work and the opportunity to enhance the capacity of the Hawaii Child Welfare Services.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns! Thank you!

Sincerely,



Monica Ka'auwai, Chair with



Marcie Ventura, Panelist