



**Citizen Review
Panel
National Directory
of States**

A word from Dr. Jones...



Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present to you the first ever National Citizen Review Panel Directory. This document contains a description of the Citizen Review Panels (CRP) for child protective services throughout the nation. CRPs are groups of citizen volunteers who are federally mandated to evaluate state child protective services and make recommendations for improvement.

The “National Citizen Review Panel Virtual Community” is at www.uky.edu/socialwork/crp and contains training materials, research articles, reports and many other useful tools for CRPs.

I would like to thank my very capable graduate student, Seth Krusich, for his tireless work on this project. I would also like to commend the thousands of citizens who are laboring each day to make a better life for children and families in their corner of the world.

Blake L. Jones, MSW, Ph.D.

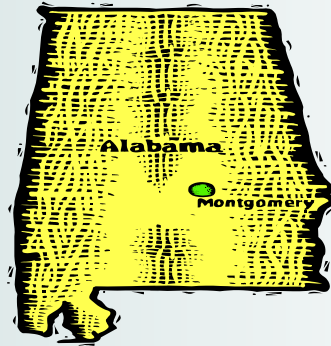
University of Kentucky College of Social Work

Never doubt that a small, dedicated group of citizens can make a difference. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.....

~ Margaret Mead

Contact Information:

Glenda C. Peters
Program Manager
Office of Quality Assurance
Department of Human Resources
50 North Ripley Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130
Glenda.Peters@dhr.alabama.gov



Alabama

Started in: April, 1995

Annual Report Submitted: June

Total Members: Approximately 1000

Brief Description: Alabama began its Quality Assurance System in 1995. When CAPTA required establishment of Citizen Review Panels, Alabama choose to incorporate the requirements into the already established Quality Assurance System, as it contained most of the requirements of the legislation. Alabama has Quality Assurance/Citizen Review Panels in all 67 counties (two panels in Jefferson County, the largest metropolitan area) and a statewide panel to coordinate the information of all the county committees, and to provide direct feedback to the state system as a whole.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Review of children coming into out of home care from open CPS Cases
- Involvement in developing Alabama's Program Improvement Plan from the CFSR
- Completing Quality Service Reviews in each county
- Interviews of stakeholders in each county to provide feedback to the county on system issues

Collecting data and information on the Permanency Outcome, identified as a priority by State Quality Assurance Reviews and the CFSR

Budget Amount and Source: The Committees do not receive a budget. The salary of local QA Coordinators, DHR Staff position, travel, and other expenses are included in the Department's budget. Staff position, travel expenses and flex funds are used for other incidentals.

Contact Information:

Sylvan Robb

Senior Consultant at Information
Insights

Coordinator for Citizen Review
Panel

212 Front Street, Suite 100

Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

(907) 450-2456

sylvan@iialaska.com

Alaska



Started in: 2003

Annual Report Submitted: June 30,
response due from state within 6 months

Total Members: Currently 8, hoping to
add a member from Southwest Alaska

Brief Description: Alaska has one Citizen Review Panel which started around 2003. The Panel has a chair and vice-chair. Staffing is provided through a contract with an outside agency.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Relationship between Office of Children's Services and foster parents
- Relationship between Office of Children's Services and tribal entities

Website: www.crpalaska.org

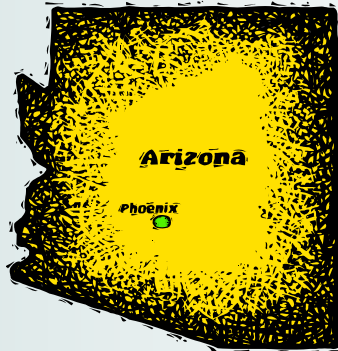
Budget Amount and Source: \$110,000 from state general funds. Information Insights is contracted through Alaska's child welfare agency to provide program coordination.

Other Information: Alaska's CRP got off to a slow start, as initially the Panel received no funding. This made it challenging to serve a state that is equal in size to 20% of the contiguous U.S. There are many challenges trying to serve such a large area, much of which is not connected by roads.

Contact Information:

Therese Neal, MSW
Arizona Dept of Health Services,
Citizen Review Panel Program
150 N. 18th Avenue, #320
Phoenix, AZ 85007-3228
(602) 542-2097
nealt@azdhs.gov

Arizona



Started in: July, 1999

Annual Report Submitted: December 31

Total Members: Approximately 40

Brief Description: Arizona has 3 panels(2 urban and 1 rural) which provide statewide coverage. The Arizona Dept. of Health Services, Child Fatality Review, administers this program through an intergovernmental service agreement with Arizona Dept. of Economic Security (Division of Children, Youth & Families).

Primary activities have included CPS case record reviews, analysis of current and proposed policy and legislation related to child protective services, review of programs within DCYF, and developing recommendations for changes in Child Protective Services' policies and procedures.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Identify cases that are examples of both exemplary, in accordance with state and federal policies, and unsatisfactory casework to be used for training purposes
- Develop a plan with the Department of Economic Security to assist with reviews of draft policy and procedural changes
- Assess the impact and implementation of previous years' recommendations to the Department of Economic Security
- Program staff will assist the Citizen Review Panels with an effectiveness evaluation of the program, including members' satisfaction with the program

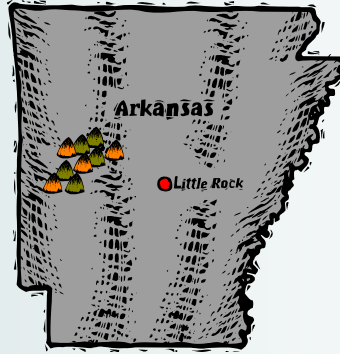
Website: www.azdhs.gov/phs/owch/crp.htm

Budget Amount and Source: \$50,000 from CAPTA money. The Arizona Department of Health Services is contracted through the Arizona Department of Economic Security, the state's child welfare agency, to provide program coordination.

Contact Information:

Wilma Tatum, DCFS Program Administrator
Division of Children and Family Services
700 Main Street
P.O. Box 1437, Slot S569
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-1437
Telephone: 501-682-8992
Fax: 501-683-1664
Wilma.j.Tatum@Arkansas.gov

Arkansas

**Started in:** 1999**Annual Report Submitted:** June 30**Total members:** 34

Brief Description: Arkansas has 3 Citizen Review Panels which were started in 1999. The Panels cover Ouachita, Jefferson and Carroll counties.

Each panel has a coordinator who is responsible for convening the panel in their respective counties. The coordinator submits an annual report, including recommendations, to the Division of Children and Family Services. Recommendations are reviewed by State staff and responses are developed with the Area Managers in each county.

Citizen Review Panel Coordinator contacts:

Sherrie Bell, CRP Coordinator, Ouachita County

s.bell_98@yahoo.com

Brenda Goode, CRP Coordinator, Jefferson County

bgoode@cablelynx.com

Dr. Merlin Leach, CRP Coordinator, Carroll County

drleach@merlinfoundation.com

Sample of Current/Work Projects/Focus:

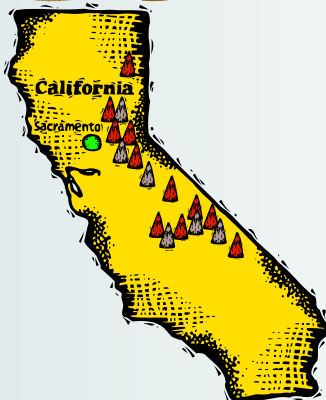
- Case specific reviews/investigations
- Fatalities and near fatalities due to child maltreatment
- Domestic Violence
- Developing awareness campaigns-- foster homes and placement facilities
- Multi-disciplinary Team Protocol / Citizen Review Panel training

Budget Amount and Source: \$27,000 from CAPTA funds. The Citizen Review Panels are contracted through the Arkansas Division of Children and Family Services to provide program coordination.

Contact Information:

Theresa Contreras, Chief
Office of Child Abuse Prevention
744 P Street, MS 11-82
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 651-6960
theresa.contreras@dss.ca.gov

California



Started in: July, 1999

Annual Report Submitted: June 30

Total Members: 23

Brief Description: California has two county-based Citizen Review Panels (Calaveras County and San Mateo County) and a statewide Citizen Review Panel that is called "California's Citizen Review Panel".

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- The Calaveras CRP recommendations addressed local child welfare staff training needs, Parent Partner Services, Use of the Family Group Decision Making and continuing to provide support services for re-unified children
- The San Mateo County CRP recommendations requested training to clarify the county Team Decision Making (TDM) goal-setting process, requested to review all county re-entry cases, supported increasing the use of parent partners and recommended the expansion and use of a new parent education curriculum
- The California CRP participated in the development of California's Child & Family Services Plan (%-year Title IV Plan 2005-2009) and subsequent Annual Progress and Services Reports, participated on the state's Child & Family Services Review stakeholder consultation process and collaborated with the San Mateo and Calaveras CRPs

Website: The Panels are in the process of establishing websites that are anticipated to become active in July of 2008.

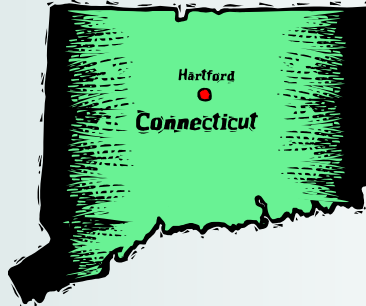
Budget Amount and Source: \$50,000 from State General Funds. The California Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention, administers and coordinates the Project.

Other Information: The California Child Welfare System is state supervised and county administered. There are 58 counties in California.

Contact Information:

Kimberly Nilson
Department of Children & Families
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, CT 06106
kimberly.nilson@ct.gov

Connecticut



Started in: 1999

Total Membership: Based on topic

Basic Information: The following groups are serving as Connecticut's Citizen Review Panels:

1. The State Advisory Council on Children and Families
2. FAVOR – coordinates two of the state's CRP's.

Membership in each group is based on topic - areas of interest to panel members.

The State Advisory Council on Children and Families (SACS) is legislatively mandated to meet on a quarterly basis and has functioned as a Citizen Review Panel for many years. Council members are appointed by the Governor and have a variety of experiences/ backgrounds. Many of these members are previous consumers of the agency and can provide feedback to the department relative to their experiences. The Council is responsible to review policies, the annual budget, evaluate DCF practices and make legislative changes to the Commissioner that would improve services for children and youth.

There a number of parent advocacy groups in the state designed to review our practices specifically in the areas of behavioral health. FAVOR is a statewide Family Advocacy Organization for Children's Mental Health. Their mission is to enhance mental health services for children with serious emotional disorders by increasing the availability, accessibility, cultural competence and quality of mental health services for children through Family Advocacy. Their organization coordinates both panels, collaborates with Area Advisory Councils that have been established statewide and has broadened their focus and responsibilities to fulfill the requirements of Citizen Review Panels for the past several years.

Budget Amount and Source: Stipends (transportation and daycare) are provided to encourage and support family participation. These stipends are funded out of the CAPTA grant.

Contact Information:

Allison McDowell
Office of the Child Advocate
900 King Street, Suite 210
Wilmington, DE 19801
(302)255-1730
Allison.McDowell@state.de.us

Delaware

**Started In:** 2004**Annual Report Submitted:** Fall**Total Members:** Approximately 19

The Child Protection Accountability Commission (CPAC) was statutorily created in 1997, but assumed Citizen Review Panel responsibilities in 2004 when Delaware's Department for Children, Youth and Their Families designated CPAC as Delaware's Citizen Review Panel for the purpose of meeting CAPTA requirements.

Brief Description: CPAC fulfills its duties by holding quarterly meetings to facilitate multi-disciplinary dialogue among the various state child welfare agencies and other system stakeholders. In these meetings, policy review, problem-identification and decision-making occur. Numerous subcommittees have been formed to manage and address the emerging issues, trends and problems identified at CPAC meetings. CPAC's subcommittees meet between CPAC meetings and throughout the year, as may be required. The Commission and its subcommittees then work together with their system partners to bring about the necessary reforms.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Caseloads/Workloads of Delaware's Child Protection Agency and its System Partners
- Extended Jurisdiction
- Multidisciplinary Training
- ASFA Timelines

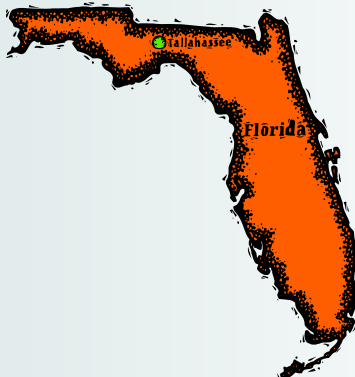
Website: www.courts.delaware.gov/childadvocate/html/cpac.htm

Budget Amount and Source: \$0

Contact Information:

Johana P. Hatcher
Department of Children and Families
Office of Family Safety
1317 Winewood Blvd., Bldg. 6 Room 168
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0700
Direct Line: 850-488-1929
Cell: 850-251-7007
Fax: 850-414-8691

Florida



Annual Report Submitted: June 30 or December 31

Total Members: Approximately 10-30

Brief Description: Florida's designated Citizen Review Panels are listed below. Each panel submits an annual review report with recommendations for improved service delivery, outcomes, and system of care modifications. Each Panel has a Chairperson who is responsible for assisting the Panel members in following through with their annual goals.

- Citizen's Foster Care Review Board of Collier County Inc.;
- State Child Abuse Death Review Team (CADRT), and
- Foster Care Review, Inc.

The Florida's Task Force on Children's Justice has recently become involved as a designated Citizen Review Panel. Most recently, the Florida Task Force on Child Protection is under consideration as a designated Citizen Review Panel.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Racial Disparity in out of home care
- Review of training curriculum for beginning frontline workers
- Relationship between child protective services and spouse abuse shelters
- How social workers use child advocacy centers
- Relationship of frontline workers and school social workers
- Examine the gaps currently existing in Florida's child protection system, including efforts at reunification, stabilization and permanency during foster care, and supervision.

Websites:

<http://www.fgcu.edu/connect/volswfl/orgdetail.asp?id=97>

<http://www.flcadr.org/>

<http://www.fostercarereview.org/default.asp?PageNum=172>

<http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/admin/childSafety/index.shtml>

Other Information: The Florida Department of Children and Families is the designated lead agency for the Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA) federal grant. The Office of Family Safety functions as a central program office serving the entire state of Florida. The functions of the Office of Family Safety include oversight, technical assistance, policy and statute clarification, data collection and analysis and the allocation of funds.

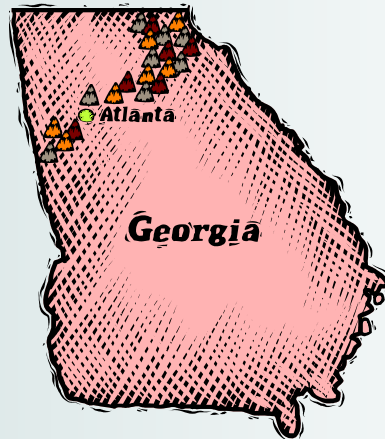
The Office of Family Safety has received three reports as of June 2007 for the FFY 2005-2006. The reports are from the State Child Abuse Death Review Team (CADRT), Miami/Dade Foster Care Review Report, and Citizen Foster Care Review Board of Collier County, Inc.

Contact Information:

Ann D. Pope
DHR/DFCS Liaison
2 Peachtree St., 18th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-657-3306

Deb Farrell
CAPTA CRP Project Coordinator
c/o Care Solutions, Inc.
500 Sugar Mill Road, Suite 170A
Atlanta, GA 30350

Georgia



Annual Report Submitted: January 31

Total Members: 40-50

Brief Description: Georgia utilizes three statewide committees to serve as Citizen Review Panels: Child Protective Services Advisory Committee (CPSAC), Children's Justice Act Advisory Committee (CJAAC) and Child Fatality Review Panel (CFRP). The CPSAC, originally established to review CPS policy, was re-established in 2006 to function as a CAPTA Citizen Review Panel. The CJAAC was established in 1993 as a multi-disciplinary task force on children's justice to improve the handling of cases of child abuse and neglect. Georgia legislation established the CFRP in 1990-1993 and it is charged with compiling and reviewing child fatalities and making recommendations based on data collected. Effective January 2008, functions of the CFRP will be carried out by Georgia's Office of the Child Advocate.

Sample of Current Work/Projects/Focus

- Examination of CPS policy, protocols and practice for state's alternative/differential response system
- Identification and assessment of state's child abuse and neglect prevention activities and resources, and development of a statewide prevention plan
- Review current multi-disciplinary training: curriculum evaluations
- Review policy, protocols and practice on "diligent search" for placement resources and "reasonable efforts" to preserve and reunify families prior to termination of parental rights

Website: In development

Contact Information:

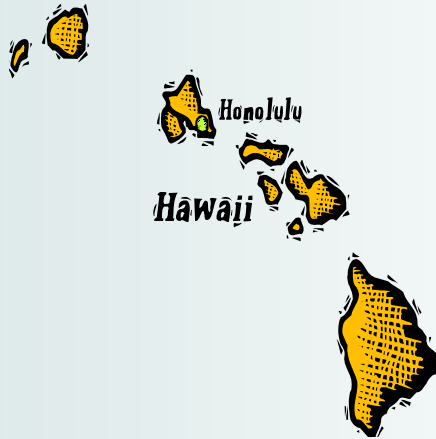
Scott Seto

(Chairperson is on a monthly rotational basis)

1885 Main Street, Room 306

Wailuku, HI 96793

Hawaii



Started in: 2000

Annual Report Submitted: June 30

Total Members: 11

Brief Description: Hawaii currently has one Citizen Review Panel on the Tri-Isle County of Maui, which was started in 2000 with the plan to form 2 more CRPs by the end of the year. The Panel covers the Maui Tri-Isle County Child Welfare Services Unit, including the islands of Lanai and Molokai.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Continued improvement in the DHS/CWS sections to prevent multiple placements and to validate effective practices through a survey questionnaire/feedback from exiting foster/resources families
- Hawaii's children eligible for adoption will have permanent placement timely and appropriately by having all eligible children listed and profiled on the AdoptUSKids website
- Improve provision of CWS services and support to the state's program implementation plan (PIP) through the resurrection of the Hawaii (Big Island), Kauai and Oahu CRPs
- Increase Foster Board rates and Difficulty of Care payments 5% each year for the next 6 years, to set rates in three age categories (0-5, 6-12 and 13-18) and tie future increases to the Consumer Price Index
- Timely screening, recruitment and hiring of eligible candidates; and reducing workforce vacancies through an exploration of a feasibility study to decentralize the Personnel/Recruitment Department
- All foster youth children exiting the CWS/Family Court System will have a smooth transition to the community through the development and implementation of a transition plan
- Increase Maui CRP's knowledge about the PIP process and outcome evaluation (i.e. Central Intake process, Kinship Policy) through ongoing open communication between DHS and Maui CRP

Other Information: The Maui Child Welfare Services Unit provides air/boat and ground transportation for the Lanai and Molokai Panel Members to attend the monthly Maui CRP meetings. The Maui CWS Unit also provides clerical support for all Maui CRP activities. The State Department of Human Services Child Welfare Services Branch is committed to facilitate and empower other communities/islands in Hawaii to strengthen Citizen Review Panels by increasing the number of panels from one to three by the year's end of 2008.

Contact Information:

Diane Helton

Family and Children's Services

Idaho Dept. of Health and Welfare

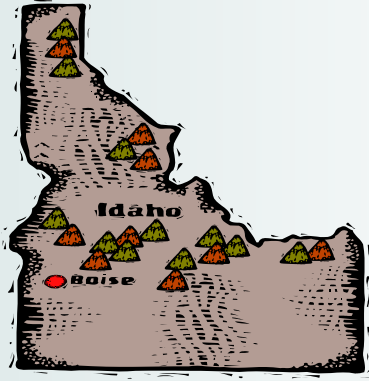
450 West State Street, 5th Floor

Boise, ID 83720

(208) 334-4932

heltond@dhw.idaho.gov

Idaho



Started in: 1995

Annual Report Submitted: November

Total Members: Approximately 60

Brief Description: Idaho has seven regional Citizen Review Panels which were started as independent panels in 1995. The Panels cover the Children and Family Services Program for the seven regions. Idaho Panels chose the name "Keeping Children Safe Panel" for Idaho's citizen review panels.

Each regional panel has a Chairperson or Co-Chairpersons who are responsible for assisting the panel members in following through with their annual goals. Goals are developed during a fall retreat each year.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Reviewing the child welfare system and making recommendations
- Participating in the Child and Family Services Review for the state
- Participating in local child fatality reviews
- Administering Operation Suitcase and Operation Pillowcase in 2 regions
- Participating in regional and statewide Continuous Quality Improvement Reviews
- Recommending strategies for staff retention and continuity
- Advocating for foster care services and children in foster care
- Conducting a child care survey to understand the need for child care during non-traditional hours
- Looking into funding for foster young adults to attend college
- Reviewing child welfare cases

Website: <http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/site/3333/default.aspx>

Budget Amount and Source: Approximately \$20,000 from CAPTA.

Contact Information:

Cheryl R. Peterson, Ph.D.

Department of Children and Family
Services

10 W. 35th Street, 10th Floor

Chicago, IL 60616

312-328-2123

cheryl.peterson@illinois.gov

Illinois



Started in: July, 1999

Annual Report Submitted: September 30

Total Members: Between 70 and 80

Brief Description: Illinois has four statewide Citizen Review Panels comprised of 1) the Children and Family Services Advisory Council, 2) the Statewide Citizens' Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect, 3) the Children's Justice Task Force and 4) the Child Death Review Teams Executive Council. The panels were formed from advisory groups that were already dedicated to examining the policies and practices of the Illinois DCFS Division of Child Protection. The four panels meet bi-monthly or quarterly and are actively engaged in researching child abuse cases and making recommendations to improve child protection policies across the state.

Each panel has a chairperson and vice-chairperson who are members of the Citizen Review Panels Steering Committee. Other members of the Steering Committee include DCFS Administrators and Coordinators within the divisions of Child Protection and Program Operations. The CRP Steering Committee meets twice a year to share information, set goals, and assess the progress of previous recommendations.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Requirements and accessibility of training for mandated reporters
- Impact of methamphetamine and other drug use on child abuse/neglect
- Expansion of children's advocacy centers to coordinate investigations of physical abuse
- Medical experts to assist DCFS and Law Enforcement with abuse investigations
- Training of frontline staff –DCFS and private agencies—in risk assessment
- Coordination of services to youth in detention or correctional facilities

Website: Citizen Review Panel Reports are available in the Library section of the Illinois DCFS website: www.il.state.us/dcfs

Budget Amount and Source: No specific budget for Citizen Review Panels. Each panel has state funding for travel reimbursement and in-state conference attendance up to about \$10,000 each per year. CAPTA funding is used for panel members/coordinators to attend the National CRP Conference or to support special initiatives for improving child safety and protection.

Contact Information:

Tiffany A. Mitchell
CAPTA Program Manager
402 West Washington Street, E306
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317. 234-5081 (W)
317. 518-9092 (C)
317. 234.4497 (Fax)
Tiffany.Mitchell@dcs.in.gov

Indiana



Started in: July, 2006

Annual Report Submitted: June 30

Total Members: Approximately 34

Brief Description: Indiana has three Citizen Review Panels which are all comprised of already established working groups. These groups are the Wabash County Child Protection Team, the State Fatality Review Committee and the Foster Parent Advisory Board. The Panels represent various perspectives within multidisciplinary teams that focus on the greatest need for improvement of the Indiana child welfare system.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Advocating and pushing legislation for above-ground pool safety requirements
- Education and collaboration of reporting child abuse and neglect with schools and health care professionals (i.e. how to report, when to report, mandated reporters, etc.)
- Regional child fatality specialists
- Education and advocacy for safe sleeping practices
- Medical response to child safety (i.e. uniformity and referral for head trauma)
- Updated Foster Parent Resource Handbook

Website: www.dcs.in.gov

Budget Amount and Source: N/A

Contact Information:

Tricia Barto

Department of Human Services

Child & Family Services

Hoover State Office Building, 5th floor

1305 E Walnut

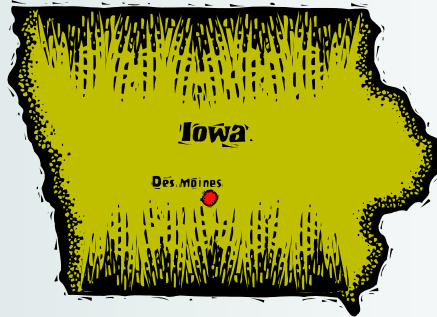
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Tele. (515) 281-8726

Fax (515) 242-6884

pbarto@dhs.state.ia.us

Iowa



Started in: 1999

Brief Description: Iowa has one statewide and three regional Citizen Review Panels. The Statewide Citizen Review Panel, The Child Protection Council, is centrally located in Des Moines. The three regional Citizen Review Panels are located throughout the state. Bridges, an Iowa/Illinois Family Violence Coalition, is in Davenport, which is located in the eastern part of the state. The Cerro Gordo County Family Violence Response Team is located in northern Iowa in Mason City. The Northwest Iowa Citizen Review Panel represents the western side of Iowa and meets in Sioux City.

The membership of the State Citizen Review Panel is comprised of a multidisciplinary group of persons from across Iowa who are involved in Iowa's child protection system. The membership of the three Regional Citizen Review Panels represents a broad range of community members who have expertise in the child abuse and treatment field along with local citizens who have interests in the child abuse area.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Drug Endangered Children
- Review of Child Protection Training Curriculum
- Domestic Violence and Children
- Native American Children in Iowa's Child Welfare System

Budget Amount and Source: None

Contact Information:

Jane Meschberger

Children and Family Services

Department of Social & Rehabilitation
Services

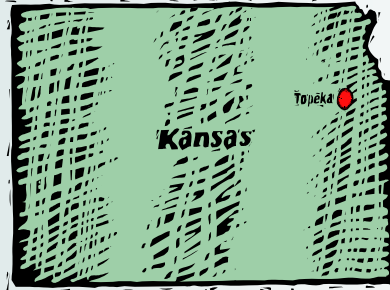
915 SW Harrison, 5th Floor North

Topeka, KS 66612-1570

(785) 368-8190

Jane.Meschberger@srs.ks.gov

Kansas



Started in: July, 1999

Annual Report Submitted: June 30

Total Members: Approximately 50

Brief Description: Kansas has three statewide Citizen Review Panels which were started as independent panels in July, 1999. The Panels are the Kansas Child Death Review Board, the Kansas Child Welfare Quality Improvement Council and the Kansas Child Safety and Permanency Review Panel.

Each Panel has a Chairperson and Assistant Chairperson who are responsible for leading the quarterly Panel meetings and separately scheduled subcommittee meetings that research special topics. Recommendations from the Panels to the State agency are charted and disposition noted. Research topics are suggested annually by the State agency and research is carried out by the Panels. Panels also choose other topics to study.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Child Protective Services Policy and Procedure
- Child and Family Services Review Oversight
- Child Death and near Death Investigations
- Statewide Child Advocacy Center promotion
- Foster Care Placement Stability research

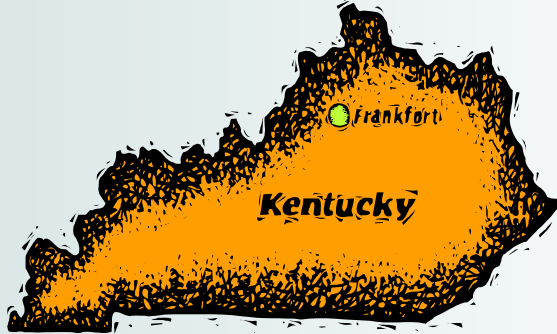
Website: www.srskansas.org/CFS/

Budget Amount and Source: Panels are unpaid volunteer organizations. Many members are paid through their regular employer. Family members have expenses reimbursed by the State agency. The State agency provides staff support for Panel business.

Contact Information:

Blake L. Jones, Ph.D.
University of Kentucky
1 Quality St.
Lexington, Kentucky 40507
(859) 257-7210
Bljone00@uky.edu

Kentucky



Started in: July, 1999

Annual Report Submitted: June 30

Total Members: Approximately 80

Brief Description: Kentucky has five regional Citizen Review Panels which were started as independent panels in July, 1999. The Panels cover the Department for Community Based Services regions of The Lakes, Northeastern, Eastern Mountain, Jefferson and Southern Bluegrass (see <http://chfs.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/432EC8F4-01EE-4551-BEF8-DO25F1C5B271/0/DCBSmap1107.pdf>)

Each Panel has a Chairperson who is responsible for assisting the Panel members in following through with their annual goals. Goals are developed during a Fall retreat each year.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Racial disparity in out of home care
- Review of training curriculum for beginning frontline workers
- Relationship between child protective services and spouse abuse shelters
- How social workers use child advocacy centers
- Relationship of frontline workers and school social workers

Website: www.uky.edu/socialwork/trc

Budget Amount and Source: \$83,000 from CAPTA money. The University of Kentucky is contracted through Kentucky's child welfare agency to provide program coordination.

Other Information: The University of Kentucky College of Social Work has become the "hub" for organizing Citizen Review Panels nationally, coordinating several national conferences, producing research and tips sheets, providing technical assistance and maintaining the "National Citizen Review Panel Virtual Community" at www.uky.edu/socialwork/crp

Contact Information:

Marcia J. Daniel, MSW, LCSW

DSS/OCS

627 Nth 4th St.

Baton Rouge, LA 70802

225.342.9141

Mdaniel@dss.state.la.us

Louisiana



Started in: July, 1999

Annual Report Submitted: at the end of the fiscal year

Brief Description: Louisiana has 5 regional/parish Citizen Review Panels which began their formation in 1999. The impact of storms Katrina and Rita dramatically limited the availability of community members for involvement and the number of functioning panels reduced. Currently, they are working to reactivate and a new one is forming, providing Louisiana with 6 panels.

Sample of Current or Recent Past Projects/Discussions:

- Education of Mandated Reporters Campaign
- Focus on Recruitment/Retention of Foster Parents
- Coordinate Services of Katrina/Rita survivors
- Development of a legislative liaison to advocate for fewer budget cuts affecting child welfare
- Congregate care of children

Contact Information:

Vickie J. Fisher, LSW

University of Southern Maine, Muskie

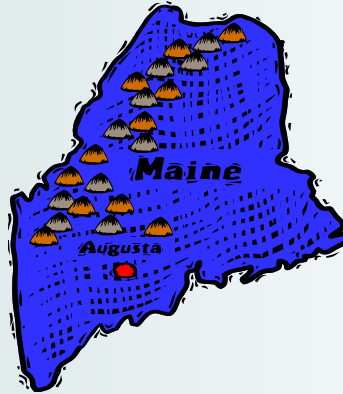
45 Commerce Drive, Suite 11

Augusta, Maine 04330

(207) 626-5256

vfisher@usm.maine.edu

Maine



Started in: in the development stage as of 9/07

Annual Report Submitted: N/A

Total Members: Approximately 16

Brief Description: Maine has just begun the development of a separate Citizen Review Panel. In past years the Child Abuse Action Network (CIA task force) and the Child Death & Serious Injury Review Panel worked together as the Citizen Review Panel to make recommendations to the child welfare system in the state. It was determined in June 2007 that though this had worked well, it would make sense to develop a separate panel. It is hoped that this panel will be fully operational in the fall of 2008. A mission and by-laws have been established.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus

- Development of a mission, by-laws, membership and orientation curriculum

Website: www.maineaan.usm.maine.edu

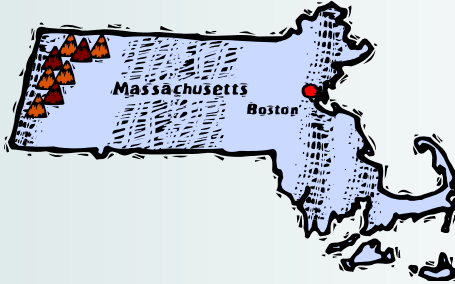
Budget Amount and Source: Currently there is no budget for the CRP

Other Information: Maine is required to have one panel.

Contact Information:

Liz Skinner-Reilly
MA Department of Social Services
24 Farnsworth Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02210
(617) 748-2350
Liz.Skinner-Reilly@state.ma.us

Massachusetts



Started in: July 1999

Annual Report submitted: June 30

Total Members: Approximately 60

Brief Description: Massachusetts has three citizen participation groups which serve as the Department's Citizen Review Panels, each with different foci that serve the needs of children, youth and families throughout the Commonwealth. Each group has a coordinator who is responsible for assisting members in attaining their goals and preparing recommendations on an annual basis.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- The DSS Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) provides interdisciplinary review of complex cases and systemic issues involving these cases and advises the Department on Child protection issues, quality case practice and resource needs identification
- The DSS Family Advisory Committee meets with the DSS Commissioner and other Department staff on a quarterly basis to advise the Department in a number of areas, including staff training and support, building good rapport with communities, developing informational materials that are user friendly, putting core values into practice, and recruiting and retaining neighborhood-based foster homes
- The Statewide Child Fatality Review Team reviews and evaluates child fatalities and the child fatality reporting system, and makes recommendations relative to their findings to ensure the safety and the appropriate placement of children in need of aide
- The above citizen participation groups identify systems issues, barriers and trends, and develop recommendations for improving case practice, policy, training, service delivery and coordination

Web Site: N/A

Budget Amount and Source: A combination of state and federal funds are used to support the activities and efforts of these groups.

Other Information: For more information about the Massachusetts Department of Social Services see www.mass.gov/dss.

Contact Information:

Colleen Nelson, LMSW
Department of Human Services
Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice
235 S. Grand Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 335-6119

NelsonC7@michigan.gov

Sarah Davis
Children's Trust Fund
235 S. Grand Ave. Suite 1411
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 335-7770

daviss11@michigan.gov

Michigan

Shannon Stotenbur-Wing, MSW

Program Director

Child and Adolescent Health

Michigan Public Health Institute

2440 Woodlake Circle, Suite 150

Okemos, MI 48864

(517) 324-7353

Fax: (517) 324-7365

swing@mphi.org



Started in: June, 1999

Annual Report Submitted: March 31

Total Members: Approximately 50

Brief Description: Michigan has three Citizen Review Panels which were established with membership from three existing citizen advisory committees: the Children's Trust Fund of Michigan (CTF), the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice (GTF) (Children's Justice Act) and the State Child Death Advisory Team (CDAT). The panels are the Citizen Review Panel for Prevention (from CTF), Citizen Review Panel for Children's Protective Services, Foster Care and Adoption (from GTF) and Citizen Review Panel on Child Fatalities (CDAT).

Each Panel has a coordinator and chairperson who are responsible for assisting the panel members in following through with their annual goals.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect
- Policy and law recommendations based on findings of child fatality case review
- Working with other state CRP's to utilize current funding streams
- Reviewing and revising a common definition of child abuse/neglect prevention
- Compiling a database of past CRP for Prevention recommendations to track outcomes and needs
- Reviewing the state's prevention needs in relation to child welfare activities to determine where to focus the efforts of the recently reestablished Prevention Panel

Website: No specific website for CRPs, though some information regarding their work can be found on the GTF site at www.michigan.gov/gtfcj and MPHI at www.mphi.org.

Budget Amount and Source: Some funding available from the Children's Justice Act for the Citizen Review Panel for Children's Protective Services, Foster Care and Adoption. This funding is provided on an as needed basis. No monetary appropriation dedicated to the Child Fatality Review Team. Funds are used from a current state contract to provide for staff time to conduct fatality review meetings. No monetary appropriation is dedicated to the Prevention Panel. CTF provides staff support and also funds the resources used by and for the Prevention Panel.

Contact Information:

Anita Keyes

Minnesota Department of Human Services

P.O. Box 64943

St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0943

(651) 431-4704

Anita.keyes@state.mn.us

Minnesota



Started in: October, 1999

Annual Report Submitted: June 30

Total Members: Approximately 50

Brief Description: As of January 2007, Minnesota has four Citizen Review Panels (CRP): Chisago, Ramsey, Washington and Winona Counties. There is a volunteer citizen facilitator of the statewide CRP Steering Committee that also includes the chair and a vice-chair from each panel. The steering committee meets twice a year and each panel meets monthly. All four panels gather for a training and recognition event annually.

The Minnesota Department of Human Services employs a consultant to coordinate the Citizen Review Panels. Each county's child protection agency provides a liaison to their CRP. The annual reports are submitted to the regional federal Health and Human Services. In February and March the annual reports are presented to local county social service agencies, to the county boards of commissioners and to the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Program Improvement Plans
- Child Welfare Financing
- Administrative reviews of children in foster care
- Requests for reconsideration of maltreatment findings
- Independent living skills resources
- All-family foster care
- Relative child care givers
- The response to reports of child abuse or neglect for children with disabilities
- A forum to educate the public about the child protection system
- National Child Protection Training Center at Winona State University.

Website: <http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?>

[IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=id_000155](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=id_000155)

Scroll to bottom of web page to link with CRP annual reports

Budget Amount and Source: Each county social services agency with a CRP is eligible to receive \$3,000 each year of CAPTA funds for Panel operating costs and panel members' reimbursements. CAPTA dollars fund one FTE to coordinate the panels, provide for administrative costs and for one annual all panel members' training/recognition event.

Other Information: Please join us for the Seventh Annual National Citizen Review Panel Conference to be held in St. Paul, Minnesota on May 21, 22, 23, 2008.

Contact Information:

Tricia Shannon
Mississippi Department of Human Services
Division of Family and Children's Services
750 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39201
(601) 359-4999
pshannon@mdhs.state.ms.us

Mississippi



Started in: July, 1999

Annual Report Submitted: June 30

Total Members: No less than 10 members
and no more than 18 members

Brief Description: The Mississippi Citizen Review Panel is charged with evaluating state child welfare systems and making suggestions for improvement. This Panel is interested in promoting greater citizen involvement in programs and policies associated to the well-being of children which is based on policy goals related to pragmatic and community-focused objectives.

Panel membership is comprised of (1) providers of services to abused and neglected children and families, and (2) local citizens, including consumers of the Child Protective Services system such as foster parents, former foster children, adoptive parents, parents, interested business and civic representatives, educators and members of the community at large.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Examining the policies and procedures of state and local agencies to include the type and extent of social services available for children and families
- Review the relationship among agencies (court, law enforcement and schools)
- Evaluate state standards relative to information for maintaining effective programs
- Review and give comment for the Child and Family Service Plan, Annual Progress Service Report and Program Improvement Plan

Website: www.mdhs.state.ms.us/fcs_citizen.htm

Other Information: The Division of Family and Children's Services is the central location for the Citizen Review Panel for Mississippi. The Citizen Review Panel continues to assist this agency in moving toward its goals to provide safety, permanency, and well-being for the children in the state of Mississippi.

Contact Information:

Bonnie Washeck
Deputy Director-Children's Division
615 Howerton Court
Jefferson City, Mo. 65109
573-751-8927 office
573-526-3971 fax
314-223-1136 cell

Meliny Staysa, MSW
Child Fatality Review Program Panel
Task Force on Children's Justice Panel
Program Development Specialist
Children's Division
PO Box 88
Jefferson City, MO 65103-0088
(573) 522-8620
Meliny.J.Staysa@dss.mo.gov

Missouri

Martha Witt
Child Abuse/Neglect Review Board Panel
Children's Division
P. O. Box 88
Jefferson City, Missouri 65103
(573) 526-3174
Martha.S.Witt@dss.mo.gov

Established: August of 1994, August of 1991 and 1994, respectively

Annual Report Submitted: Each Fiscal Year for CANRB & TFCJ; 12 months following the end of the calendar year of review for CFRP

Total Members: 75



Brief Description: Missouri's Citizen Review Panels consist of three entities: The Child Abuse/Neglect Review Board (CANRB), the Child Fatality Review Program (CFRP) and the Task Force on Children's Justice. There are currently four CANRB panels, each consisting of nine members who are appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate. The CANRB was established to provide an independent administrative review of child abuse/neglect determinations when the alleged perpetrator disagrees with the "Preponderance of the Evidence" finding of the Children's Division.

The CFRP meets at minimum bi-annually to provide oversight and make recommendations to the Dept. of Social Services' state technical assistance team. Additionally, local Child Fatality Review Teams meet routinely throughout the year, to review individual fatality cases. The composition of the CFRP mirrors that of the county panels: each multidisciplinary profession is represented by a recognized leader in the respective discipline.

The Task Force on Children's Justice was established by the Children's Division with a mission to benefit and enhance children's lives by recommending improvement of child abuse and neglect laws, policies, programs, professional education and public awareness, and to provide funding to support these recommendations. It meets at least quarterly, and provides recommendations on an ongoing basis to the Children's Division and to the Office of State Courts Administrator.

Each panel selects a chairperson, who is responsible for presiding at each review and assuring that due process procedures are followed.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Number of requests
- Geographic area of requests
- Results of reviews
- Composition of the boards
- Necessary amendments of the rules

Website: www.gov.mo.gov/boards ; <http://www.dss.mo.gov/stat/sp.htm> ; <http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/cjtf/index.htm>

Budgets: CANRB, CFRP and Task Force members volunteer their services and their expenses are reimbursed by the State of Missouri, Children's Division.

Contact Information:

Robin Suzor, Grant Manager

CJA; CAN; (CBCAP) Montana's Children's Trust Fund; Domestic Violence

DPHHS Child & Family Services Division

1400 Broadway-Cogswell Bldg Rm. C123

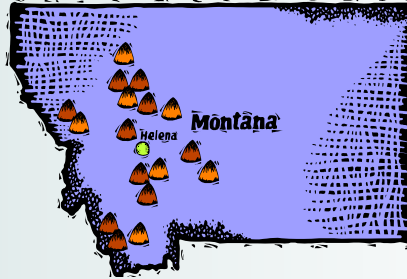
PO Box 8005

Helena MT 59604

(406) 444- 5903

Fax: (406) 444-5956

Montana



Annual Report submitted: June 30

Total Members: 20

Brief Description and Membership: The statewide Child and Family Services Advisory Council is acting as Montana's Citizen Review Panel (CRP), as required by Section 106C of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). Presently, the Council is composed of 20 voluntary members who represent a broad spectrum of the communities in which they live and, among other things, have expertise in the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. Members include representatives from state legislature, the legal community, local government, public health, education, foster care/adoption, mental health, hospital services, prevention services, CASA/GA, and citizens-at-large. Seven members are appointed by the Administrator of the Child and Family Services Division (CFSD) and seven members are chairs of their local Child and Family Services Advisory Councils.

The statewide Child and Family Services Advisory Council (and the Citizen Review Panel) is staffed by the Division Administrator, the Management Team (which includes the five Regional Administrators and Bureau Chiefs from the Central Office), and other administrative staff as necessary. In its capacity as the CRP, the Council will be staffed by this group and the CAN Grant Manager to assist and guide its work.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

During the state fiscal year 2006, the Citizen Review Panel addressed five specific concerns:

- Federal mandates and workload
- Court delays
- CAPS System
- Turnover
- Specific policies and practice

Goals are developed annually, usually in February, at the regular quarterly meetings.

Budget: Basic CAN Grant and CJA Grant. Members of the Citizen Review Panel are volunteers or paid CFSD employees. Per Diem expenses are reimbursed with funding from the above grants.

Contact Information:

Shirley Pickens White

Nebraska Department Health & Human
Services

Division of Children and Families

PO Box 95026

Lincoln, NE 68509-5026

(402) 471-9196

Shirley.pickenswhite@dhhs.ne.gov

Nebraska



Started in: July 1999

Annual Report Submitted: June 30

Total Members: 28

Brief Description: The Nebraska Commission for the Protection of Children serves as Nebraska's only Citizen Review Panel. Members are appointed by the Governor and are chosen strategically from across the state by not only their areas of expertise or interest, but also because they play major roles in the child welfare arena.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Response time on reports
- Children in out-of-home placement with a focus on children in the 0-5 age range
- Initial assessment – timeframe for completion
- Recurrence of maltreatment
- Service initiation – how quickly are services put in place for families?
- Safety Intervention – Do we have the right interventions/services in place to control for safety?

Website: None at this time

Budget Amount and Source: \$20,000 from CAPTA money

Other Information: The Nebraska Commission for the Protection of Children also serves as the CJA State's Task Force. The Nebraska Children and Families Foundation provides administrative support.

Contact Information:

Betsey Crumrine, LCSW

Nevada Division of Child & Family Services

4126 Technology Way, Third Floor

Carson City, NV 89706

Tel: 775.684.4483

Fax: 775.684.4456

bcrumrine@dcs.state.nv.us

Nevada



Started in: 1999

Annual Report submitted: December 31

Total Members: 32

Brief Description: The Statewide Nevada Citizen Review Panel (CRP) was established in 1999 under Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 432B.396 and has federally mandated responsibilities under Title I, Section 106, of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). The Statewide Panel consists of members appointed by the Administrator of the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), whose designee also serves on the Panel. The group includes representation from community-based organizations and professionals with backgrounds related to child protective services (CPS), child advocacy, children's mental health and foster parenting. The Statewide Panel's primary work consists of the review of internal policies and procedures within the CPS system, accomplished mainly through individual CPS case reviews.

In response to meeting the federal requirement for three CRPs based on a Basic State Grant funding increase for Nevada in 2006, both the Northern and Southern Citizen Advisory Committees (CACs) were invited into the CRP process the same year. These groups have begun to examine specific areas of focus defined for CRPs by CAPTA within their respective regions and have begun to develop system improvement recommendations for inclusion in the Annual Report.

Sample of Current Work Projects and Areas of Focus:

- Implementation of the Nevada Initial Assessment (NIA), including safety and risk assessments and timeliness of investigations
- Training and implementation for the Child and Family Team approach
- Involvement of biological parents in the child welfare process with the goal of increased reunification
- Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) timeframe for reunification
- Expansion of the QI process to focus on training, mentoring, practice development and increased accountability for change

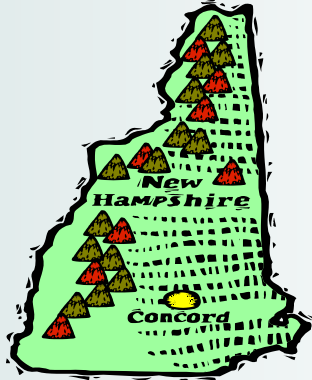
Website: <http://www.dcs.state.nv.us/>

Budget Amount and Source: \$251,444 Basic State Grant total for SFY 2008. \$16,115 allocated for coordination of the CRPs.

Contact Information:

Ann Marie McCarron
Bureau of Quality Improvement
State of New Hampshire
Division for Children, Youth and Families
129 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-4693
amccarron@dhhs.state.nh.us

New Hampshire



Started in: April, 1999

Annual Report Submitted: June 30

Total Members: Approximately 15

Brief Description: New Hampshire's Division for Children, Youth and Families Citizen Review Panel was started as an independent entity in April, 1999. The Panel exists and functions to fulfill requirements of CAPTA. The CRP is required to review the compliance of the state and local child protection service agencies in the discharge of their duties with respect to the following:

- The practices (in addition to policies and procedures) of the Division for Children, Youth and Families and local agencies to evaluate the extent to which the agencies are effectively discharging their child protection responsibilities
- Providing for public outreach and comment in order to assess the impact of current procedures and practices upon children and families in the community
- Making recommendations to the State and public on improving the child protection services system at the State and local levels

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Participation in the Division Quality Assurance Review process as a stakeholder as well as an onsite reviewer.
- Review of disproportionality in child protection and efforts being made by the Division to bring awareness to this issue
- Review of the Division's policy and procedures regarding finding an appropriate relative to care for children entering the Division care
- Exploration of issues evolving around transitional living situations and permanency planning for adolescents about to exit out of care

Contact Information:

Linda M. Porcaro, Chair

New Jersey Child Welfare Citizen Review Panel

porcaro@co.somerset.nj.us

Shyra Bland, Vice-Chair

sbland@casaofcamdencounty.org

Panel Staff

Michele Safrin

NJ CCAPTA Coordinator

NJ Department of Children and Families

P. O. Box 729

Trenton, NJ 08625-0729

609-777-4536

Michele.Safrin@dcf.state.nj.us

New Jersey



Started in: 1999

Annual Report submitted: June 30, 2007

Total Members: 21

Brief Description: The purpose of the NJ Child Welfare Citizen Review Panel is to improve the safety, well being and permanency of New Jersey's children by examining the practices, policies and procedures of state and local agencies, and to evaluate the extent to which they are effectively meeting their child protection responsibilities.

Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Department of Education and Department of Children and Family Partnership
- Aging Out Services
- Legal Guardianship
- Maintaining Family connections through Visitation
- Review of the State Central Registry
- Public Outreach

Website: www.nj.gov/dcf/about/commissions/citizens/index.html

Budget Amount and Source: Staff support

Contact Information:

Patricia Briggs

NM Citizen Review Board

P.O. Box 30228

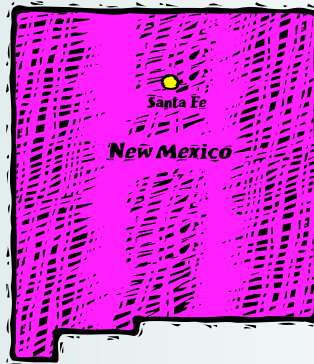
Albuquerque, NM 87190

(505) 217-0226

pbriggs@nmcrb.org

www.nmcrb.org

New Mexico



Started In: NM Citizen Review Board (CRB) in 1983, CRB was designated as Citizen Review Panels (CRP) in 1997

Annual Report submitted: January 1

Total Members: over 180

Brief Description: The New Mexico Citizen Review Board (CRB) has 37 Citizen Review Boards around the state with over 180 volunteers. CRB has a Statewide Advisory Committee (SAC) composed of a representative from each board, their elected officers and regional representatives, and 3 public members appointed by the governor. SAC (general and executive) meets a total of six times a year with some subcommittees meeting additional times.

Citizen Review Boards have met many of the CRP requirements but the New Mexico CRB is working toward more fully meeting the requirements through "official" CRPs.

Sample of Work Projects/Focus:

- CRB does extensive data collection on each child at each review
- In fiscal year 2007, 3,185 reviews were held regarding 2,074 children (some children are reviewed more than once in a fiscal year)
- CRB reviews all children who are in state's custody due to abuse and neglect through written case information and through questioning "interested parties" in each case

Other Information: The *Preview Report*, which contains the recommendations, is submitted in October of each year in plenty of time for use by the legislature and policy makers. The *Annual Report* that comes out several months later has the same recommendations but includes data (from the individual reviews) reported by county, judicial district and state. Each board reports on "successes and challenges" that they see in their community.

Website: www.nmcrb.org

Contact Information:

Diane Mastin

Sr. Policy Associate

Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy

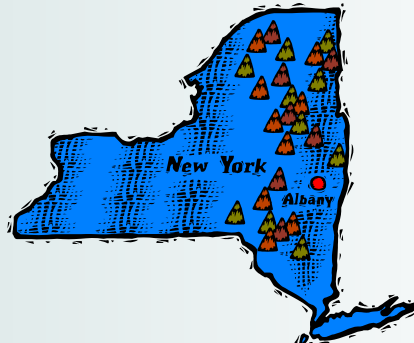
150 State St., 4th Floor

Albany, New York 12207

(518) 463-1896 ext. 24

dmastin@scaany.org

New York



Started in: September, 2000

Annual Report submitted: January 31

Total Members: Maximum of 39

Brief Description: New York has three independent Citizen Review Panels which began their work in 2000. The New York City panel covers the five boroughs of New York City. The Western Panel region covers a 17 county area in the western part of the state. The Eastern Panel region covers the remaining 40 counties, including Long Island.

Each Panel has 13 members, seven of which are appointed by the Executive office, three appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly and three appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate. The three panels meet in the fall for a joint Panel meeting to discuss their annual report and recommendations.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- System reform
- Accountability
- Workforce issues
- Educational neglect
- Racial and ethnic disproportionality and disparities

Web Site: www.citizenreviewpanelsny.org

Budget Amount and Source: \$140,000 from CAPTA funds. The New York State Office of Children and Family Services contracts with the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy to provide the Panels with program support and coordination.

Contact Information:

Phyllis B. Fulton, LMSW

North Carolina Division of Social Services

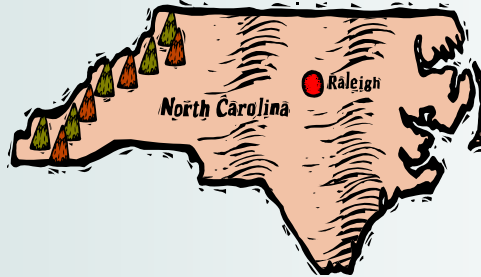
325 N. Salisbury Street, MSC 2410

Raleigh, NC 27699-2410

(919) 733-2279

phyllis.fulton@ncmail.net

North Carolina



Started in: July, 1991

Annual Report submitted: January 31

Total Members: Approximately 1,500

Brief Description: North Carolina's Community Child Protection Teams (CCPT) were established in 1991 and in 1997 the CCPTs were designated as Citizen Review Panels (CRP). North Carolina has 100 county CCPTs and 6 regional CCPTs. The CCPT is an interdisciplinary group of community representatives and citizens-at-large, who meet to promote a community-wide approach to child abuse, neglect and dependency through collaboration and advocacy. CCPTs, established as a community partner in child protection, changed the community's perception that child protection is the sole responsibility of the Department of Social Services and is indeed, the responsibility of all citizens.

Each CCPT has a Chairperson responsible for assisting the team members in meeting the CCPT requirements as defined in federal and state law. Annually each team reports to the Board of County Commissioners the status of child well-being in the county. The teams also complete an end-of-year report that is used to develop the State's End-of-Year Report.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus

- Partnered with local faith community to establish a group home so that children can maintain residency within their own community
- Recommended support for aged-out foster children who parent children of their own, i.e. parenting education, access to anger management program, etc.
- Requested that politicians make domestic violence and child abuse issues a part of their platform; 98% of the candidates agreed
- Partnered with County Parks and Recreation Department to establish a waiver for swimming lessons fees for financially deprived children
- Facilitated a quicker adjudication of batterers and sexual assaulters

Web Site: <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dss/ccpt/index.htm>

Budget Amount and Source: \$10,000 from CB-CAP money.

Other Information: 2008 is the inaugural year for North Carolina's CCPT regional teams which are composed of members from county CCPTs. Regional teams will use information from county CCPTs to develop a consensus on child welfare issues that should be included in the State's End-of-Year Report, arrange for community forums to discover the child welfare needs and concerns of citizens and address child welfare issues of statewide concern, as well as regional child welfare issues.

Contact Information:

Tara Lea Muhlhauser, J.D.

Deputy Director, Children & Family Services Division

Child Protection Services Administrator

ND Department of Human Services

600 E Boulevard

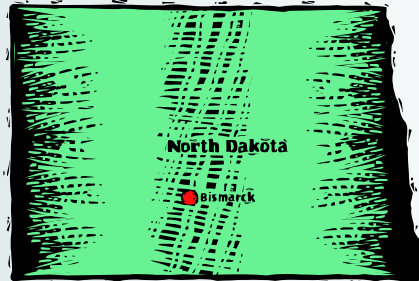
Bismarck, ND 58505

Phone: 701-328-3587

Fax: 701-328-3538

somuht@nd.gov

North Dakota



Started in: December, 2005

Annual Report submitted: June 30

Total Members: Approximately 37

Brief Description: North Dakota has had a Child Fatality Review Panel since 1996, which served as the Citizen Review Committee until December, 2005. Beginning in October of 2005, North Dakota changed the makeup of the Citizen Review Committee (CRC). The base for this group are appointed members from each region in the state, representing members of the county multi-disciplinary teams. In addition, the CPS Task Force, made up of social workers, social work supervisors, regional supervisors, training center staff, central office staff and private non-profit agency staff, is a part of the CRC.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- **Legislative Results:** Citizen Review Committee members reviewed effects of North Dakota Child Protection statutes amended during the 2007 legislative session. Changes include: the general definition of abuse of children, foster parents and new professional categories added as mandatory reporters, and HIPAA-related issues on clinical records of a child involved in a CPS assessment
- **Children & Family Services Conference:** Citizen Review Committee members are provided stipends to attend the multidisciplinary conference and specialized trainings
- **Review of data:** Citizen Review Committee members review the child abuse and neglect data trends
- **Face to face contact:** Citizen Review Committee members reviewed effects of new policy requirements for face-to-face contact with suspected child victims and discussed public policy issues regarding implementation
- **CPS reports:** Citizen Review Committee members reviewed standards for assessments involving pregnant women; parental drug cases; multi-system approaches to enforcement and interpretation

Website: none

Contact Information:

Dorothy Striker
Ohio Department of Job & Family Services
P.O Box 182709
Columbus, Ohio 43218-2709
(614)466-1213
strikd@odjfs.state.oh.us

Ohio



Started in: June 1999

Annual Report submitted:

SCFRAC - September 30th of each year

OHIO YAB - May 30th of each year

Stark County Juvenile Court CRB –
August of each year

Brief Description: Ohio utilizes three programs to meet the requirement to maintain three citizen review panels. This consists of two statewide boards, the Statewide Child Fatality Review Advisory Committee (SCFRAC) and the Overcoming Hurdles In Ohio Youth Advisory Board (OHIO YAB); and one county Citizen Review Board.

The SCFRAC is statutorily authorized and was established in 2002. The mission of SCFRAC is to reduce the incidence of preventable deaths in Ohio.

The OHIO YAB is a statewide organization of young people, age 14-23, who have experienced foster care. Mission goals include being the knowledgeable statewide voice that influences policies and practices that effect all youth who have or will experience out of home care and to provide exemplary leadership and empowerment opportunities for youth who have or will experience out of home care

Additionally, Stark County Juvenile Court operates a Citizen Review Board (CRB). The CRB monitors implementation of case plan objectives and timeframes for permanency for children who have been adjudicated as abused, neglected and/or dependent; monitors the number of contacts the caseworker has with a child and his/her parents; monitors the involvement of the parent in the development of the case plan; monitors parental participation in semi-annual reviews; and collaborates with the local PCSA and Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian Ad Litem program. Funds were allocated from the Basic State Grant in the amount of \$16,000.00 per SFY for the contract with the Stark County Juvenile Court CRB.

Websites:

SCFRAC: www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/cfhs/cfr/cfr1.aspx

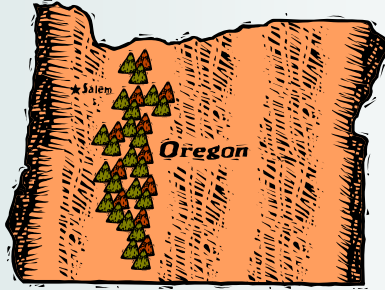
OHIO YAB: www.pcsao.org/ohioyouth.htm

Stark County Juvenile Court CRB: www.co.stark.oh.us/internet/home.DisplayPagev_page=FamilyCourt_SpecializedServices

Contact Information:

Stephanie Stafford
Oregon Department of Human Services
500 Summer St. NE, E-68
Salem, Oregon 97301
(503) 945-5690
Stephanie.S.Stafford@state.or.us

Oregon



Started in: July 1999

Annual Report submitted: June 30

Total Members: Approximately 40

Brief Description: Oregon has three (3) regional Citizen Review (CAPTA) Panels which were started as independent panels in July of 1999. The Panels are located in Jackson, Malheur and Multnomah Counties (1 urban, 2 rural). The organizational home for the Panels is the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), Children, Adult & Families, Family Based Services. DHS contracts with community child abuse assessment centers for local support and coordination of panels. Each Panel has a Facilitator and Coordinator who are responsible for assisting the Panel members in following through with their annual goals.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Explore options for providing training for foster parents to ensure that they have the skills and supports to provide safe and nurturing homes to the children placed in their care
- Recruit new members to participate in CAPTA to insure that our panel is a broad representation of the community and that expertise in prevention, intervention and treatment of child abuse and neglect is represented
- Provide training opportunities for CAPTA Panel members to guarantee they are prepared to meet the responsibility of assisting the state in improving the child protective system
- Continue to support training and the importance of collaboration and communication in the investigation of child abuse
- Explore which Action Plans created at the Child Neglect Summit would be appropriate for CAPTA to endorse
- Review cases from DHS
- Monitor progress made on the action plans developed at the Community Neglect Summit and report back to the community stakeholders
- Continue to educate the community, parents especially, regarding protecting their children from child molesters

Web Site: <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/children/committees/capta/capta.shtml>

Budget Amount and Source: \$36,000 (\$12,000 per panel) from CAPTA (OCAN Basic State) grant funds.

Other Information: DHS recently formed a CAPTA Advisory Committee to review the recommendations in the annual reports submitted by the CAPTA panels.

Contact Information:

Sonya Mann-McFarlane, M.Ed
The PA Child Welfare Training Program
University of Pittsburgh, School of Social
Work

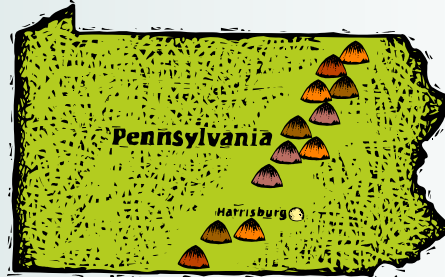
403 East Winding Hill Road

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Phone: (717) 795-9048

som8@pitt.edu

Pennsylvania



Starting in: June, 2008

Total Members: N/A

Brief Description: Pennsylvania has enacted the required legislation to establish citizen review panels and to provide them access to confidential information. Pennsylvania's Department of Public Welfare / Office of Children Youth and Families, through the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program, has hired a Program Development Specialist dedicated to Pennsylvania's Citizen Review Panel process.

A work plan, detailing strategies and recommendations for establishing Citizen Review Panels by June of 2008, has been developed. The governance model included with these recommendations encourages the use of a citizen's advisory group, which will assist with initiating the citizen review process. To ensure seamless statewide implementation, the work plan recommends that the advisory group develop operational policies, procedures and protocols, define panel membership and criteria for geographical locations.

Budget Amount and Source: \$92,000 from CAPTA funds.

Website: www.pacwcbt.pitt.edu

Other Information: The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program is a collaborative effort of the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, and the Pennsylvania Children and Youth Administrators. It was established to train direct service workers, supervisors, administrators and foster parents in providing social services to abused and neglected children and their families.

Contact Information:

C. Lee Baker, MPA, MA

Office of the Director

R.I. Department of Children, Youth
and Families

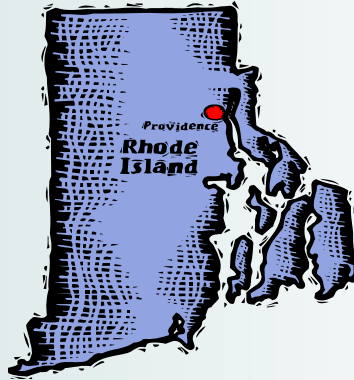
101 Friendship Street, 5th Floor

Providence, RI 02903

(401) 528-3837

Lee.Baker@dcyf.ri.gov

Rhode Island



Started in: July, 1999

Annual Report submitted: June 30

Total Members: Approximately 20

Brief Description: The Citizen Review Panel provides a coordinated, multidisciplinary forum to review cases of suspected abuse and/or neglect reported to the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), the State agency responsible for investigating such cases. The CRP meets on a weekly basis and is chaired by a lead physician at the Child Protection Program at Hasbro Children's Hospital. The Panel provides recommendations to the Department based on the case reviews.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus

- Provide a forum to review cases of suspected abuse and/or neglect reported to
- DCYF
- Provide a venue for Panel members to present cases to DCYF personnel to determine if agency referral was indicated by law or by the child's best interests
- Review of state's operational definition of emotional abuse

Budget Amount and Source: \$45,000 from CAPTA funding. The Department contracts with the Child Protection Program at the Hasbro Children's Hospital to coordinate activities of the Citizen Review Panel and provide the annual report.

Other Information: See national CRP website for 2007 Annual Report

Contact Information:

Sara Davis, Coordinator

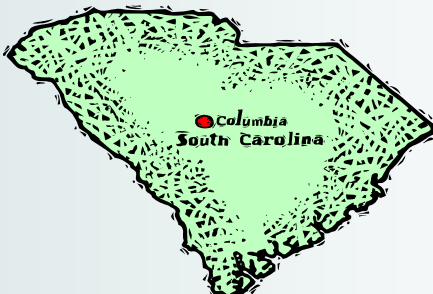
SC Citizen Review Panels

226 Bull Street, Columbia SC 29208

866-263-3139; 803-319-5062

sccrp@sc.edu; saradavis@charter.net

South Carolina



Started in: July 1999

Annual Report submitted: March 31 for the previous calendar year

Total Members: Approximately 42

Brief Description: South Carolina has three Citizen Review Panels that were created specifically for their purpose and have no other mission. Panels are localized to limit travel demands and maximize network relationships, but citizens from anywhere in the state may choose to join any of the Panels.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Clergy preparation for mandated reporter duties
- Criteria for court supervision of in-home treatment cases
- Community understanding and will for improving child protection in SC
- Training for appreciation of the pervasive effects of grief and loss in CPS practice

Web Site: <http://www.sc.edu/ccfs/citizenreview/>

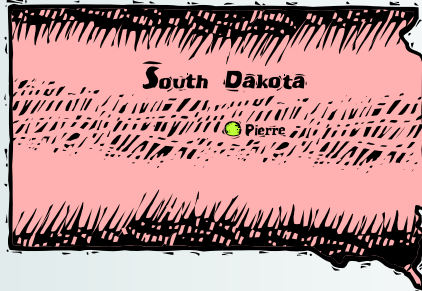
Budget Amount and Source: The State child welfare agency provides for CRP program coordination and technical support as part of their larger contract with The Center for Child and Family Studies at the USC College of Social Work

Other Information: Each Panel evaluates the effectiveness of the State-administered child protection system and its local operations statewide. The emphasis is on system characteristics in administration and in practice areas not otherwise subject to citizen oversight: CPS intake, investigation, in-home treatment, and post-reunification case management. Recommendations have advocated for structural, practical, and partnership enhancements.

Contact Information:

Jaime Reiff
Program Specialist
Child Protection Services
Department of Social Services
700 Governors Drive
Pierre, South Dakota, 57501
Phone: 605-773-3227
jaime.reiff@state.sd.us

South Dakota



Started in: July, 1999

Annual Report submitted: June of each year

Total Members: Approximately 30

Brief Description: South Dakota has one Citizen Review Panel, which was started as an independent panel in July, 1999. The Panel covers the entire state of South Dakota.

The Children's Justice Act (CJS) Task Force, now called Working Together for Children Justice Committee (WTFJC), combined with the Citizen's Review Panel (CRP) in July of 2005 to facilitate coordination of effort.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus

- Members are reviewing case files in preparation for the CFSR
- Court-appointed attorney project: the idea would be that every attorney appointed to represent a child in an A/N proceeding must certify that they have been trained through this process before they are paid
- Follow up to onsite visits at the Child Protection Services local offices to observe and get feedback from the CPS worker, including ideas for improvement, to comply with the obligation of the Citizen Review Panel
- Assessment of the relationship between child protection services, the school system, court system and domestic violence shelters

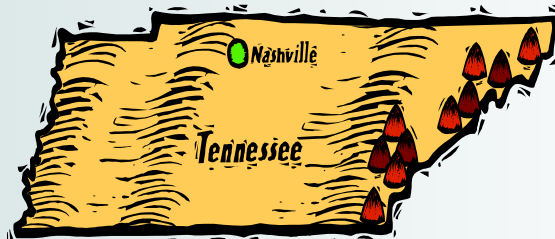
Website: www.dss.sd.gov/cps/

Budget Amount and Source: There is not a budget designated specifically for the Citizen Review Panel. Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) funds are used to support the operating costs of the committee. The majority of costs relate to travel, per diem and supplies.

Contact Information:

Toni Lawal, MS
University of Tennessee
College of Social Work
Office of Research & Public Services
193 Polk Avenue, Suite F
Nashville, TN 37210
615.782.6122
tlawal@utk.edu

Tennessee



Annual Report submitted: June 30

Total Members: Approximately 30

Brief Description: Tennessee has three regional Citizen Review Panels and is in the process of establishing a new panel in the east region, Knoxville. The three panels are located in Memphis (West TN), Montgomery County (Clarksville, Mid-Cumberland Region), and the Northwest Region of Tennessee, which includes nine rural counties.

Each Panel has a Chairperson who is responsible for facilitating meetings and ensuring that panel members follow through with their goals. Each Spring, a statewide retreat is held to review previous year information, to discuss “lessons learned” and to develop recommendations for the state child welfare commissioner.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Review of data on referent source and classification
- Review of indicated and unassigned cases
- Focus group with frontline workers about services for children and families

Website: www.sworps.utk.edu/children

Budget Amount and Source: \$67,402 from CAPTA money. The University of Tennessee is contracted through Tennessee’s child welfare agency to provide program coordination.

Contact Information:

Gwen Gray, LMSW

Department of Family & Protective
Services

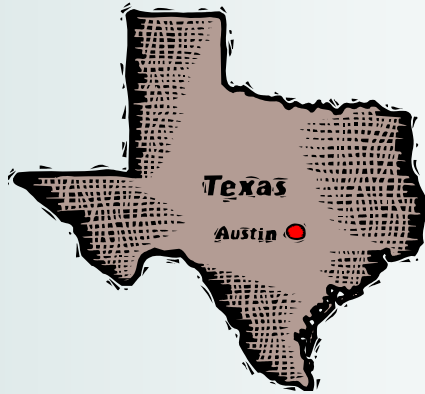
701 W. 51st St., MC 157-W

Austin, TX 78751

(512) 438-4773

gwen.gray@dfps.state.tx.us

Texas



Started in: 1999

Annual Report submitted: June 30

Total members: approximately 112

Brief Description: Texas currently has four federally mandated CAPTA teams. These mandated teams are in Austin, El Paso, Dallas and Amarillo. In addition, there are 15 other Citizen Review Teams (CRT's) operating in Texas, for a total of 19 teams. A 20th team is in process of being developed.

Each team is coordinated by an employee of the Department of Family and Protective Services.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Evaluating the adequacy of the investigation or intervention with families
- Helping identify barriers to the protection of children
- Assessing compliance with program policy
- Identifying staff needs in the areas of training, supervision, and program management
- Providing opportunities for citizens to play an integral role in ensuring that Child Protective Services in Texas is meeting its goals of protecting children from abuse and neglect.

Website: n/a

Budget Amount and Source: There is no special funding specific to CRT's.

Contact Information:

Katy Larsen

Division of Child & Family Services

DHS Administration

120 No. 200 W. Suite 225

Salt Lake City, Utah 84103

(801) 538-4100

katylarsen@utah.gov

Utah



Started in: 1997

Total Members: Approximately 90

Brief Description: There are nine Citizen Quality Improvement Committees across the state of Utah. They review data and other information about the child welfare system. Their goal is to study issues of concern to such a degree that they can provide recommendations for improvement. These committees also serve as advocates for the needs of the system, including the need for recognition and improved employee morale. The citizens bring an outside perspective to a very complicated and large system.

The reporting of the activities of these committees are posted on the website.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Placement Stability
- Employee retention and morale
- Substance Abuse

Website: <http://qic.utah.gov>

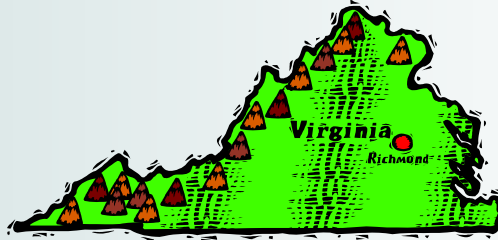
Budget Amount and Source: \$18,000 from CAPTA funding.

Contact Information:

Rita L. Katzman
CPS Program Manager
Virginia Department of Social Services
7 N. Eighth Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 726-7554

Rita.katzman@dss.virginia.gov

Virginia



Started in: July, 1999

Annual Report submitted: June 30

Total Members: Approximately 50

Brief Description: Virginia has three Citizen Review Panels:

- Governor's Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect (GAB)
- State Child Fatality Review Team
- Children's Justice Act/Court Appointed Special Advocate Committee (CJA/CASA)

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Co-sponsored conference entitled, "Prevention Comes First – A Shared Vision"
- Oversees the work of the Child Abuse Prevention Committee in the implementation of the statewide Child Abuse Prevention Plan
- Reviewed and commented on CPS proposed regulations and policy
- Reviewed and edited new CPS Mandated Reporter Booklet and minimum training standards for mandated reporters
- Completed a review of caretaker homicide cases to strengthen policies and practices to prevent child deaths

Budget Amount and Source: None, although funds are made available from CAPTA to reimburse members for travel, if requested.

Contact Information:

Colette McCully, M.Ed.
Children's Administration (CA)
1115 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98504-5710
(360) 902-7918
comc300@dshs.wa.gov



Started in: 1999

Annual Report; submitted: June 30

Total Members: Approximately 60

Brief Description: Washington has three Citizen Review Panels: the Children, Youth & Family Services Advisory Committee, the Region 2 Oversight Committee and the Indian Policy Advisory Committee—Indian Child Welfare Subcommittee. The Children, Youth & Family Services Advisory Committee has been an advisory committee to Children's Administration since the early 1980s and a CRP since 1999. It is made up of volunteer representatives from across the state with expert knowledge and experience in child welfare and meets a minimum of six times per year.

The Region 2 Oversight Committee has been meeting since 1986, formed in response to passage of a Washington law in 1983 for a provision for local volunteer oversight groups. In 1999 the committee volunteered to serve as one of Washington CRP's.

Indian Policy Advisory Committee—Indian Child Welfare Subcommittee has been meeting for at least 15 years and recently agreed to participate as Washington's 3rd CRP. This group is charged reviewing policies, procedures and legislative bills associated with Children's Administration and making recommendations on their development and final drafts. It is also a venue for tribes to provide information such as changes to tribal codes and laws, changes in tribal leadership and line staff, voicing concerns about child abuse and neglect issues and sharing information and resources.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Development of Placement Decision Making Guidelines
- Replace the current risk assessment with Structured Decision Making.
- Include engagement training in the new CPS/CWS redesign.
- Review and provide recommendations to decrease disproportionality and disparity within the child welfare system.
- Increasing accessibility of child welfare services in Columbia County
- Improve working relationships in Klickitat County
- Address temporary housing needs for Out-Of-County Runaway Youth
- Increase recruitment and retention of foster homes
- Development of permanency planning policies for Indian children in out of home care (under State jurisdiction),
- Reviewing and making recommendations on State policies related to prenatal substance with emphasis on recommendations to prenatal substance abuse CPS referrals when the subjects are affiliated with an Indian tribe

Contact Information:

Toby Lester

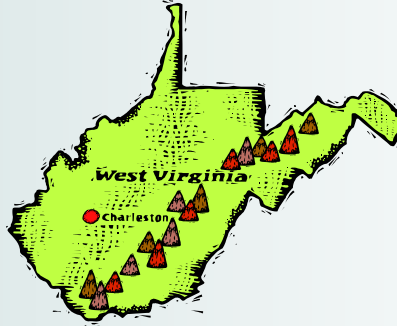
State Liaison Officer

350 Capitol St., Rm. 691

Charleston, WV 25301

304-558-2997

West Virginia



Annual Report Submitted: June 30

Total Members: Approximately 20

Brief Description: The West Virginia Citizen Review Panel is comprised of individuals representing a diverse mix of concerns, interests and professions. The panel meets on a quarterly basis in a centralized location that is easily accessible for everyone.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Evaluation of sources of information for use by the Panel, including the Child and Family Services Review Program Improvement Plan and the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
- Continual review of cases
- Identification of concerns within the Child Protection system
- Increase in the availability of statewide cross-disciplinary training for those involved in the child protection system
- Addressed capacity/staffing issues in CPS that resulted in legislative budget for salary increases for CPS staff
- Review practices, policies and procedures used by the state for Child Protective Services

Budget Amount and Source: The Citizen's Review Panel budget is derived from CAPTA funds. The Budget is \$25,000 annually.

Contact Information:

Paula L. Brown

Department of Health & Family Services

Division of Children and Family Services

P O Box 8916

Madison, WI 53708-8916

(608) 266-0579

(608) 264-6750 fax

brownpl1@dhs.state.wi.us

Wisconsin



Started in: 2000

Annual Report submitted: June 30, 2007

Brief Description: Currently in Wisconsin there are four state-designated Citizen Review Panels. These Panels are located in Marathon County, Outagamie County and Milwaukee County. The Marathon County Citizen Review Panel, Outagamie County Citizen Review Panel and the Milwaukee County Child Abuse Review Team are three of Wisconsin's original Panels and have been formally recognized by the Department and operating as panels since 2000. The Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council was designated a citizen review panel in January 2008.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Expanding the number of citizen review panels in Wisconsin to include more local Panels
- Possible formation of a statewide CRP

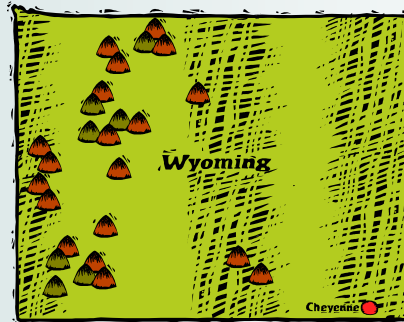
Website: work in progress

Budget Amount and Source: Two CRPs are supported with CAPTA funds and two are supported with other state or local funding.

Contact Information:

Kelly J. Hamilton
Wyoming Citizen Review Panel, Inc.
PO Box 1504
3001 Henderson, Suite B
Cheyenne, WY 82003
(307) 632-0032
khamilton@wycrp.org

Wyoming



Started in: 1990's

Annual Report submitted: June 30

Total Members: Approximately 15-25

Brief Description: The Wyoming Citizen Review Panel began in the 1990s as a panel within the Wyoming Department of Family Services. In 2004, it was reorganized as a private not profit organization with membership from around the state. Wyoming, due to its population of only 500,000 is allowed to only operate with one state citizen review panel.

From the 15-25 person membership a 5 member executive committee is elected; 1 administrative assistant and 1 executive director as full time employees.

Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Partnering with the Wyoming Department of Family Services to define case work practice statewide using the CFSR instrument in a review process that involves citizens
- Administrating the Wyoming Child Major Injury and Fatality Review Team
- Designing and testing a "citizen review process" in the area of mental health and substance abuse treatment around the tenants of access to services, support for recovery and coordination of services
- Preliminary process of discussing collaborative process with the Wyoming Department of Corrections

Website: www.wycrp.org

Budget Amount and Source: CAPTA funds (\$137,000); Contract with the Wyoming Department of Family Services (\$15,000) and contract with the Wyoming Department of Health (\$15,400).

Other Information: *Mission Statement:* To review our child welfare procedures throughout the system, offering summaries and recommendations for improvements benefiting children and families.