



**National Citizen Review Panel
May Coordinators Meeting
May 19, 2016
State Updates**



Discussion taken from the May 19 CRP May Coordinator's Meeting WEBINAR.

Blake Jones: Hi everyone, please give us some updates from your states? what are you doing?

Paula Brown: Wisconsin is planning another statewide meeting for all of its 8 panels. This is a popular event, the panels like connecting with each other across the state on an annual basis.

Toni Gillette: Ohio is continuing to work with OSU, our contract vendor to strengthen our CRPs. We meet on a regular basis and we held a stakeholders meeting that went very well.

Blake Jones: Thanks, Paula!

Amy Benedum: Oregon: Our CRPs recently finished their 2015-16 work on foster parent recruitment, retention, and support. They conducted a statewide survey of foster parents as well as focus groups and crafted solid recommendations for child welfare to provide after-hours support, grief/loss acknowledgements, and better responsiveness to foster parents. Our three panels will be holding their kick-off planning sessions in July for the next year's projects.

Blake Jones: Thanks, Toni.

Misty Myatt: Idaho has 7 different CRPs, each meeting on a regular basis within their perspective area. We just held our annual Spring meeting where we reviewed the CRP recommendations and responses from the State. In the coming year, many of the panels will be focusing on trauma informed practice and awareness, with special attention given to resource parents.

Blake Jones: Thanks, Amy

Blake Jones: Thanks, Misty

Blake Jones: I hope to see you all at our conference in Phoenix!

Hope Skelton: Alabama is both recruiting and adding additional members to our State Quality Assurance Committee which serves as our reporting CRP. All 67 counties in Alabama have QA Committee who are completing case reviews on an ongoing basis. The State Committee and county committees had a joint meeting in January for coordination and support purposes.

LaToya Vaughn: Kentucky is planning for its annual retreat in August. All three panels have also been collaborating on a study regarding the Public Perception of DCBS (data collection phase).



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Deb Farrell: Georgia's Panels: During 2016 and looking ahead to 2017 our panels focused on maltreatment-related fatalities (improving the investigation as well as the identification of risk factors for other children that remain in the home) , continued work related to their CJA 3-year assessment on our child abuse protocol and mandated reporter training evaluation, evaluating current foster parent training and permanency planning (including increased reliance on relatives as a placement/permanency resource.)

Blake Jones: What do you think about the research I presented? Do you agree? Do the administrators in your state value CRPs? How can we get them to value the panels more?

Blake Jones: Thanks, Hope and Latoya!

Paula Brown: I suspect most administrators would say they "value" the panel, but I don't know that the state or local agencies use them to their fullest extent.

Blake Jones: Why do you think this is true, Paula?

Hope Skelton: Our administration values the work of the CRPs. There has been the recent addition of a Deputy Commissioner for Quality Assurance who will be working closely with our state committee.

Paula Brown: I think they are held safely at arm's length, happy with the outreach activities but not as open when it comes to looking deeper at the CPS agency. This isn't true across the board in Wisconsin, but there are definitely examples of it.

Misty Myatt: In Idaho we have continued to try and make training accessible to our CRP members and have involvement in our case record reviews. We continue to struggle to "infuse" them into our day to day practice and while I believe our Administration would say that they value the panels, I'm not sure that we are utilizing our panels to the best of our ability.

Blake Jones: Hope, how do you connect so many CRPs? How do they review the macro systems of the CPS agencies?

Amy Benedum: We have a new Director, Deputy Director, and Child Welfare Director at our agency so it remains to be seen whether they value the work of the CRP panels. We did have an initial meeting with them that was promising. We have ensured that local program managers attend the CRP meetings and we certainly value their input as to what the agency will truly "value."

Blake Jones: Perhaps it's easier for CPS administrators to buy in to the "advocacy" thing than the "watchdog" conceptualization of CRPs. Yes?

Deb Farrell: Georgia Panels have a good relationship with the child welfare agency and the leadership team. Our Panels have had many opportunities to participate in meaningful activities



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related to their CAPTA mandate. However, it is still sometimes challenge to have them engaged early in some processes.

Blake Jones: Deb, I think your state is one of the few that I have seen which actually looks at the CAPTA plan with some depth

Hope Skelton: The county quality assurance systems provide biannual reports to our office (State Department of Human Resources). Our State Committee does a regular review of data in meetings and provides feedback. The State Committee also reviews our agency plan for improvement and has the opportunity to provide comment and input.

Deb Farrell: Our Panels have an eye on the state's CAPTA Plan and how the state grant supports the CAPTA Plan itself. Practice is undergoing a significant change here and our CAPTA Plan is going to be revised. Panel members are excited about the prospect of being part of that process.

Blake Jones: I think a lot of this comes down to communication. When I coordinated KY's CRPs, we had two meetings a year with CPS in which we discussed the recommendations made and also also the plans for the coming year. And, we ate together :-)

Paula Brown: I've added into our annual report template an item that asks the CRP to report on progress on recommendations at the local level, since I'm at the state level. Blake's idea of actually meeting on the recommendations is a good one.

Blake Jones: We also did community service projects for the CPS agency (like collect suitcases for foster care). This did a lot in terms of building good will.

Mary Doyle: Yes, I think asking them to hire their own watchdog (CRP) can be seen as a conflict of interest - or not in their own self-interest. Yet the majority of the CRPs in Minnesota do just that. I think it calls for a high level of development on the part of the staff person.

Blake Jones: Thanks, Paula. I think too many states just "trade reports" and there is no accountability or movement forward

Blake Jones: I agree, Mary. I always thought of my job as a "diplomat"

Blake Jones: Other ideas about how CRPs can work together with CPS administrators?

Deb Farrell: Georgia's Panels are planning to compile a report on their recommendations from the last 10 years (in 2017) and identify changes in our child welfare environment that are connected to those recommendations, directly or indirectly. We move from year to year without really looking back on what has been accomplished over time.

Blake Jones: I like this, Deb!



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Misty Myatt: For Idaho, I think we could do a better job of asking our CRP members to educate the community and spread awareness. I think that will help in building a partnership and taking away from the "watch dog" reputation they receive. I think this will also enable them to build on their partnerships with the administration.

Misty Myatt: I love that idea as well Deb!!

Blake Jones: We did something similar a few years back and found that something like 30% of the panel's recommendations had been implemented

Blake Jones: This may not seem like a lot, but it was encouraging to the members

Blake Jones: FYI, here is the beginning of our new web site <http://www.cantasd.org/crp.html>

Deb Farrell: Misty: I hope we also identify those recommendations that have fallen by the wayside and maybe find another way to look at the original issue that prompted the recommendation.

Blake Jones: I would encourage everyone to get an intern or graduate student from a local university who can help do some evaluation and/or linking of research with practice

Toni Gillette: I am new to our state agency (Ohio) and new to this project. I was at the county level for 24 years and like the idea of community awareness as a way to take the focus off the "watch dog" reputation. I think that with the difficulty of the work and hard decisions made on a daily basis in the county, it is easy to feel defensive.

Blake Jones: I agree, Toni

Blake Jones: CRPs need to figure out a way to be useful to the CPS system (by choosing topics that are relevant, focused, and which yield specific results)

Blake Jones: In addition to serving as an accountability measure. I don't disagree with that

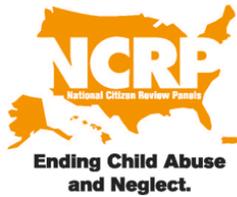
Blake Jones: Other feedback? questions?

Blake Jones: I recently heard from Hawaii and they are thinking about becoming a 501 C 3 so they can get some grants. Are other states doing that?

Deb Farrell: As part of our quarterly dialogue with child welfare leadership, the Panels ask about the agency's challenges and where the Panels may be helpful either as an objective third party or as an advocate. Of course, the Panels then need to balance that with their own priorities and interests.

Blake Jones: The PIP and the self-study are great sources of information for the panels

The Power of Community



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Blake Jones: One more minute to comment or ask questions of your colleagues

Misty Myatt: In Idaho, we will be sharing our annual APSR as well as our State Wide Assessment once complete in an effort to be as transparent with the panels as possible, in hopes that they can help us identify possible solutions.

Blake Jones: Thanks, Misty

Blake Jones: Thank you to everyone who joined in our call! Please contact me at Bljone00@uky.edu if I can help you in any way. I hope to see y'all in Phoenix!!!!

Hope Skelton: We share our APSR in Alabama as well.

Blake Jones: Take care, everyone. Bye