



Ending Child Abuse  
and Neglect.

# CITIZEN CONNECTIONS

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### NATIONAL CONFERENCE-

Alaska Citizen Review Panel welcomes you to Anchorage, Alaska for the 16th National CRP Conference. The conference will be held on the beautiful campus of the University of Alaska Anchorage, with the towering snow-capped Chugach range as the backdrop. The conference will focus on finding common ground between Citizen Review Panels (CRP) and Child Protection Service (CPS) agencies by exploring various challenges and opportunities, and identifying the inherent virtues of citizen engagement in child protection.

Registration is now open for the National Citizen Review Panel Conference to be held May 10-12, 2017 in Anchorage.

Please click here to register:

<http://cantasd.org/crpconference/registration.html>

## Announcing the Keynote Speaker



The National CRP Advisory Panel and the Alaska Citizen Review Panel are delighted to welcome **Ms. Debra Schilling Wolfe** as our keynote speaker for the 2017 National Conference.

Ms. Wolfe is the founding Executive Director of the Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice & Research at the University of Pennsylvania. She oversees the activities of a multidisciplinary team

## STATE UPDATES

## Alaska

Alaska CRP has been busy with multiple significant projects over the last several months. Most importantly, they are very excited to be hosting the National CRP Conference scheduled for May 10-12 in Anchorage. A Conference Organization Committee was formed with representation from the Children's Bureau, National CRP Advisory Panel, Alaska CRP, Alaska CPS system and a few others. They have been working closely with the National CRP Advisory Panel, the National Child Abuse and Neglect Technical Assistance and Strategic Dissemination Center (CANTASD), and Action for Child Protection since August of 2016 to launch the conference website and registration. Registration is active now, and the preliminary agenda is posted. You can look forward to some of the most engaging conversations on CRP affairs, and presentations from key people in Alaska's child protection. They have identified a nationally recognized keynote speaker, hotels for conference attendees, and an exciting cultural event. For the most current information, please

visit the conference website. If you haven't already registered, please move quickly. Alaska is a popular summer destination, and hotels and rental cars are hard to find as the summer rolls in. They look forward to seeing you in Anchorage!

Alaska CRP is also going through significant changes in its staffing and its overall orientation. The panel welcomed a new coordinator after 11 years of working with its previous coordinator. This transition provided the opportunity to re-think a few other components of the operation. Both the CRP and their CPS system agreed that the CRP's mandate is broader than just being a review body. It is meant to be a mechanism for public participation, providing diverse roles for citizens to engage in the policy and practice of child protection. Collectively, they set themselves a timeline of three years to reorient CRP operations to reflect the participatory intent expressed by Congress. They are looking forward to sharing the experience and lessons learnt through this reflection and operationalization of the congressional intent in the coming years.

In addition to the above, they are keeping up with their regular work plan. The panel met for its fall retreat in August 2016 to identify its work plan for the year. Four goals have been identified. They are on schedule to conduct five site visits and present to Alaska's legislative committees on Health and Human Services. In addition, they presented to several groups on the panel's work, including the Alaska Child Maltreatment conference and the Alaska Health Summit, organized by the Alaska Public Health Association. Alaska CRP continues to work on refining its data collection instruments, increase the number of sources data is collected from, and improve the quality of its recommendations.

"Only where children gather is there any real chance of fun."

.....  
MIGNON MCLAUGHLIN,  
JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR



## California

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The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has published a Request for Proposals for the facilitation of California's three CRPs to evaluate the Child Welfare System (CWS), prevention of child abuse and neglect, and critical incidents at the state and local level. The Request for Proposals can be found here: [http://www.cdss.ca.gov/ocap/res/pdf/17-RFP-00888\\_RFP.pdf](http://www.cdss.ca.gov/ocap/res/pdf/17-RFP-00888_RFP.pdf). Proposals are due March 21st.

## Idaho

Many of Idaho's seven panels have been busy reviewing the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Case Record Review results, as well as their 2016 Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) results, and are gearing up to help the Department create its Program Improvement Plan. Panels have also been involved in discussing Independent Living promising practices. In one area, they are researching the idea of Idaho beginning a peer mentor program for new child welfare parents, where a past client would be paired with families in the system to help them navigate the system and to advocate for them.



“There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children.”

.....

NELSON MANDELA,  
FORMER PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

## Kentucky

Following the retreat in August 2016, the citizen review panels have been working on implementing their strategic plans. Jefferson CRP has begun work to develop a Student Citizen Review Panel composed of college students in the Louisville area. Southern Bluegrass CRP is currently planning its annual Conversation on Collaboration, which will be held on Friday, April 14th at the Fayette County Extension Office. This year’s event will focus on Trauma-Informed Care. The panel will also present a recognition award to a Cabinet employee nominated by the Department of Community-Based Services (DCBS) staff within the Southern Bluegrass region. The Statewide CRP is in the process of working on Cabinet employee recognition. Over the next few months, panel members plan to recognize DCBS Service Workers with small acts of appreciation in varying counties across the state. Statewide CRP is also in the process of planning its annual What Works Conference to be held Friday, April 28th in Lexington, KY.

## Nebraska

The Nebraska Youth CRP finalized its “Things to Talk About” resource sheet to help caseworkers have conversations and build relationships with young people. It is also developing a video that will focus the importance of sibling relationships for use in training caseworkers.

## New York

The New York State (NYS) Citizen Review Panels recently published their 2016 Annual Report and Recommendations. The report and recommendations are available at: [http://www.citizenreviewpanelsny.org/annual-report/documents/2016\\_annual%20report.pdf](http://www.citizenreviewpanelsny.org/annual-report/documents/2016_annual%20report.pdf)

Recommendations included re-authorizing the child welfare financing structure, developing a five-year plan with measurable goals and outcomes, expanding home visiting programs, reducing disproportionate minority representation and improving race equity in the system, and improving outcomes for children of incarcerated parents. Panel members will be meeting with legislators and executive level staff at the NYS Office of Children and Family Services to discuss recommendations.

## Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania's South Central Citizen Review Panel (CRP) is currently working on an effort to engage its region's county children and youth caseworker staff. In order to obtain first-hand information and make relevant recommendations within their focus area, the panel plans to invite caseworkers to attend its April meeting. Caseworkers will be asked to provide input and feedback and will be invited to stay for a luncheon afterwards. Prior to the meeting, panel members will collaborate on discussion points and questions to guide the conversation. The panel has identified its overall focus for 2017 as "care for caseworkers," which includes the topics of worker safety and training and preparation of caseworkers. The panel feels that these topics directly relate to the CRP's mission of ensuring that child protection systems provide the best possible services as quality services, which can only be delivered when the workers are taken care of and feel safe in their roles.

Pennsylvania's CRPs will convene for their All Panel Meeting in March. This strategic planning effort is an opportunity for the panels to hear updates on policy within child welfare in Pennsylvania and to meet with key stakeholders to discuss panels' priority areas for the year. During this two-day meeting, panels will also have the opportunity to present their topic areas, receive feedback, and work on concrete action steps moving forward.

## Wyoming

The Wyoming Citizen Review Panel (WYCRP), which is composed of 13 members who reside throughout the state, has taken part in several activities and opportunities for group learning and training. Recently, the Executive Director attended a presentation on Drug Endangered Children (DEC) and has begun to initiate collaboration opportunities on how DEC trainings might benefit the citizens of Wyoming.

WYCRP continues to collaborate with the Department of Family Services (DFS) on supporting their Continuous Quality Improvement system to assure quality services across Wyoming. WYCRP has been an integral part of the DFS case file reviews around certified foster care, non-certified foster care, youth involvement and initial

safety assessment. Additionally, WYCRP participates in quarterly meetings regarding foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention.

Through a common goal of prevention WYCRP, DFS, Wyoming Children's Trust Fund (WCTF) and Prevent Child Abuse Wyoming (PCAWY) joined together to write an article on Adverse Childhood Experiences and Child Abuse and Neglect Mandated Reporting in the Medical Field. It was then submitted to the Wyoming Medical Society for publication in the Wyoming Medicine Magazine.

WYCRP also leads the Wyoming Child Death Review and Prevention Team to review files and provide recommendations to DFS and other local and state agencies regarding children who suffered a major injury or fatality.



"Don't worry that children never listen to you; worry that they are always watching you."

.....

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

## Welcome, Dr. Miller!



The CRP National Network is pleased to welcome **Dr. Justin “Jay” Miller** to the National Citizen Review Panel Advisory Board.

Jay is an Assistant Professor in the College of Social Work at the University of Kentucky. He is dedicated to social

issues and community outreach, a passion which he brings to his work as an educator and scholar. His research and academic interests focus on child welfare, particularly outcomes related to foster and kinship care

and community participation in public child welfare systems. Jay is actively involved in a host of community endeavors and has served as the co-founder/past president of the Louisville Association of Social Workers, and the founder of the Jefferson County Foster Care Peer Support Program and the Kentucky Chapter of the Foster Care Alumni of America. Jay is a past recipient of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services’ Paul Grannis Award, and is a 2014 inductee into the College of Health and Human Services Hall of Fame at Western Kentucky University.

Jay was a Cohort Two Doris Duke Fellow (Doris Duke Foundation and Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago) and earned his Ph.D. at the University of Louisville. Last but not least, having spent time in foster care as a youth, Jay is a proud foster care alum!

Keynote Speaker Announced, Continued from page 1

of nationally recognized child welfare experts, focusing on policy and practice improvement, research, advocacy, and education. She also provides consultation, training, and technical assistance to both the public and nonprofit sectors. Ms. Wolfe’s efforts have contributed to legislative reform, the establishment of innovative child welfare programs and agencies, and brings together experts across disciplines to address some of the child welfare system’s most vexing problems.

In a career spanning over 30 years, Ms. Wolfe served as a child welfare caseworker and supervisor in Massachusetts holding numerous leadership roles, directing a variety of child welfare programs and initiatives across the country, including the NY Foundling Hospital’s



### 16TH NATIONAL CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL CONFERENCE

May 10-12, 2017 | Anchorage, Alaska

Crisis Nursery, Boston City Hospital’s Child Sexual Abuse Team, and Catholic Social Services in Michigan. She was instrumental in developing the

nationally recognized Family Builders model of community response to child abuse and neglect.

Ms. Wolfe was appointed to the recently established Pennsylvania Child Welfare Council, charged with statewide strategic planning. She also chairs the Montgomery County (PA) Office of Children & Youth Citizens Advisory Committee as well as the County’s Child Fatality Review Committee.

*The keynote speech at the 16th National CRP Conference is sponsored by the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA).*

