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# OHIO CITIZEN REVIEW PANELS



# Presentation Outline

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1. Ohio Child Welfare Framework
2. ODJFS Request for Proposal
3. OSU Strategic Planning
4. Document and Idea Development
5. Case Review Process
6. CRP Topic Structure and Location
7. CRP New Member Training
8. Lessons Learned

# Ohio's Child Welfare Framework

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- Ohio is a state supervised, county administered service delivery system
- Ohio has 88 counties and 88 local public children services agencies
- Each county has local control
- Community resources vary greatly from county to county

# Current CRP Design

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Ohio is looking to redesign the 3 existing panels in an effort to:

1. Improve Ohio's Child Protection System at the local and state levels
2. Increase community involvement and input from citizens
3. Increase community collaboration with CPS
4. Increase the community value for CPS

# Request for Proposal (RFP)

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The Ohio State University was selected as the vendor with the following responsibilities:

- Manage the coordination, implementation, and development of Ohio's CRPs
- Facilitate community outreach activities/public forums
- Recruit and train panel members
- Directly coordinate CRP team meetings and activities
- Maintain data, meeting summaries and information to compile annual reports
- Ensure the review process and recommendations from the CRP are linked to improving state and local child protection policies
- Develop case review process that can be replicated across teams to guide the process

# OSU Team Starting Point

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- Influence from contract deliverables
- Research of CRP and the CAPTA Mandate
- Main Work Documents:
  - Work Plan
  - Administrative Strategic Plan

# Work Plan

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- ✓ Study and evaluate the laws and rules governing CPS
- ✓ Obtain and review CPS data
- ✓ Conduct CPS case reviews
- ✓ Develop recommendations to assist Ohio in improving the CPS outcomes for safety, permanency and well-being

\*The timing of the specific tasks outlined in the work plan narrative were included in a timeline

# Administrative Strategic Plan

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## OSU Primary Goal:

- Provide a structure and operating process for three Citizen Review Panels that examine the policies, procedures, and practices of state and local child welfare agencies in Ohio.

## Ohio CRP Vision and Mission Statements:

- Vision- Children in Ohio flourish in safe and stable families.
- Mission- Citizen Review Panels provide perspectives from the stakeholder community on child welfare practices, policies to improve safety, permanency and the immediate and long-term wellbeing of children.



# Administrative Strategic Plan

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## **Strategy 1: Get the CRPs up and Running**

- Differential Missions, Recruiting Members, Orientation and Training for New Members, Establish Charter, Process of updating members on changes to legislation, Develop a tool kit for writing annual reports

## **Strategy 2: Assist CRPs with Initial Start Up Planning**

- Gathering Data Elements from SACWIS, Workbook to Guide CRP Annual Strategic Planning, Making Specific and Measurable Recommendations, Mechanism for Publicizing Efforts of the CRPs

## **Strategy 3: Develop a Plan for Ongoing Support of the CRPs**

- Assist with Trouble Shooting Issues, Plans for Collaboration Between CPS and Community Agencies, Plan for Ongoing Data Analysis

# Document and Idea Development

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- Case Review Tool
- Data Variables/Data Sharing Agreement
- CRP Member Application
- Annual Report Writing Toolkit
- CRP Manual Development (long term goal)

# Case Review Process

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Joint effort between the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and OSU to develop a process for the CRP members to access the State Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS)

# Initial CRP Membership

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1. Starting with professionals from other disciplines that intersect with child welfare
2. Once the new CRPs are established may include foster parents, foster youth, former recipients of child welfare services, etc.

# Membership Recruiting

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- Warm Hand-Off from professionals known to OSU team
- Great success with CASA directors
- Short application process after confirmed interest of membership

# 3 Geographic Regions

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# Ohio CRPs Topic Structure

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- Idea of labeling panels as safety, permanency, and wellbeing came about during discussions of flexible topic selection
- Panels will have choices of topics as they relate to their individual focus
- Allow for specialized membership recruitment
- CRPs become familiar with CFSR outcomes

# CRP Topic and Location

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- **Safety Panel** located in Franklin County (Columbus, OH)
- **Permanency Panel** located in Athens County (Athens, OH)
- **Well-Being Panel** located in Hamilton County (Cincinnati, OH)



# Training the New CRP Members

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## Online training program!

- Can be accessed from home
- Completed prior to the in-person strategic planning (March 2017)
- Topics covering laws and rules that govern CPS, child welfare in Ohio, the CRP mandate and best practice, child maltreatment, using data, writing the annual report, and recruitment and retention of members

## In-Person One Day Training and Strategic Planning (March 2017)

- Short overview of online training topics
- Strategic planning with individual panel groups
- Presentation from state and/or county CPS agency

# Ongoing Training Plan

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- Online training will remain accessible to CRP members for reference
- New modules can be added as new practices or information becomes available
- Modules can be added to give additional information to panels about their selected topics
- All CRP member contact information will be accessible via the online training program

# Lessons Learned

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- Training for new CRP members is essential
- Rural panels require more planning
- Expectations of volunteer panel members to drive a long distance for meetings
- Communication to counties about the restructure of the panels

# Where Ohio is going from here!

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- ✓ In-Person strategic planning meeting March 2017
  - Training
  - Topic Selection
- ✓ First CRP meetings May 2017
- ✓ First Annual Report Due June 2018