

# CAPTA Citizen Review Panel National Directory

**The Power of Community**



**Ending Child Abuse  
and Neglect.**



Citizen Review Panels for Child Protective Services

[www.cantasd.org/crp.html](http://www.cantasd.org/crp.html)

*Updated April 24, 2017*

## A Word from Dr. Jones

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present to you the National Citizen Review Panel Directory.<sup>1</sup> 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.cantasd.org/crp.html](http://www.cantasd.org/crp.html) and contains training materials, research articles, reports and many other useful tools for CRPs.

I would 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, 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*

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<sup>1</sup> This directory was originally published in 2008. It was updated in April 2017. Updates should be emailed to [Bljone00@uky.edu](mailto:Bljone00@uky.edu).



# Alabama

## Contact Information:

Mason Hobbie, Interim Coordinator  
(251) 450-7204  
[Mason.Hobbie@dhr.alabama.gov](mailto:Mason.Hobbie@dhr.alabama.gov)

**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 chose 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:

- Evaluation of data regarding the performance of the child welfare system in Alabama  
Involvement in monitoring progress in Alabama's APSR
- Completion of Quality Service Reviews in each county
- Completion of stakeholder interviews as a tool in monitoring child welfare practice Focus on recruitment and retention of foster and adoptive parents

**Budget Amount and Source:** QA committee members are volunteers and no budgets are in existence for state or county committees. Salaries of State Department QA personnel and county Quality Assurance coordinators, travel for onsite reviews and other related expenses are included in the Department's budget.

*1/11/17*



# Alaska

## Contact Information:

The coordinator for the Alaska Citizens Review Panel is Ms. Jodi Fondy. The panel may be contacted via email at [admin@crpalaska.org](mailto:admin@crpalaska.org) or via the website at [www.crpalaska.org](http://www.crpalaska.org).

**Started in:** 2003

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

**Total Members:** Currently 8. There are no limits on the number of members.

## Brief Description:

Alaska's Citizen Review Panel is authorized by federal and state statutes. It is composed of volunteers representing the state's population. The Panel is led by a Chair and Vice-Chair. The Panel selects its members based on specific criteria, through a formal recruitment process. State's Office of Children Services (OCS, Alaska's CPS agency) provides staffing through an independent contract. The Director and senior staff of OCS meets with CRP on a monthly basis. There is no designated liaison.

## Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

Each year, Alaska CRP identifies four to six goals, each covering one or more components of the state child protection policies. Each goal is examined from a policy and practice perspective. Practice is examined during site visits to regional and local CPS offices and consulting with CPS staff and their local partnering agencies. The Panel attempts to visit each of the five regions every year. Site visit reports include observations and recommendations. Policy on each goal is examined through review of relevant policy documents. Available data is examined to assess the impact of different policies. Additional data is collected through surveys of key stakeholders in the state.

The annual report summarizes the Panel's work and findings on each goal. The report also includes recommendations for changes or improvements. Progress and findings of the panel are presented to the Alaska Legislature each year.

The panel identified four goals for the year 2016-2017 – exploring the evolving state-tribal relationships; reviewing the state's grievance policy; reviewing the state's administrative review process; and

**Website:** [www.crpalaska.org](http://www.crpalaska.org)

**Budget Amount and Source:** Approximately \$100,000; from state general funds.

3/9/17



## Arizona

### Contact Information:

Sandra Lescoe, MSW  
CRP Program Coordinator  
(602)496-1487  
[Sandra.Lescoe@asu.edu](mailto:Sandra.Lescoe@asu.edu)

**Started in:** July, 1999

**Annual Report Submitted:** December 31

**Total Members:** Approximately 40

### Brief Description:

Through an interagency service agreement with the Department of Child Safety (DCS) Arizona State University's Center for Applied Behavioral Health Policy (CABHP) provides administrative support and oversees the operation of the Arizona Citizen Review Panel Program (ACRPP). As part of the interagency service agreement, the CRP Program Coordinator works in conjunction with DCS to complete all federal requirements identified in CAPTA regarding the CRPs. Arizona has three fully operational regional panels that meet quarterly.

The panel members are committed volunteers comprised of private citizens and professionals who take an active role in helping influence, support, and advocate for children and families. A defined process is utilized for the panel members to collect, review, assess and discuss confidential information about DCS cases, policies, procedures, practice, data or other information the CRP utilizes to develop recommendations with emphasis on strategies to improve the child welfare system. The quarterly meetings also include presentations and/or educational materials from DCS, community providers or other child welfare partners, to provide panel members with a working knowledge of child welfare and the complexities of the child protection service system.

The Department's Practice Improvement Specialists and other agency representatives attend region specific CRP meetings and use the information garnered from the meetings to improve practice in their locations. These representatives provide clarification and help facilitate opportunities for open dialogue between DCS and the panel members.

### Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

Change in 2014 within the DCS structure brought new opportunities for the CRPs to determine how they can have the greatest impact and how they can advance the issues and concerns of citizens in the context of meaningful, reasonable, and actionable recommendations.

- Strengthening and enhancing CRP outreach efforts so interested parties are aware of the CRP and their work.
- Continuing efforts to assess, advance knowledge, and cultivate understanding about the challenges faced by the child welfare system in improving outcomes for Arizona children and families.
- Establishing co-chairs and subcommittees to provide greater focus on issues.
- Engaging in strategic planning to improve methods to alleviate the difficulties and gaps in accessing and receiving child welfare services.



- Establishing a charter, co-chairman's, and organized subcommittees in order for panel members to utilize their knowledge and experience when determining focus and priority topics within the child welfare system.

**Website:** <https://child-wellbeing.asu.edu/content/arizona-citizen-review-panels-0>

**Budget Amount and Source:** The CAPTA Basic State Grant supports the administration of the three Arizona Citizen Review Panels. The amount of the contract with Arizona State University is \$148,000 per contract year.

4/24/16



# Arkansas

## Contact Information:

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Division of Children and Family Services  
501-682-8008  
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**Started in:** 1999

**Annual Report Submitted:** June 30

**Total Members:** 22

## Brief Description:

Arkansas has 3 Citizen Review Panels which were started in 1999. The Panels cover Logan, Ouachita, and Pope 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 to provide feedback to the panel coordinators.

## Citizen Review Panel Coordinator contacts:

Marilyn Sanders, CRP Coordinator, Logan County  
[msanders.paris@gmail.com](mailto:msanders.paris@gmail.com)

Sherrie Bell, CRP Coordinator, Ouachita County  
[s.bell\\_98@yahoo.com](mailto:s.bell_98@yahoo.com)

Jeffery Phillips, CRP Coordinator, Pope County  
[pimk@suddenlink.net](mailto:pimk@suddenlink.net)

## Sample of Current/Work Projects/Focus:

- Case specific reviews/investigations
- Fatalities and near fatalities due to child maltreatment
- Domestic Violence
- Discussions of agency initiatives and how those relate to panel function

**Budget Amount and Source:** \$10,000 per panel from CAPTA funds. The Citizen Review Panels are contracted through the Arkansas Division of Children and Family Services to provide program coordination.

*3/24/17*



# California

## Contact Information:

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CA Department of Social Services  
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Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-657-4709  
angela.ponivas@dss.ca.gov

**Started in:** July, 1999

**Annual Report Submitted:** November

**Total Members:** 36

## Brief Description:

California has three panels. There are two local panels in San Mateo County and Ventura County and a statewide panel through the Prevention and Early Intervention Committee of the California Child Welfare Council. Each panel has a chairperson/coordinator responsible for assisting the panel members in following through with the meeting and reporting requirements.

## Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Reviewing the child welfare system and making recommendation to improve child protection policies across the state.
- Continuing efforts to develop knowledge and understanding about the challenges faced by the child welfare system.
- Examining options to mitigate the difficulties associated with child welfare services recipients accessing available services.
- Enhancing CRP's outreach efforts so that interested parties are aware of the CRPs and their work.

**Website:** [www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG2425.htm](http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG2425.htm)

[www.smcprp.org](http://www.smcprp.org)

**Budget Amount and Source:** \$25,000 per panel from CAPTA funds. The California Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention, is the lead agency for the CAPTA federal grant. The functions of OCAP include oversight of the panels, technical assistance and allocation of funds.

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

12/14/16



# Colorado

## Contact Information:

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 CAPTA Administrator, Division of Child Welfare  
 Colorado Department of Human Services  
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 Denver, CO 80203  
 303-866-4268  
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**Started in:** June 1999

Colorado Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment Act (CAPTA) Citizen Review Panels:

1. Children's Justice Act Task Force
2. Institutional Abuse and Neglect Review Team
3. Child Fatality Review Team

## Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

### Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force

The CJA Task Force is established in accordance with the Child Abuse and Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), (codified at 42 USC 5106c). Membership in the CJA Task Force must be multi-disciplinary, in accordance with federal statutory requirements.

### Institutional Abuse and Neglect Review Team (IART)

The Institutional Abuse Review Team (IART) meets monthly to review reports of investigations of abuse and neglect in 24-hour out-of-home licensed and certified childcare settings which includes foster homes, child placement agency foster and group homes, residential child care facilities, Division of Youth Corrections juvenile facilities, and Colorado Office of Behavioral Health institutions for children. The Team is mandated to ensure that the county protective service investigation is in compliance with the requirements of State statute. It also reviews the county's involvement and coordination with community agencies and related state entities.

### Child Fatality Review Team (CFRT)

The CFRT conducts in-depth case reviews of incidents of egregious child abuse or neglect, near fatalities, or fatalities within 30 days of receiving the necessary documentation from the county DHS when the incident was substantiated for fatal or severe abuse or neglect; and the child or family had previous involvement with a county DHS in Colorado within two years prior to the incident. The annual CFRT report has the following objectives:

- To understand the causes of the reviewed incidents of egregious abuse or neglect against a child, near fatalities, and fatalities;
- To identify any gaps or deficiencies that may exist in the delivery of services to children and their families by public agencies responsible for mitigating child abuse, neglect, or death;
- To make recommendations for changes to laws, rules, and policies directed at child welfare practice that will support improved outcomes for Colorado's child welfare system.

**Website:** <https://sites.google.com/a/state.co.us/humanservices/>

**Budget Amount and Source:** CAPTA/CJA

3/24/17



## Connecticut

### Contact Information:

Jo Hawke  
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Wethersfield, CT 06109  
860-563-3232

Jenny Bridges  
FAVOR, Inc.  
[jgarcia@favor-ct.org](mailto:jgarcia@favor-ct.org)

**Started in:** 1999

**Total Membership:** Based on topic

### Brief Description:

The following groups are serving as Connecticut's Citizen Review Panels: (1) The State Advisory Council on Children and Families; and (2) FAVOR's Eastern Region Family Council and Western Region Family Council CRPs. Membership in each group is based on topic areas of interest to panel members.

### Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

The State Advisory Council on Children and Families (SAC) is legislatively mandated to meet on a quarterly basis and has functioned as a Citizen Review Panel for many years. SAC 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 SAC 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.

FAVOR, Inc. is a statewide Family-led Organization for Children's Mental Health. Its 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. FAVOR coordinates two regional CRPs, known as the Eastern Region Family Council and Western Region Family Council, and collaborates with Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) that have been established statewide.

**Website:** <http://www.favor-ct.org/programs-services/citizens-review-panels/>

**Budget Amount and Source:** \$12,000 is allotted to cover expenses for each CRP. Expenses include modest stipends for participants to offset transportation and daycare costs to encourage and support family participation. These stipends are funded out of the CAPTA grant.

3/24/17



# Delaware

## Contact Information:

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**Started in:** 2004

**Annual Report Submitted:** Fall

**Total Members:** Approximately 24

## Brief Description:

Delaware's Child Protection Accountability Commission (CPAC) was established by an Act of the Delaware General Assembly in 1997 following the death of a 4-year-old boy named Bryan Martin. Bryan's death demonstrated the need for multidisciplinary collaboration and accountability in Delaware's child protection system. In 2004, CPAC was designated by Delaware's Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families, in its state plan under the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), to serve as Delaware's Citizen Review Panel (CRP). CPAC also serves as the Children's Justice Act State Task Force.

CPAC's purpose is to monitor Delaware's child protection system to best ensure the health, safety, and well-being of Delaware's abused, neglected, and dependent children. CPAC has 17 statutory members from the child protection system and 7 at-large members who represent the community and who are appointed by the Governor. CPAC fulfills its duties by holding quarterly meetings to identify system challenges and advocate for system reform, to evaluate and recommend changes in policy, and to make legislative recommendations. Between quarterly Commission meetings, CPAC's various committees and workgroups are engaged in substantive work, at the direction of the Commission, in a variety of areas, including: the ongoing review of practices followed by various system partners in their response to reports of abuse and neglect; the development of training in best practices for front line professionals who respond to reports of abuse and neglect; the improvement of educational outcomes for children in foster care; various legislative initiatives, including work on extended jurisdiction, reviews of child death and near death cases due to abuse and neglect and other statutes; permanency for adolescents; substance exposed infants; mandatory reporting of child abuse; data utilization, and others.

## Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

CPAC established 3 priorities in FY16: 1. Cases tracked by the Investigation Coordinator (16 Del. C. § 902(14)), who monitors and helps to coordinate all child death, near death, and sexual abuse cases to ensure a comprehensive, multidisciplinary civil and criminal system response; 2. Reviews of child abuse and neglect death and near death cases, duties of which were transferred to CPAC in September 2015 (16 Del. C. § 931(b)(7)); and Delaware's Child Welfare Dashboard, which measures the child protection system and informs system improvements.

**Website:** <http://courts.delaware.gov/childadvocate/index.aspx>

3/24/17



## District of Columbia

### Contact Information:

Emily Smith Goering, Vice Chair (serving as interim chair)  
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[egoering@umaryland.edu](mailto:egoering@umaryland.edu)

Joyce Thomas, Facilitator  
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Washington, DC, 20001  
202-544-3144  
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**Started in:** 2004

**Annual Report Submitted:** Fall

**Total Members:** Approximately 15

### Brief Description:

The DC Citizen Review Panel is an external, independent oversight body for the District's child welfare system, evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of District government agencies involved in child protection as well as community-based services agencies involved in child protection. The Panel focuses on examination of policies, practices, and procedures of the District's Child and Family Services Agency, assessing the extent to which the Agency is effectively discharging its child protection responsibilities and making recommendations for improvements.

Members of the Panel are informed volunteer citizens of the District of Columbia in which 8 members are appointed by the Mayor, and 7 members are approved by Resolution of the DC City Council. This configuration is in compliance with DC Official Code (Law), and panel members have a wide range of knowledge and experience about issues related to the District's child welfare system. The Panel meets quarterly and is organized into task forces to work on its priority topics. The Center for Child Protection and Family Support (Center) serves as the Facilitator of the DC Citizen Review Panel. The Center is a non-profit social service agency recognized as a leader in the field of child abuse and neglect; this brings substantive support, content knowledge, local and national expertise to the Panel.

### Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

There is currently only one CRP task force that carry out the Panel's priorities: The Task Force on Youth Aging Out of Foster Care: This task force investigates and assesses the quality of services provided to teens and young adults both prior to and after aging out of the foster care system at age 21. The Task force works closely with agency leadership, as well as local child welfare stakeholders. As new members are appointed additional task forces will be established to address critical issues in the District's child welfare system.

**Website:** [www.dc-crp.org](http://www.dc-crp.org)

3/27/17



# Florida

## Contact Information:

Erin Hough  
Prevention Specialist, Office of Child Welfare  
Florida Department of Children and Families  
1317 Winewood Blvd., Bldg. 1 Room 302L  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0700  
850-717-4658 office  
850-251-7007 cell  
Erin.Hough@myflfamilies.com

**Annual Report Submitted:** June 30  
**Total Members:** Approximately 10-30 each

## 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.

- Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers (FICCIT) Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council
- State Child Abuse Death Review Team (CADRT), and Independent Living Services Advisory Council

## Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Review issues that cross agencies and organizations with emphasis on Child Protection and Child Welfare
- Provide advice and assistance to interagency programs providing appropriate early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and risk conditions and their families.
- Detailed reviews of the facts and circumstances surrounding child abuse and neglect deaths in which a verified report of abuse or neglect is accepted by the Florida Abuse Hotline
- Leverage and influence both policy and practice through their recommendations

## Websites:

<http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/initiatives/>  
<http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/initiatives/GMWorkgroup/docs/GabrielMyersWorkGroupReport082009Final.pdf>  
<http://www.flcadr.org/>  
<http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/indliving/AdvisoryCouncil/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 Child Welfare functions as a central program office serving the entire state of Florida. The functions of the Office of Child Welfare include



oversight, technical assistance, policy and statute clarification, data collection and analysis and the allocation of funds.

*5/24/16*



# Georgia

## Contact Information:

Deb Farrell  
CAPTA Panel and CJA Task Force Coordinator  
c/o Care Solutions, Inc.  
1117 Perimeter Center W, Suite W300  
Atlanta, GA 30338  
770-642-6722 Ext 307

**Annual Report Submitted:** April 30

**Total Members:** 40-50

## Brief Description:

Georgia designated three existing committees to serve as its citizen review panels (CAPTA Panels): the Child Protective Services Advisory Committee (CPSAC), the Children's Justice Act Task Force (CJATF), and the Georgia Child Fatality Review Panel (CFRP). The CJATF also serves as a task force on children's justice. The CFRP is a state legislated body charged with reviewing all child deaths. All three Panels have a statewide approach to examining systemic issues that impact the effectiveness of the state's child protection system. Their overlapping interests address the full child welfare continuum, from prevention and investigation to treatment and prosecution of cases of child abuse and neglect and maltreatment-related fatalities. Georgia's CAPTA Panels also monitor the state's compliance with CAPTA and its CAPTA plan.

## Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Foster parent training curriculum and delivery
- Safety resource policy and practice, including assessment, resources and supports for relative caregivers having short term care of children
- Prenatal exposure to substance use and abuse and child deaths
- Improving the consistency of maltreatment terminology between Georgia Code, the child welfare agency and other state agencies with child caring responsibilities
- Mandated reporter training standards
- Training for individuals investigating maltreatment-related child deaths
- Impact of long term neglect

**Website:** [www.gacrp.com](http://www.gacrp.com)

**Budget:** Administrative and operating costs, including a contracted, independent coordinator are supported with CAPTA \$. Budget also supports the participation of a member from each Georgia's CAPTA Panels at the annual national citizen review panel conference.

12/2/16



# Hawaii

## Contact Information:

Tracy L. Yadao  
 Assistant Program Administrator  
 Department of Human Services, SSD/CPS/Program Development  
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[TYadao@dhs.hawaii.gov](mailto:TYadao@dhs.hawaii.gov)

**Chairperson:** Stephen Morse

**Vice Chairperson:** Maylyn Tallett

**Started in:** 2000

**Annual Report Submitted:** June 30

**Report is located at:** <http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/ssd/home/child-welfare-services/>

**Total Members:** 12

## Brief Description:

The Na Kupa Alo Ana O Hawaii Citizen's Review Panel is comprised of citizen volunteers, as mandated by the Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). These volunteer representatives work and live in different communities on islands throughout the State of Hawaii. Face to face meetings are held every other month on the island of Oahu and phone conferences are done in between meetings to share updates. Together, we make recommendations to the child welfare system on making improvements to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and their families living in Hawaii.

## Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

The Statewide Na Kupa Alo Ana O Hawaii CRP is currently working on the following:

1. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Hawaii Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Welfare Services and Na Kupa Alo Ana O Hawaii CRP. The purpose of this MOU is to clarify respective roles and responsibilities.
2. Engaging Fathers Project: Analyze CWS caseworkers' success in locating and identifying fathers and determining whether caseworkers have been successful in engaging fathers in their cases. Status: Finalizing project.

Completed projects in 2015-2016:

1. Evaluation of Hawaii's CWS intake system Project: Surveyed 2 mandated reporter groups - the Department of Education and the National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii to assess client satisfaction with the central hotline reporting system.
2. Caseworker Visits with Children Project: Capture strengths and barriers to quality monthly caseworker visits with children by facilitating discussion with caseworkers to identify systemic challenges to improve quality visits with the children in their cases.
3. Distribution of a Help Guide for Families of Those Serving Time brochure. This is a service guide developed by Keiki O Ka Aina & the Family Reunification Working Group. This brochure assists families who have loved ones who are incarcerated.

**Budget Amount and Source:** \$20,000 SCASA – Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account

3/24/17



# Idaho

## Contact Information:

Misty Myatt  
Idaho Department of Health and Welfare  
Keeping Children Safe Citizen Review Panel State Liaison  
Family and Community Services  
Child and Family Services  
450 W. State Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
PO BOX 83720  
Boise, ID 83720

**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/Children/AbuseNeglect/KeepingChildrenSafePanels/tabid/477/Default.aspx>

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

10/31/17



# Illinois

## Contact Information:

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 Department of Children and Family Services  
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**Started in:** July, 1999

**Annual Report Submitted:** June 30

**Total Members:** Between 60 and 70

## Brief Description:

Illinois has four statewide Citizen Review Panels (CRPs) comprised of 1) Statewide Citizen Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN), 2) the Children's Justice Task Force (CJTF), the Child Death Review Teams (CDRT) s Executive Council and the Child and Family Advisory Council (CFAC).

Each Panel has a chairperson and vice-chairperson. Currently Illinois is working to re-organize the Citizen Review Panel Steering Committee which will include the chair and vice chair, DCFS Administrators and Coordinators within the Division of Grant Management and Accountability, Office of Policy, Child Protection and the Division of Quality Assurance. The CRP Steering Committee once re-organized will meet at least twice a year to share information, set goals, and assess the progress of the recommendations of the Panels to the IDCFS Director.

## Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Medical expert opinion and consult to assist IDCFS and Law Enforcement with abuse investigations
- Case File Reviews
- Recruitment efforts to ensure ethnic diversity among the 4 panels
- Continue expansion of Children Advocacy Center to coordinate investigations of physical abuse
- Continue to develop an annual training symposium to up-date knowledge and skills of the CDRT members and promote the exchange of information between teams
- Training of IDCFS Frontline staff for Forensic interviews
- Developing Request for Proposal to support community-based program aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect and strengthening families
- Ensuring compliance with Ethic training and the Open Meeting Act
- Training on multidisciplinary team approach for investigations of reports of abuse or neglect to children under the age of 18.
- Writing Bylaws, Missions, Visions and Values
- Improvements to IDCFS Central Registry/ Hotline call center



**Website:** Citizen Review Panel Reports are available in the Library section of the Illinois DCFS Website: [www.il.state.us/dcfs](http://www.il.state.us/dcfs).

**Budget Amount and Source:** In 2015- CDRT, SCAN and the CFSAC in Illinois were allocated an annual budget for the amount of \$7,500 each. CAPTA funding is used for panel members/ coordinators to attend the National CRP conference. Funds may also support panel member's attendance at special meetings for improving child safety and protection. The Children Justice Grant support the (CJTF) members attendance at the National CRP conference, travel reimbursement and other cost approved in the annual budget relative to the work of the CJTF.

*5/27/16*



## Indiana

Kyle D. Gaddis  
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**Started in:** 2005

**Annual Report Submitted:** CRPs submit their Annual Reports on or before December 31st each year and the State responds on or before June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Total Members:** Approximately 40

### Brief Description:

Indiana statute requires that Indiana have three Citizen's Review Panels (CRPs), including a child fatality review team, a child protection team, and a foster care advisory team. Each team has at least one chairperson and is made up of local child welfare stakeholders.

Indiana changed their reporting period to a calendar year to better accommodate the needs of its panels.

Two CRPs will be completing their three year term on December 31, 2016; the Switzerland County Child Protection Team CRP and the Heritage Foster and Adoption Support, Inc. CRP. Work is underway on identifying a new child protection and foster care advisory team to fulfill the next three year term that starts January 1, 2017. The Knox County Fatality Review Team was recently recruited to be a CRP and their activities thus far have focused on getting familiar with the objectives of citizen review panels and setting their priorities.

### Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

The Heritage Foster and Adoption Support CRP continues its examination of the relationship between initial assessments and the services provided to children and families. The panel's work has revolved around reviewing a sample of cases, evaluating currently utilized assessment tools, and making recommendations for improvements in assessment procedures.

Over the past year, the Switzerland County Child Protection Team reviewed cases and submitted a report focused on evaluating Indiana's response and treatment plans for juvenile sex offenders and proposing recommendations for improvement.

**Website:** <http://www.in.gov/dcs>

3/24/17



# Iowa

## Contact Information:

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**Started in:** 1999

## Brief Description:

Iowa has one statewide and two regional Citizen Review Panels (CRPs). The Statewide Citizen Review Panel, The Child Protection Council, is centrally located in the state's capital of Des Moines. The two regional Citizen Review Panels are located in the Northern and Western parts of the state. The Cerro Gordo County Family Violence Response Team is located in northern Iowa in Mason City and 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 two 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:

**Reports:** All three CRP reports can be found in the appendices of Iowa's FFY 2012 Annual CAPTA Report: [http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/docs/FFY\\_2012\\_CAPTA\\_report.pdf](http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/docs/FFY_2012_CAPTA_report.pdf)

**Budget Amount and Source:** The Statewide Child Protection Council also serves as Iowa's State Task Force under the Children's Justice Act (CJA). Therefore, funds under CJA are available to support staffing for this review panel and to cover expenses related to travel for review members traveling in from other parts of the state.

*3/24/17*



# Kansas

## Contact Information:

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**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 Citizen Review Panel: Custody to Transition; and the Kansas Citizen Review Panel: Intake to Petition.

Each Panel has a Chairperson and Assistant Chairperson who are responsible for leading the quarterly Panel meetings and separately scheduled subcommittee meetings that re- search 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 re- search 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:** <https://ag.ks.gov/scdrb> and <https://ag.ks.gov/scdrb>

**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.

*3/9/17*



# Kentucky

## Contact Information:

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**Started in:** July, 1999

**Annual Report Submitted:** June 30

**Total Members:** Approximately 30

## Brief Description:

Kentucky has two regional panels and one statewide panel. The regional panels meet monthly and the statewide group meets quarterly. 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. The mission of Kentucky's Citizen Review Panels is to involve the larger community in evaluating the practices and policy of the Department for Community Based Services. Ultimately, our goal is to improve the lives of every child and family in the Commonwealth.

## Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Recruitment and Retention of Department of Community-Based Services (DCBS) staff
- What Works Conference—highlighting best practices in child welfare in Kentucky
- Legislative Advocacy
- Conversation on Collaboration - Trauma Informed Care
- Student Citizen Review Panels

**Website:** <http://trc.uky.edu/citizens-review-panel/>

**Budget Amount and Source:** \$78,000 from CAPTA money. The University of Kentucky is contracted through Kentucky's child welfare agency to provide program coordination.

*3/24/17*



# Louisiana

## Contact Information:

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**Started in:** July, 1999

**Annual Report Submitted:** at the end of the fiscal year

## Brief Description:

Louisiana has three (3) Citizen Review Panels which began their formation in 1999. The Beauregard Panel is parish based and located in the southeastern quadrant of the state within the Lake Charles Region. The remaining two panels are based in the regions of Lafayette and Monroe, which both consist of multiple parishes. Each panel respective chair, vice chair or DCFS Liaison is responsible for assisting members in attaining the goal to provide an opportunity for citizens to commit in promoting and creating positive change for the overall well-being and safety of children, youth and families.

Other Information: The Louisiana Citizen Review Panels continue to assist the Department in moving toward its goals to provide safety, permanency, and well-being for children in the state of Louisiana. For more information regarding interest in the participation on one of our panels, see [DCFS.CitizenReview@la.gov](mailto:DCFS.CitizenReview@la.gov).

## Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Timeframe regarding the placements of foster children in the home with relative caregivers including the duration of completing the home study process
- Teen aged children aging out of the foster care system with a focus on their ability in meeting their own needs
- Transition of youth from state care to Independent Living (Life Skill Camp)

**Website:**

**Budget:** CAPTA Funding



# Maine

## Contact Information

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CAPTA Panel Coordinator  
Office of Child and Family Services  
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**Started in:** in 2008

**Annual Report Submitted:** on national web site

**Total Members:** 19

## Brief Description:

The Maine Citizen's Review Panel (CRP) is an addition to the Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel (CDSI) and the Child Abuse Action Network (CAAN) facilitating compliance with the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), including the requirements that are set for the Children's Justice Act (CJA) Grantees. Administrative assistance is provided by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Annual Reports: CRP 2011-2013, CDSI 2010-2013

### Membership:

The CRP represents providers, local citizens, consumers of the child protective services, former foster children over the age of 18, adoptive parents, civic representatives and members of the community at large. Membership of the CRP attempts to achieve a broad and diverse representation of the community including but not limited to law enforcement, biological parents, and former youth in care, researchers, and foster/adoptive parents, and domestic violence professionals, mental health therapists, clergy, CASA, disabilities specialist, teachers, an attorney and medical professionals. Membership recruitment also weighs diversity of age, race/ethnicity, gender and class as critical to the make up the CRP.

The mission of Maine's Citizen Review Panel is to assure that the State system is meeting the safety, permanency, and wellbeing needs of children and families serviced by the child protection agency. To achieve its mission, the Citizen Review Panel engages in activities such as assessment research, review of individual cases, advocacy, holding public hearings, and promoting greater citizen involvement. It is hoped that the activities of the Citizen Review Panel will improve child safety and the quality of services to children, families, and local communities. The CRP recommendations can be made immediately to the Commissioner of the Department Health and Human Services or through the annual report.

Recommendations can also be made through the Department liaison, the Office of Child and Family Services Associate Director Policy and Prevention or the Director of the Office of Child and Family Services.

**Website:** <http://www.childabuseactionnetwork.com/>

5/23/16



# Maryland

## Contact Information:

State Citizens Review Board for Children  
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Essex, Maryland 21221-3419  
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Denise E. Wheeler, Administrator  
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[www.dhr.maryland.gov/crbc](http://www.dhr.maryland.gov/crbc)

State Council on Child Abuse & Neglect  
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State Child Fatality Review Team  
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**Started in:** SCRBC 1978, SCCAN 1999, SCFRT 1999  
**Annual Report Submitted:** By June 30  
**Total Members:** Over 465

## Brief Description:

Maryland's 3 statewide Citizen Review Panels were formed from 2 citizen panels that pre-dated CAPTA and one newly-created entity: the State Foster Care Review Board and the Governor's Council on Child Abuse and Neglect pre-dated the statutory establishment of CAPTA panels in Maryland. In addition, 24 local Citizen Review Panels, appointed by local governments, were created to conduct case reviews and otherwise assist the State Board and the State Council. The State Child Fatality Review Team (along with 24 local teams) was created and also designated a CAPTA panel via the 1999 legislation.

The Citizen's Review Board for Children (SCRBC) was established by the Maryland State legislature as the Foster Care Review Board in 1978 to spur efforts to provide permanence in the lives of foster children. The State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (SCCAN) is charged by the Maryland State legislature to "report and make recommendations annually to the Governor and the General Assembly on matters relating to the prevention, detection, prosecution, and treatment of child abuse and neglect, including policy and training needs." The purpose of the State Child Fatality Review Team (SCFRT) is to



prevent child deaths by developing an understanding of the causes and incidence of child deaths; developing plans for and implementing changes within the agencies represented on the State CFR team to prevent child deaths, and to advise the Governor, General Assembly, and the public on changes to law, policy, and practice to prevent child death.

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 winter retreat each year.

#### Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Increase family preservation and kinship services.
- Improve permanency outcomes for children in out-of-home placement.
- Recommendation that the Governor and his Children's Cabinet along with Legislative and Judicial leadership endorse the development of a comprehensive statewide Maryland Child Maltreatment Prevention Plan
- Creation of an annual report that details frequency and causes of childhood death
- Response to local team's investigation of child deaths
- Definition and investigation protocols for child near fatality
- Implementation of national database for child fatality and near fatality reviews
- Education and training of local child fatality review teams

#### Websites:

SCFRT, <http://www.fha.state.md.us/mch/cfr>;

SCRBC, <http://www.dhr.state.md.us/crbc/index.htm>

#### Budget Source & Amount:

SCFRT- \$0 / Staffed part-time through the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene

SCRBC-\$1,688,932 line item in State budget (\$1,102,761 General funds + \$586, 171 Federal funds)

SCCAN- \$75,000 from CAPTA money

*3/9/17*



# Massachusetts

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**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

**Website:** 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](http://www.mass.gov/dss).



# Michigan

## Contact Information:

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**Started in:** June, 1999

**Annual Report Submitted:** March 31

**Total Members:** Approximately 50

## Brief Description:

Michigan has three Citizen Review Panels, two of which were established with membership from existing citizen advisory committees: the Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect (GTF) (Children's Justice Act) and the State Child Death Advisory Team (CDAT). The Children's Trust Fund (CTF) oversees the third panel. 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).

## 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
- Exploring ways to integrate the Strengthening Families framework and protective factors into child welfare work, including training and application to practice.



- Learning about the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study and trauma-informed care and their application to child welfare practice and policy.

**Website:** No specific website for CRPs, though some information regarding their work can be found on the GTF site at [www.michigan.gov/gtfn](http://www.michigan.gov/gtfn) and MPHI at [www.mphi.org](http://www.mphi.org).

**Budget Amount and Source:** Some funding is 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 is 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.

12/9/16



## Minnesota

### Contact Information:

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**Started in:** October, 1999

**Annual Report Submitted:** June 30

**Total Members:** Approximately 50

### Brief Description:

As of October 2009, Minnesota has five Citizen Review Panels (CRP): Chisago, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington and Winona Counties. A volunteer citizen facilitates the statewide CRP Steering Committee that also includes the chair and vice-chair from each panel. The panels meet monthly. All five 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. Human services in Minnesota are state supervised and county administered.

### Samples of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Foster care re-entry
- Mandated Reporter Training
- Independent living skills resources
- Racial disparities in the child protection system
- Intake and assessment
- Truancy and educational neglect
- Program Improvement Plans
- Child welfare financing
- Requests for reconsideration of maltreatment findings

### 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)

Included are the annual CRP reports and the responses to the recommendations in the 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.

3/24/17



# Mississippi

## Contact Information:

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601-359-4696

**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. These Panels are 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.

The Mississippi Citizen Review Panel is comprised of several panels that cover all parts of the state. The Children's Trust Fund Advisory Council, Teen Advisory Board, and Children's Justice Act Task Force are three panels covering the state.

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:

The Mississippi Citizen Review Panels are focused on providing specific information on how to report child abuse and neglect for mandated reporters and the general public. Other areas of focus include:



- Safe Sleep Initiatives
- Reduction of Children in Foster Care
- Substance Abuse among caregivers, specifically pregnant women.

**Website:** [mdcps.ms.gov](http://mdcps.ms.gov)

**Budgets:** CRP members volunteer their services. State Task force members' expenses are reimbursed by the State of Mississippi, MS Department of Child Protection Services.

*3/27/17*



## Missouri

### Contact Information:

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Cari Pointer  
Task Force on Children's Justice Panel-CJA Liaison  
Child Fatality Review Program Panel Member – Liaison  
CANRB-Facilitator  
Program Development Specialist  
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**Started in:** 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:** 88

### 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 five 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.



### Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

The CANRB provides feedback to the Children's Division when the board reverses the "Preponderance of the Evidence" finding by documenting the reason(s) behind the board's reversal. The CANRB panel includes physicians, nurses, or other medical professionals, psychologists, counselor or social worker, attorneys who have been involved in Gal work or related child abuse cases, law enforcement or juvenile office, professors or teachers, child advocates, and parents (foster or grand).

**Websites:** <http://www.governor.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.

*3/24/17*



# Montana

## Contact Information:

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Child and Family Services Division  
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**Annual Report Submitted:** June 30

**Total Members:** 20

## Brief Description:

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.

## Website:

**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.



# Nebraska

## Contact Information:

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**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 serves as the CJA State Task Force and has an established subcommittee which acts as a Citizen Review Panel. Members of the task force 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.

Project Everlast is a statewide, youth-led initiative committed to providing input from young people who are being affected by foster care and the services in their community. The Project Everlast Statewide Leadership Team serves as a CRP.

The third CRP is made up of members from the Directors Subcommittee on Alternative Response (AR) and members of the public who have experience or interest in the AR process.

## Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Review of Near Fatality and Serious Injury incidents in Nebraska
- Assessment of the Alternative Response project and expansion.
- Improving communication with foster families and children
- Engaging older youth involved in the child welfare system.

**Website:** None at this time

**Budget:** Basic CAPTA and CJA Grant money.

*3/24/17*



# Nevada

## Contact Information:

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**Started in:** 1999

**Annual Report Submitted:** May 31

**Total Members:** 76

## Brief Description:

Nevada has designated five existing committees to serve as Citizens Review Panels. They include: 1) The Clark County Department of Family Services Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC); 2) the Child Death Review- Executive Committee; 3) the Differential Response Steering Committee; 4) the Children's Justice Act Task Force; and 5) the Coalition for the Prevention of the Commercial Exploitation of Children (CSEC). All Nevada Citizen Review Panels meet quarterly and adhere to Open Meeting Law.

## Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

The Clark County Citizens Advisory Committee examines areas of focus along the full continuum of child welfare.

- Monitored implementation of a new safety practice model.
- Advocated for and collaborated with Clark County Department of Family Services and community stakeholders to implement the Quality Parenting Initiative.
- The Child Death Review Executive Committee is established through NRS432B.406. It is a multidisciplinary team which provides coordination and oversight of local child death teams.
- Updated the operating manual for the local child death review teams.
- Approved proposals for funding to Safe Sleep Public Awareness Campaign.
- The Differential Response (DR) Steering Committee is a collaboration between child welfare agencies and community based service providers to provide an alternate response to screened-in CPS reports with no identified safety issues and the family could benefit from service provision.
- Collaborated with DCFS to provide DR Staff to serve on CFSR case reviews.
- Improved family engagement by changing initial response times by DR providers through policy and practice changes.
- The Children's Justice Act Task Force is focused on the front end of the child welfare system.
- Provided training and support to Child Advocacy Centers.
- Supported development of Memorandums of Understanding with Nevada Tribes
- The CSEC Coalition is charged with mobilizing all available resources to stop child sex trafficking.
- Develop a strategic plan which includes a coordinated response to trafficking.



**Website:** <http://www.dcss.state.nv.us/>

**Budget Amount and Source:** \$249,849 CAPTA Grant and \$176,071 CJA funding totaling for FFY 2015. Child Death Review's budget is obtained from a portion of death certificates which are used to fund Prevention Awareness Campaigns. Additional local, state and federal dollars are used to support CRP's.

12/2/16



## New Hampshire

### Contact Information:

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Contact Phone: (603) 271-8159  
Email: [mdonati@dhhs.state.nh.us](mailto:mdonati@dhhs.state.nh.us)

**Started in:** April, 1999

**Annual Report Submitted:** June 30

**Total Members:** Approximately 15

### Brief Description:

In 2011, the NH CRP merged with the statutorily mandated NH DCYF Advisory Board. The purpose behind this shift was to fuse together like-minded individuals who want to best advocate for and improve DCYF practice on a statewide level. Both committees have similar interests and the merging of these committees has served to strengthen their ability to advocate for positive change. NH DCYF continues to fully support this endeavor.

Twelve (12) members appointed through the NH Governor's Office, NH State Senate and NH House of Representatives, with the ability to appoint additional members through the Department of Health and Human Services Commissioner's Office and Governor and Executive Council to ensure statewide representation and a broad child welfare representation. Michael Adamkowski is the current Chairman of the NH CRP.

The combined boards set an agenda for the year and meet monthly to carry out the agenda. The board focused on the following areas in 2015:

1. DCYF Case Practice Review process
2. DCYF Certification process for community-based and residential providers
3. Annual retreat and tour of the Sununu Youth Services Center (NH's youth detention center)
4. A Panel member served on the Governor's commission that review and advised on services for at-risk youth
5. The Panel reviewed service array concerns and spent time reviewing programming alternatives for female youth in care, with a focus on residential services for females in care.

*3/25/17*



## New Jersey

### Contact Information:

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**Started in:** 2010

**Annual Report Submitted:** November 30, 2015

**Total Members:** 57

The New Jersey Department of Children and Families established the citizen review panels described below in 2010.

### New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

#### Brief Description:

This task force, comprised of 29 members, studies and develops recommendations to improve the quality and scope of child protective and preventative services provided or supported by state government.

#### Current Projects and Focus:

- Human Trafficking and Sexually Exploitive Images
  - Domestically Trafficked Adolescents (DTA) Program
  - 2016 Skill Building Conference: The Digital Realm of Child Abuse
- Trauma and Trauma-Informed System of Care
  - 2014-2015 Series on Trauma Informed Care
  - Taming Trauma, a training program
- Child Welfare and Protection
  - 2015 Biennial Conference: Kinship Care and Family Connections
  - Domestic Violence Liaison Evaluation Project
  - Media Literacy and Internet Safety: A Comprehensive Seminar on the Impact of Social Media and Technology on Today's Society and Youth Trainings

### Staffing and Oversight Review Subcommittee

#### Brief Description:

This subcommittee reviews staffing levels and makes recruitment, hiring, and retention recommendations. It reviews department performance and issues an annual report.



### Current Projects and Focus:

- Qualitative assessment of case practice in securing positive outcomes for children and families
- Parent, child, and sibling visitation and services
- Educational stability, particularly the quality and consequences of educational decisions
- Staff training
- Staff survey to gauge progress from the staff survey completed in 2011

### New Jersey Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board

#### Brief Description:

This board reviews child fatalities and near fatalities to identify their causes, relationship to support systems, and methods of prevention.

#### Current Projects and Focus:

- Safe Sleep public awareness campaign featuring transit ads and funding distribution of Baby Safe Sleep kits to the Child Care Resource Centers and Family Success Centers.
- Helped form a subcommittee in response to an increase in suicide among New Jersey's youth. The subcommittee will allow for a multi-disciplinary team of interested parties to evaluate all suicides under the age of 18 regardless of location of the family residence.

**Website:** <http://nj.gov/dcf/providers/boards/njtfcan/>

**Budget Amount and Sources:** Staff support

*3/9/17*



## New Mexico

### Contact Information:

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[sbucher@nmsu.edu](mailto:sbucher@nmsu.edu)  
575-646-1277

**Started in:** 1983

**Annual Report Submitted:** No later than 1 January

**Total Members:** 80 and growing

### Brief Description:

The New Mexico Citizen Review Board (CRB) was established in 1983 through state statute with the purpose to provide a permanent system for independent and objective monitoring of children in the custody of the state through a collaborative effort of a State Advisory Committee (SAC), a contractor with expertise in substitute child care and the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA). The SAC is comprised of a representative from each local board and 3 appointed public members appointed by DFA. Twenty-six (boards) are organized by Judicial Districts and meet monthly to review case information and provide a report to the court on individual children. SAC provides an annual report to the state legislature, state child protection agency (Children, Youth and Families Department-CYFD) and the courts on recommendations for statutes, policies and procedures relating to children in substitute care.

**Website:** [www.nmcrb.org](http://www.nmcrb.org)

**Budget Amount and Source:** State legislature appropriates \$400,000 and CYFD provides supplemental funds of approximately \$180,000 to DFA to contract for the administration of the CRB's.



## New York

### Contact Information:

Jennifer Goldman  
Citizen Review Panel Coordinator  
Welfare Research, Inc.  
14 Columbia Circle, Suite 104  
Albany, NY 12203  
Tel: (518) 713-4726 ext. 206/ Fax: (518) 608- 5435

**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 up to 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 and accountability
- Child protective services workforce issues
- Expansion of the use of evidence-based prevention models
- Improve outcomes for children of incarcerated parents
- Racial and ethnic disproportionality and disparities

**Website:** [www.citizenreviewpanelsny.org](http://www.citizenreviewpanelsny.org)

**Budget Amount and Source:** \$122,626 from Children’s Justice Act funds. The New York State Office of Children and Family Services contracts with Welfare Research, Inc. to provide the Panels with program support and coordination.

3/24/17



## North Carolina

### Contact Information:

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Community Based Programs Administrator  
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Phone: 919-527-6436  
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[deborah.day@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:deborah.day@dhhs.nc.gov)

**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:

- Conduct strategic planning around the development of a State Advisory Board
- Re-alignment of our CCPT (CRP) into our Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process  
Closer alignment of our CCPT's without System of Care
- The review of cases that fall within a targeted issue of study

**Website:** <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/>

**Budget Amount and Source:** \$0.00

**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.

3/29/17



## North Dakota

### Contact Information:

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**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

*3/8/17*



# Ohio

## Contact Information:

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**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 is in transition with the citizen review panel (CRP) initiative. Ohio is in the final stages of developing a request for proposal to solicit a vendor to develop and coordinate three new CRP's. Currently, Ohio fulfills the CAPTA requirement with the Stark County Family Court Citizen Review Board (CRB) and two statewide groups, Statewide Child Fatality Review Advisory Committee (SCFRAC) and Overcoming Hurdles in Ohio Youth Advisory Board (OHIO YAB).

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 SCFRAC receives reports from each county child fatality review team regarding each child fatality case that is reviewed by the local child fatality review team. The report completed during case reviews examines what specific changes the team believes should occur to prevent other deaths and keep children safe, healthy and protected. Additionally, the report requests specific recommendations and/or actions that resulted from the case review. This includes the development of new policies, revised policies, new programs, new services, and expanded services.

The OHIO YAB is a statewide organization of young people, age 14-23, who have experienced foster care. The organization has been in operation since July 2006. Their mission is to be the knowledgeable statewide youth voice that influences policies and practices that effect all youth who have or will experience out of home care. Currently, coordination of and funding for OHIO YAB's CRP activities are provided through the Ohio CASA/GAL Association (CASA) contract to develop a Youth Strategic Sharing Training. The training is designed to prepare youth to make good choices when sharing their personal experiences so that their voices can be heard, their message is effective, and their well-being is protected. This structure enabled OHIO YAB to expand their outreach and engage more youth statewide, increase their adult participation and give them a stronger voice with their legal representatives.

The Stark County Juvenile Court operates a 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. In addition, the board monitors the number of contacts the caseworker has with a child and his/her parents, the involvement of the parent in the development of the case plan, and parental participation in semi-annual reviews. The board also collaborates with the local public children services agency and CASA/Guardian Ad Litem program.



**Websites:**

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

Stark County Juvenile Court CRB: <http://www.starkcountyohio.gov/family-court/casa-guardian-ad-litem-and-the-citizens-review-boa>

*3/24/17*



# Oklahoma

## Contact Information:

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## Brief Description:

Oklahoma's Child Death Review Board was established in 1991. The program has an annual budget of \$122,632.00 that is funded by the Oklahoma Commission on Children.

Funding for the program is year-to-year. The program is housed at the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY) and our budget is state appropriated and is a part of OCCY's agency budget. There are two employees for both the state and local level. Oklahoma CDR also administers the Citizen's Review Panel.

**Website:** [www.ok.gov/occy](http://www.ok.gov/occy)

**Budget Amount and Source:**



## Oregon

### Contact:

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Oregon CRP Coordinator &  
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[amy.e.benedum@ojd.state.or.us](mailto:amy.e.benedum@ojd.state.or.us)

**Started in:** July 1999

**Annual Report Submitted:** May 30

**Total Members:** Approximately 45

### Brief Description:

The Oregon Judicial Department has 67 Citizen Review Boards (CRBs) across the state. As of September 2012, the Department of Human Services entered into an agreement with the CRB to transfer the responsibility for ensuring compliance with CAPTA grant requirements to the CRB. The CRB established three county-wide Citizen Review Panels (CRPs) across Oregon. Each CRP works for two years on the CRP project. In 2016-17, the CRPs are in Benton, Multnomah, and Umatilla/Morrow counties. The volunteer board members from CRBs in the three counties, along with judges, agency staff, former foster youth, lawyers, CASAs, foster parents, and other stakeholders in each community are members of the CRPs. The statewide CRP Coordinator works with the local CRB staff and volunteer board members in each of the three panel counties to support and coordinate the CRP specific activities (i.e. quarterly CRP meetings, local meetings with stakeholder groups, data gathering and analysis, public forum coordination, and report drafting).

### Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

For 2016-17, the three Citizen Review Panels chose independent projects to focus on: the CRP in Benton County chose to evaluate whether additional parent visitation options in the community could improve the timeliness of reunification in the county, the CRP in Multnomah County chose to evaluate whether the child welfare agency was ensuring that older foster youth were receiving transition services for successful adulthood, and the CRP in Umatilla/Morrow Counties chose to take a closer look at the high turnover of child protection caseworkers in the county and the effects of this turnover on child welfare cases.

**Website:** <http://courts.oregon.gov/CRB>

**Budget Amount and Source:** The Department of Human Services provides the CRB with \$36,000/year from the CAPTA grant funds to support CRB activities related to the CAPTA grant CRP requirements.

3/27/17



# Pennsylvania

## Contact Information:

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University of Pittsburgh's Child Welfare Resource Center  
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[bjw65@pitt.edu](mailto:bjw65@pitt.edu)

403 East Winding Hill Road  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

**Started in:** June 2010

**Total Members:** 13

## Brief Description:

In 2010, three Citizen Review Panels were established in Pennsylvania. Support for the panels is provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS), Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF) and the University of Pittsburgh's Child Welfare Resource Center.

The structure of Pennsylvania's Citizen Review Panels is best described by highlighting three key points.

- Panel Members Are Volunteers - Recruitment efforts extend well beyond the stakeholders traditionally gathered at state and county child welfare decision-making tables. There is an emphasis on recruiting persons who truly can serve in a volunteer capacity and with a "citizen" perspective.
- Panels Are Independent – Panels are not assigned topic areas to evaluate; rather they can examine any policies, practices and procedures as long as they relate to state and local child protective services system agencies and their effectiveness in discharging child protection responsibilities. The panels' recommendations, along with the Department of Human Services' responses, are published in their entirety annually. Links to past Annual Child Abuse Reports in which the CRPs' recommendations are contained can be found here: <http://www.dhs.pa.gov/publications/childabusereports/>.
- Panels Are Regional - Pennsylvania's child welfare system is one of 13 states that operates as state-supervised but county-administered. To support this structure, panels are regionally located and membership reflects the diversity of Pennsylvania's counties in each region. This allows for the development of county-specific solutions to address the strengths and needs of families and their communities but does not prohibit panels from addressing statewide concerns. Pennsylvania is mandated to have at least three panels across the state.

## Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

In 2016, the panels focused on child welfare worker retention and recruitment and also advocated for legislative changes to ensure that child welfare services are funded during a state budget impasse. Another focus area was and continues to be advocating for older youth in the child welfare system specifically in the areas of postsecondary education funding and increasing opportunities for youth to drive. Focus in 2017 continues to be placed on caseworker safety and retention particularly in the areas of training/preparation so that workers can effectively discharge their child protection responsibilities and ensure that they are providing the best possible services and meeting the permanency needs of children and youth.

**Website:** <http://www.pacwrc.pitt.edu/CAPTA.htm>

3/24/17



## Puerto Rico

### Contact Information:

Mr. Carlos Rivera Otero  
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Principal Coordinator of the Puerto Rico Citizen Review Panel  
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Phone: (787) 625-4900 ext. 1725

**Started in:** April, 2007

**Annual Report Submitted:** First report to be submitted on June 30, 2008

**Total Members:** 28

### Brief Description:

Puerto Rico has two Citizen Review Panels which were initiated in 2007. These panels are organized in the Caguas and Aguadilla Region. In addition, we have a Death Review Panel, which is going to serve as our third Citizen Review Panel.

### Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

The Aguadilla Citizen Review Panel is focusing on evaluating the needs and the profile of minors with special needs who are currently experiencing difficulties in the homes that they are placed in. These problems have led to various emergency placements. The panel will evaluate the procedures already in place to determine the type of placement and the necessary services these minors need. The procedures will be compared to the Agency's practice. The scope of the investigation and the recommendations will be based on information gathered island-wide.

The Caguas Citizen Review Panel will investigate, analyze, and offer recommendations on the apparent lack of placement resources; specifically foster homes. This Panel's investigation is going to extend to all the regions. Here, also, the scope of the investigation and the recommendations will be based on information gathered island-wide.

Since the topics chosen by both of the aforementioned Panels complement each other, they will be collaborating with each other in these projects.

The Death Review Panel focuses on evaluating the cause of death of minors in Puerto Rico in order to recommend policies and programs to prevent these deaths from reoccurring in the future.

### Website:

**Budget Amount and Source:** Since the panels were created recently it has not been necessary to establish a budget. However, this is subject to revision as the work of the Panels progress. The Children Justice Act has set aside a budget of \$ 21,192 for two years for the Death Review Panel.

2/21/17



## Rhode Island

### Contact Information:

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R.I. Department of Children, Youth and Families  
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(401) 528-3837  
Lee.Baker@dcyf.ri.gov

**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

### Website:

**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



## South Carolina

### Contact Information:

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**Started in:** July 1999

**Annual Report Submitted:** April 1 for the previous calendar year

**Total Members:** Approximately 45

### Brief Description:

South Carolina has three all-volunteer Citizen Review Panels dedicated to reviewing the policies, procedures, and practices of the Child Protective Services system. These panels are located in the Lowcountry, Midlands and Upstate areas of the state and work both independently and collaboratively on child welfare issues. The panel utilizes a communicative involved approach with the state child welfare agency to resolve issues and concerns that impact the safety, well-being and permanence of abused and neglected children.

### Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Examining SC Department of Social Services (DSS) practices and procedures for addressing the trauma experienced by children in care and DSS child welfare direct care staff.
- Examining DSS practices for addressing continued use of foster care parents who are terminated for cause by Child Placing Agencies.
- Examining DSS policies and practices that assist youth in achieving independent living skills. Tracking DSS efforts to achieve permanency or permanent connections for foster youth.

**Website:** <http://sccrp.sc.edu/>

**Budget Amount and Source:** The SC Department of Social Services provides funding for CRP program coordination and research support through a contract with The Center for Child and Family Studies, College of Social Work at the University of South Carolina. The budget includes funding for meetings, panelists travel, national conference participation, and an annual fall retreat.

**Other:** A DSS staff person attends CRP meetings and serves as a DSS liaison. In addition, the panel chairs and the coordinator meet bimonthly with the Deputy State Director and key child welfare staff to discuss current projects and agency initiatives.

*3/27/17*



## South Dakota

### Contact Information:

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[www.dss.sd.gov/cps/](http://www.dss.sd.gov/cps/)

**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/](http://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.

9/22/17



# Tennessee

## Contact Information:

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tlawal@utk.edu

## Started in:

**Annual Report Submitted:** Dec. 1

**Total Members:** Approximately 40

## Brief Description:

Tennessee has four (4) regional Citizen Review Panels. The four (4) panels are located in Memphis (West TN), Montgomery County (Clarksville- Mid-Cumberland Region), Chattanooga (Hamilton County) 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 meeting is held to review previous year information, to discuss “lessons learned” and to develop recommendations for the state child welfare agency. The 2016 Statewide CRP Meeting was attended by the Commissioner of the Department Children’s Services, other Child Protective Services senior leadership staff and the Executive Director of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth. At this meeting, DCS and TCCY presenters shared some of the State’s successes and challenges.

## Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Continue to collaborate with the Department of Children’s Services, community partners, and other stakeholders to connect custodial and non-custodial youth to positive experiences that supports educational and employment outcomes.
- Continue to review child maltreatment cases where domestic violence is present and provide case consultation as needed.
- Address statewide concerns about parental substance use on children: each panel agreed to review and identify evidence-based practices; provide examples of effective programs and practices for collaboration with court systems and community agencies, and describe strategies for prevention, intervention and treatment.

5/27/16



# Texas

## Contact Information:

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**Started in:** 1999

**Annual Report Submitted:** June 30

**Total Members:** approximately 110

## Brief Description:

Texas currently has five federally mandated CAPTA teams. In addition, there are seven other active Citizen Review Teams (CRTs) operating in Texas and five additional teams in the stage of re-building after some inactivity, for a total of seventeen teams. Three CAPTA teams focus on issues surrounding disproportionality.

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

## Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

For FY 2012-2013, the focus will be on Child Protective Services cases that involve domestic violence and improving policy, practice and outcomes for such cases.

Teams will be provided state and regional quantitative data comparing domestic violence cases that had reentry from those that did not in order to identify trends by age, ethnicity, income and other variables.

Teams will be provided current domestic violence policies and will be engaged in developing new domestic violence policies.

**Website:** [www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child\\_Protection/CRT/default.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/CRT/default.asp)

**Budget Amount and Source:** There is no special funding specific to CRTs.

3/8/17



# Utah

## Contact Information:

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**Started in:** 1997

**Total Members:** Approximately 90

## Brief Description:

There are six 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://www.utah.gov/pmn/index.html>

(under Government = State; Entity = Department of Human Services; Body(s) = Child Welfare Improvement Council, Eastern Region QIC, Northern Region QIC, Salt Lake Valley Region QIC, Southwest Region QIC, and Western Region QIC.

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

11/28/16



# Virginia

## Contact Information:

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Virginia Department of Social Services  
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**Started in:** July, 1999

**Annual Report Submitted:** June 30

**Total Members:** Approximately 50

## Brief Description:

Virginia has three Citizen Review Panels:

- Child Abuse Committee of the Family & Children's Trust Fund
- 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, "Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect: Nurture Children, Support Families and Build Strong Communities"
- Assisted in the development of guidelines for MD Teams to use in the review of child sexual abuse cases
- 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 child deaths involving unsafe sleep practices. And made recommendations to strengthen policies and practices to prevent child deaths

## Website:

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

1/31/17



# Washington

## Contact Information:

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**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 CRPs.

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
- Streamline and provide easy access to the community of the agency's mandatory reporting and Disproportionality training
- Review and provide recommendations to decrease Disproportionality and disparity within the child welfare system.
- Collaborate and share information with Washington State Tribes regarding child welfare planning of Indian children
- Review and make recommendations on State CQI activities to improve safety and outcomes of Washington children
- Improve Parent/Child visitation services through CQI process
- Improve safety outcomes across all program areas for children

12/5/2016



## West Virginia

### Contact Information:

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### CRP Staff:

Pamela M. Kaehler  
CRP Staff Support  
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**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:

- Our most recent report included recommendations in the focus area of Childhood Traumatic Stress
- Investigate Barriers to Adoption and make recommendations to reduce them
- Investigate and Identify Trauma-informed/Cost effective approaches to Parental Substance Abuse
- Review cases in these focus areas
- Review practices, policies and procedures used in the focus areas by the West Virginia Child Welfare system

### Website:

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

*11/28/16*



## Wisconsin

### Contact Information:

Paula L. Brown, MSW, APSW<sup>2</sup>  
Prevention Initiatives Coordinator<sup>2</sup>  
State of Wisconsin  
Dept. of Children & Families<sup>2</sup>  
Division of Safety and Permanence<sup>2</sup>  
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Madison, WI 53708-8916<sup>2</sup>  
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**Started in:** 2000

**Annual Report Submitted:** June 30

### Brief Description

Wisconsin has eight citizen review panels. Seven panels are county based, located in Marathon, Outagamie, Langlade, Jefferson, St. Croix, Polk and Milwaukee Counties. The Foster Youth Advisory Council is a statewide panel whose membership consists of former foster care youth.

### Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus

Wisconsin panels participated in a statewide citizen review panel meeting in August 2016, with presentations by Dr. Blake Jones and Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA). Dr. Jones facilitated a review of the study, "What Administrators Think about Citizen Review Panels" followed by small group work on implications of the study and local panel practice. BACA members presented on the history of the organization and its collaboration with child protective services. BACA members and Wisconsin citizen review panels are exploring ways to work together to support and protect children.

The activities of the panels are driven by the panel members based on local interests and needs. Two panels conduct reviews of egregious incident cases that occurred in their counties. Wisconsin panels excel at public outreach. Several panels are leading a "Hands Around the Courthouse" child abuse prevention event in their counties to promote National Child Abuse Prevention Month in April. Other panels have organized events to educate professionals and other community members, including a conference, "Beneath the Bruises," on sentinel injuries and "Hear My Voice," a presentation by youth sharing their journey from foster care to independence. Please see each panel's annual report for more information about local activities.

**Website:** <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/prevention/crp>

**Budget Amount and Source:** Each panel receives CAPTA funds in the amount of \$10,000 annually.

3/24/17



# Wyoming

## Contact Information:

Erin Swilling  
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Wyoming Citizen Review Panel  
307-632-0032  
[eswilling@wycrp.org](mailto:eswilling@wycrp.org)

**Started in:** 1990s

**Annual Report Submitted:** June 30

**Total Members:** Approximately 12-15

## 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 585,000 can only operate with one state citizen review panel.

From the 12-15-person membership, a 4-member executive committee is elected; 1 executive director is a full-time employee.

## Sample of Current Work Projects/Focus:

- Partnering with the Wyoming Department of Family Services to review procedures locally for children and families and create community improvement plans.
- Administrating the Wyoming Child Death Review and Prevention Team.
- Umbrella organization for Prevent Child Abuse Wyoming.
- Umbrella organization for Wyoming Home Visitation Collaboration

**Website:** [www.wycrp.org](http://www.wycrp.org)

**Budget Amount and Source:** CAPTA funds (\$105,000); MIECHV funding for Parents as Teachers home visitation program

**Other Information:** Mission Statement: WYCRP promotes and provides systemic review, education, prevention and early intervention to ensure the safety of children and families in Wyoming.

*3/24/17*