



CITIZEN CONNECTIONS

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STATE UPDATES

Alaska

For Alaska’s third CFSR conducted in early 2017, Alaska CRP and Alaska’s Office of Children Services (OCS) worked closely to ensure there are relevant and meaningful opportunities for the CRP to both participate in and contribute to the process. Conversations began in early 2015.

- ▶ **CFSR Quarterly Meetings:** Alaska CRP was invited to participate in the quarterly planning meetings in preparation for the CFSR. A CRP member participated in every quarterly meeting since late 2015. These meetings provided opportunities for stakeholders of Alaska’s child protection system to share information and feedback in preparation for the CFSR. Owing to the difficult geography of Alaska, all meetings were over the telephone, led by OCS’ program managers. Program areas that directly addressed one or more indicators in the CFSR

“The more you become aware of and respond to the needs of others, the richer your own life becomes.”

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MOLLI MARTI



were discussed at each meeting. Feedback from stakeholders was incorporated into the Statewide Assessment. Reviews from Alaska CRP's annual site visit were useful in gathering a statewide perspective of various challenges and opportunities.

- ▶ **Statewide Assessment:** With input from stakeholders, and an in-depth analysis of child protection data, OCS compiled an extensive document providing evidence of work, progress, and status on each data indicator and seven systemic factors of the CFSR. Drafts were reviewed by all stakeholders, including the CRP. Feedback was incorporated before the final document was submitted to the Children's Bureau.
- ▶ **On-Site review:** Alaska CRP was invited to participate as a member of the local review team. One CRP member was trained along with several other local reviewers in the methods of on-site review. Due to health concerns, the trained member withdrew from the review team. Nevertheless, the opportunity for Alaska CRP was valuable in understanding the process of on-site review. A member of the CRP was interviewed by the review team during the on-site review.
- ▶ **Preparation of Program Improvement Plan (PIP):** Every state is required to prepare a 2-year action-oriented PIP addressing each area that was identified in the CFSR as needing improvement. Results of Alaska's Round 3 CFSR were shared with stakeholders in a day-long meeting to kick off the preparation of Program Improvement Plan (PIP). Participants included several state legislators, state's Ombudsman, the CRP, several Tribal leaders, and other stakeholders. Most notably, the meeting acknowledged multiple reviews—over the years—of OCS' work by many entities including the Alaska CRP. The group pledged to prepare the PIP on the foundations laid by the recommendations from all these past reviews and OCS' work in response to those recommendations. This was strongly encouraged by the federal reviewers.



“The world is full of angels;
if you can't find one, be one.”

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MATSHONA DHLIWAYO



Response to Child Abuse and Neglect in April 2017. The MOU establishes best practice protocols for a multidisciplinary team (MDT) response in the following types of cases: Physical Injury to a Child; Serious Physical Injury to a Child; Child Death; Child Sexual Abuse; Child Neglect; and Juvenile Trafficking. In addition, several resources and guidelines were created to support implementation of the MOU, including the

Delaware

Delaware's CRP, the Child Protection Accountability Commission (CPAC), finalized its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Multidisciplinary

Delaware MDT Guidelines for the Child Abuse Medical Response, Common Elements of Child Torture, and the Juvenile Trafficking Pre-Assessment Checklist. A mobile application, which includes the MOU and the available resources and guidelines, has also been completed. It is available for iPhone and Android users on the App Store and Play Store. Search “DE MOU.” Further, CPAC championed legislation, which codified best practices for a multidisciplinary response to investigations of child abuse and neglect. It also requires an investigation on a multidisciplinary case that involves intrafamilial or institutional child abuse or neglect, human trafficking of a child, or death of a child 3 years of age or less that appears to be sudden, unexpected, and unexplained. House Bill 181 (passed on August 30, 2017); a link to the bill is available at: <http://legis.delaware.gov/BillDetail?legislationId=25791>. The MOU and all the resources can be accessed through the CPAC website at the following link (towards bottom of page): http://courts.delaware.gov/childadvocate/cpac/cpac_reports.aspx.

Georgia

Georgia’s CAPTA Panels just wrapped up their 10th annual retreat on September 14. Each of the three Georgia panels facilitated a session at the retreat highlighting their interests and/or activities. The Child Fatality Review Panel (CFRP) session reported on the impact of collaboration among stakeholders in reducing sleep-related fatalities. The Children’s Justice Act Task Force (CJATF) showcased three of the projects it supports with the state grant, including a medical network mentoring initiative with Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, the Emory Summer Child Advocacy Program, and juvenile court reference guides developed by Georgia CASA. The Child Protective Services Advisory Committee (CPSAC) facilitated a panel of relative caregivers who shared their experiences with the state’s child welfare system. Afternoon sessions focused on the impact of the current opioid epidemic, including the surge in substance-exposed infants and the investigation of these cases.

Over the next few months, the CPSAC will wrap up its evaluation of Georgia’s foster parent training program and kinship care supports and services. The CJATF will begin its next three-year CJA assessment on training for professionals who investigate reports

of abuse and neglect, including child fatalities – child welfare staff, law enforcement and investigators for prosecutors. The CFRP is developing a plan for evaluating compliance with state and local protocols in the review of fatalities when child abuse is identified as the cause.

Hawaii

“Na Kupa Alo Ana O Hawaii”, the State of Hawaii Citizen’s Review Panel, continues to work collaboratively with Hawaii Child Welfare Services (CWS) to help children and families involved in the child welfare system achieve positive outcomes. Our current projects involve working with CWS to raise community awareness about the issues of sex trafficking and drug exposed infants. The Panel is also preparing for the Annual CRP Strategic Planning Retreat in December, 2017. We will review the CRP’s mission, vision, goals, membership, and will have an opportunity to learn from professional experts as guest presenters. In addition, the Annual Retreat will allow Panel members to engage with CWS Administrative Staff to share program priorities and together develop collective strategies, to effectively assure the safety and wellness of Hawaii’s children.

Idaho

In Idaho we are gearing up for our Fall Conference where we will be hearing from our Alaska host from this year’s National Conference, Diwakar Vadapalli. We are looking forward to hearing how Idaho can make improvements to our Citizen Review Panel. We will also be finalizing our 2016-2017 CRP report at that time. In other news, one local panel has started a campaign to educate the community on children left in hot vehicles. This campaign has resulted in drafted legislation that will be introduced this year!

Kentucky

Kentucky Citizen Review Panels are currently restructuring each panel in order to more accurately represent children and families in designated service regions. These panels will be located in Jefferson, Southern Bluegrass, Two Rivers, Eastern Mountain, and The

Lakes service regions. Each panel also continues to work on their strategic planning for the new fiscal year. Some of the projects they will work on involve court processes, community resource information dissemination, Department for Community-Based Services worker recognition, Narcan®¹ training, lunch and learns for community partners and Cabinet for Health and Family Services employees, as well as the judicial impact on multiple foster care placements.

Michigan

Michigan CRP on Child Fatalities Update:

We are underway reviewing 2016 cases. This year, in order to combat the extremely high caseload (280 cases), our office utilized a data analysis from a different department to create a random sampling of 100 cases to review. The results are as follows:

	POPULATION		SAMPLE	
	#	%	#	%
Improper Supervision	206	73.6	52	54.2
Maltreatment	1	0.4	1	1.0
Medical Neglect	8	2.9	3	3.1
Physical Abuse	30	10.7	15	15.6
Physical Neglect	32	11.4	22	22.9
Threatened Harm	3	1.1	3	3.1
	280	100	96	100

The sample consisted of:

- ▶ Approximately 50% of the physical abuse, physical neglect, and medical neglect cases.
- ▶ All (100%) of the threatened harm and maltreatment cases.
- ▶ Approximately 25% of the improper supervision cases.
- ▶ Then, any additional cases with a “number of cases” count ≥ 10.

In addition to our yearly CRP activities, Michigan is preparing to host the 2018 National CRP Conference in Detroit. We are looking forward to a great conference

¹ Narcan® is a prescription medication that can reverse an overdose that is caused by an opioid drug.

and hope to see many of our fellow states in attendance. We have some fun things planned!

Missouri

Missouri’s State Child Fatality Review Board is currently in the process of reviewing all child abuse and neglect (CA/N) related fatalities in the State of Missouri, starting with 2014. A rubric has been developed and reviews are being held every month to two months. The hope is to review 2014 and submit recommendations.

Nevada

One of Nevada’s CRP’s is the Nevada Coalition to the Prevent the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC Coalition). The CSEC Coalition—whose mission is to combat commercial sexual exploitation of children in Nevada—will submit its first annual report on October 1, 2017. The first year of the Coalition was spent developing a joint understanding of the experience of victims and their needs in Nevada. This was done by creating a structure to guide planning to address these needs and to inform working subcommittees as they develop a model coordinated response protocol for child sex trafficking for Nevada. In the coming year, the Coalition anticipates the merging of the Subcommittees’ work into this model protocol, which will provide a map for a coordinated response to child sex trafficking that is victim-centered and trauma-informed. Pennsylvania

Ohio

In Ohio, the three new CRPs have been busy with work in August and September. While new to the process, the panel members did not hesitate to jump right into their new duties! The Well-Being Panel located in Hamilton County has developed three strategies to examine how public child welfare agencies (PCSAs) across Ohio ensure timely mental health referrals for children in agency custody. Initially the panel will be compiling a list of all the accredited behavioral health agencies in Ohio as well as identifying all the community partners with which PCSAs have contracted. The panel plans to assess and compare all of

the accredited mental health agencies in Ohio with those agencies contracted with PCSAs. This contracting between PCSAs and behavioral health providers is believed to streamline the referral process for children involved with the child welfare system needing behavioral health services. A committee of members will also be participating in case reviews and working to identify what the referral process looks like in open cases where children are in custody.

The Safety Panel located in Franklin County is focused on the structure and organization of training for new Child Welfare Caseworkers and Child Welfare Supervisors in Ohio and how this could be influencing their high turnover. The panel has been fine-tuning a survey to be distributed to all Child Welfare Caseworkers and Child Welfare Supervisors in Ohio to assess their opinions of the timing and content of the new hire training. In Ohio, new Child Welfare Caseworkers and Child Welfare Supervisors complete an initial state mandated training program completed at regionalized training facilities. This training is often done over the course of a year and supplemented by training completed at the Child Welfare Caseworker's county agency. The panel would like to evaluate which pieces of training are most beneficial, if the timing

of training is complementary to a new Child Welfare Caseworker's assignment of cases, and how the state mandated training compares with aspects of training received at the county PCSA.

Finally, the Permanency Panel located in Athens County is tackling the issues surrounding the recruitment and retention of foster and kinship families in Ohio. Panel members have reviewed a large amount of real time data including; the current number of children in care, the number of children placed in foster homes versus kinship homes, the number of children placed in their home or adjoining county, the number of providers licensed by PCSAs, and the characteristics of those providers, all provided by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. The panel will then use this data to examine how the current recruitment and retention practices are working and provide suggestions for innovative approaches.

Oregon

Oregon has selected three counties—one urban and two rural—as sites for this year's Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) Citizen Review Panels. The panelists are a diverse group of foster youth, parents who successfully reunified with their children, foster parents, citizen review board volunteers and staff, court appointed special advocates and staff, faith and community leaders, business leaders, child welfare managers, judges, and attorneys. Each panel will host a public forum prior to their first meeting to enable members of the public to learn more about opportunities and challenges facing local child protective services and to suggest issues the panels should consider for an area of focus in the coming year. The panels will then meet regularly to select and research a systemic issue within child protective services, and make recommendations to improve related policies and practices. A report of the panels' findings and recommendations will be submitted to the state Child Welfare Director in May 2018.

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania's Citizen Review Panels (CRPs) collaborated with the Department of Human Services (DHS)



“Leave the world in [better condition] than in which you found it.”

BADEN POWELL

Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF) to engage in strategic planning efforts for recruitment of additional CRP members during a Summer All Panel Meeting in July. Another collaborative meeting with OCYF is scheduled to occur in October where strategic planning efforts will take place for the upcoming year as well as a report out by panels of their work and recommendations for 2017. OCYF will also be providing panels with updates regarding the recent Child and Family Services Review as well as panels' recommendations from 2016. The panels continue to work within their identified focus areas for 2017. The South Central Panel has been working within the scope of "care for caseworkers," focusing specifically on training and preparing caseworkers, as well as worker safety in the field. The panel has viewed data and met with caseworkers within their region to identify areas of need and possible recommendations. This is the second year that the Northeast Panel has

been diligently working within the realm of older youth issues. They are specifically looking at two topics within this focus area: youth in care obtaining their driver's license and auto insurance and youth currently or previously in care receiving tuition waivers to attend state universities. The panel has viewed statewide and national data and gathered information on other states' successful strategies, initiatives, and policies around these two topics.

Wisconsin

Wisconsin's CRPs are currently looking forward to our statewide meeting in October. This year's topic is on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and will include a subject matter expert as our keynote. Our 8 CRPs statewide continue to be active and I, as the new statewide coordinator, have enjoyed doing site visits to meet CRP members and to see their group engagement in action.

Child Fatality Review Retreat in Colorado

A team of 24 experts from around the nation (and the world) gathered in Estes Park, Colorado on September 20–22 to discuss best practices in the review of child fatalities. Many states use their Child Death Review Teams as Citizen Review Panels. Blake Jones, who attended the meeting as a representative of the National Citizen Review Panel Community, said, "I really appreciate this group of people, many of whom have devoted their professional careers to ending child fatalities. Thanks to the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention for inviting me!" The work product of the retreat will be national guidelines and recommendations to states regarding the review of child deaths.