

# CITIZEN CONNECTIONS

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### CHILDREN'S BUREAU CHAMPION AWARDS

The Children's Bureau Champion Awards honor those working to improve the overall health and well-being of our nation's children and families. The Children's Bureau (CB) is committed to refocusing our nation's child welfare system on strengthening families' capacity to care for their own children; reducing the numbers of children traumatized by abuse and neglect; and breaking the inter-generational cycle of trauma and maltreatment. Achieving these goals is only possible through the hard work and commitment of many partners across the country.

The CB will honor agencies, community-based organizations, businesses, courts, individuals, parent leaders, or others who have made an exceptional contribution to promoting the health and well-being of children and families. Awardees will be publicly recognized at the 2019 National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect for their contributions to ***Strong and Thriving Families***, the theme of the 2019 conference. Awardees will also be recognized on the official website of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), social media, and other CB information dissemination channels. In addition, they will receive a commemoration of their award in the mail.

#### LEARN MORE

State information and resources are available at  
[cantasd.acf.hhs.gov/crp](http://cantasd.acf.hhs.gov/crp)



## STATE UPDATES

## Georgia

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) Panel Program held its annual “all panel” retreat on Wednesday, September 26. This year's agenda included presentations on the new Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), Georgia's recently revised CAPTA Plan, and the opioid crisis. Additionally, the state agency provided an update on child protective services initiatives and pilot programs and shared information on plans for Georgia's response to FFPSA legislation. Panel activities planned for the upcoming year include:

- ▶ Assessing precipitating factors that resulted in children being removed from their homes (SFY2018).
- ▶ Developing a protocol for ongoing evaluation of the state's new CAPTA plan.
- ▶ Piloting *Handle with Care* in ALL of Fayette County Public Schools.
- ▶ Conducting a survey to evaluate local child fatality review protocols.
- ▶ Continuing actions related to the 2018 Criminal Justice Act (CJA) three-year assessment findings and recommendations.
- ▶ Identifying collaboration opportunities with the Court Improvement Project.
- ▶ Contributing to the state's new 5-year Child and Family Service Plan.

## Kentucky

CRPs just completed their annual meeting and strategic planning for this fiscal year. Each of the Panels continues to work toward support and recognition of Department of Community-Based Services Workers across the regions. Panels from Two Rivers, Southern Bluegrass, and Jefferson Region will each facilitate conferences throughout the year that offer CEUs.

The Eastern Mountain region will begin the following:

- ▶ Working on Safe Sleep Initiatives
- ▶ Piloting a *Handle with Care* Program

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

.....  
NELSON MANDELA



The Southern Bluegrass panel will continue collaborating with Fayette County Public Schools and their *Handle with Care* program.

## Michigan

The Michigan fatalities panel is busy preparing for our 2017 workgroup reviews. The panel will examine approximately 10-15 entire case file reviews and will prepare findings and recommendations to the Department. Michigan is excited to assist New Mexico in its planning efforts for the 2019 National Citizen Review Panel Conference. They are looking forward to networking with the talented CRP colleagues again!

## Missouri

Missouri's Child Abuse and Neglect Review Board has welcomed several new members to the six state panels over the last few months. Each board consists of 5-9 board members. Most of the new members attended their first panel this summer, and are excited to serve the families of Missouri.

The Children's Justice Act Task Force hosted a conference in June 2018, *Show me a Helping Hand*, highlighting male sexual abuse. Sexual abuse of males is often misunderstood and not discussed; oftentimes, survivors are underserved. Dr. Mic Hunter and Dr. David Lisak brought their expertise to Missouri and spoke to a large crowd of child protection workers, attorneys, juvenile officers, and the general public. The Task Force is already planning on hosting a similar event next year.

The Child Fatality Review Program Panel completed its year-long review of all child abuse and neglect related deaths in 2014. Data is currently being compiled, and a report is expected by the end of 2018. The hope is to identify trends and make recommendations to child protection services, law enforcement, and other first responders.

## Nebraska

Nebraska's Citizen Review Panels wrapped up their fiscal year in September. The Young Adult CRP focused on an awareness campaign around the importance of keeping siblings connected while in foster care. In addition, they are developing an independent living class to better prepare young adults to live on their own after aging out of the foster system. Meanwhile, Nebraska's Family CRP focused its recommendations on the rights of pregnant and parenting state wards.

## New York

The New York State Citizen Review Panels continue to advocate for increased funding and availability of home visiting services. The Panels will be hosting a Fall Home Visiting Symposium on Thursday, October 11. At the event, program experts and advocates will engage in a collaborative discussion of the home visiting program and potential benefits of expanding its use with at-risk families. Evidence-based home visiting programs have been shown to reduce child maltreatment by up to 50%.

## Ohio

The Ohio CRPs are beginning another year of work! Each panel met in August to begin its work by gathering and reviewing information related to their topics. The Safety

Panel located in Central Ohio remains interested in the child welfare workforce, and they are looking at factors contributing to caseload size and turnover rate among workers. This includes reviewing national data on the shortage of child welfare workers, SACWIS reports on the number of intakes received by agencies, and worker salaries. The Safety Panel is considering reaching out to county child protection agencies to learn about their biggest workplace struggles with workforce issues, and asking what they need to be more successful.

The Permanency Panel located in Southeast Ohio is taking a closer look at the opiate crisis to understand the process county child protection agencies go through in working these cases. The panel wants to consider the resources available to families for treatment, the availability of medication assisted treatment, and the number of counties successfully utilizing drug treatment courts.

The Well-Being Panel is tackling the topic of child welfare funding. The panel really wants to understand how the child welfare system is funded from the federal level down to the local level in hopes of making recommendations on how to leverage more funding for Ohio's



"Children see magic because they believe it."

SHANNON L. ALDER



child protection system. The Ohio CRPs are looking forward to another year of learning and advocating on behalf of Ohio's children and families!

## Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Citizen Review Panels recruited from January to March of 2018 and, as a result, they have 17 new members! Pennsylvania has established a new third panel in the Southwest region of the state. Currently, it has six members who were recruited this year. An in-person orientation was held in August, which allowed all new members to meet one another and learn about the CRPs, the relationship between the Department of Human Services and the CRPs, and their role as CRP members. Prior to the orientation, members were sent an online onboarding module that provides them with foundational knowledge of the CRPs and CAPTA. New members will participate in their first meeting at the Fall All Panel Meeting in October, where they will meet veteran members and engage in the process of developing recommendations and strategic planning with DHS.

In addition to the new panel, Pennsylvania's DHS has decided to implement the statewide Youth Advisory Board (YAB) as a fourth panel. In doing so, youth across the state will be given the opportunity to submit their yearly recommendations to DHS, which will then formally respond. Both the recommendations and responses will be published alongside the other panels' annual reports.

### CRP WEBINARS AND COORDINATOR CALLS

Mark your calendars for upcoming webinars! More information will be posted on the national Listserv. If you are not on the Listserv, please email Blake Jones at [Blake.Jones@uky.edu](mailto:Blake.Jones@uky.edu). All times are Eastern Standard.

### WEBINARS

- ▶ January 15, 2019, 3:00 p.m. with Marie Cohen on "Using Predictive Analysis in Child Welfare"
- ▶ May 28, 2019, 3:00 p.m. with Angela Ponvias on "The Re-structuring of California's CRPs: Lessons Learned"

### COORDINATOR CALLS

- ▶ January 22, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.
- ▶ April 2, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

### STATE INFORMATION



Is your state's information up to date? Please visit the CRP web page at <https://cantasd.acf.hhs.gov/crp/> and send any updates to [cmatriccino@impaqint.com](mailto:cmatriccino@impaqint.com).

"Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them."

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LADY BIRD JOHNSON