



CITIZEN CONNECTIONS

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STATE UPDATES

Hawaii

Hawai'i's Citizen Review Panel, Na Kupa Alo Ana O Hawai'i, starts off the new year with a big Hau'oli Makahiki Hou (Happy New Year)! We are excited to have a couple of new members and some changing roles on the panel as well! The work on our projects continue; building public awareness messaging/education on mandatory reporting of minor sex-trafficking and mandatory reporting of drug-exposed infants. At our Annual CRP Retreat in December, we invited an expert in the field to share with us the current status of the growing population of Micronesians here in Hawai'i. Highlighted was the need to ensure the family's understanding of our child welfare system. We are now in the process of examining the outcomes of Hawai'i's 3rd Child and Family Services Review-Program Improvement Plan see how we may contribute and collaborate with CWS to improve outcomes.

"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention."

 OSCAR WILDE



Idaho

Idaho will be meeting in April to finalize a statewide membership application and bylaws. Idaho CRP is focusing on foster parent retention and recruitment and domestic violence in 2018.

Kentucky

In Kentucky, the Southern Bluegrass CRP recently held Narcan training and provided free Narcan kits to those in the 15 community service providers and educators. Southern Bluegrass is in the planning phase for their annual Conversation on Collaboration on April 27, 2018. This panel is also working with Fayette County Public Schools to implement the Handle with Care program within the public school system. Jefferson CRP is working on collecting data and information regarding community resources available to those that are identified and/or reported to the DCBS for services but do not meet criteria for assistance or intervention. This panel is also working on recognition of DCBS service workers in Jefferson County. During the month of November they recognized two workers with the plan to recognize 2–5 workers each quarter based on peer nominations. Statewide/Two-Rivers CRP is in the planning phase for their annual What Works in Child Welfare conference, to be held on April 20, 2018. The panel is also in the process of collecting data and program implementation regarding human trafficking with a focus on children and adolescents.

Michigan

The fatalities panel for Michigan's CRP just wrapped the final review of 2016 cases. Trends that the panel continues to see year after year are sleep-related deaths, domestic violence, mental health concerns, and substance abuse. Our recommendations annually to The Department challenge our group to not only identify these trends but truly assist the child welfare system as a whole with innovative ideas to address these recurring issues.

“Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation’s compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another.”

ERMA BOMBECK



Nevada

The Nevada Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children, which serves as a Citizens Review Panel, is part of statewide coordinated safe sleep initiatives funded by both the Executive Committee and Maternal and Child Health (MCH) to reduce the rate of sleep-related infant deaths. Current efforts include partnering with grocery stores to put “safe sleep” messaging on grocery carts. This approach is being piloted for one year in five grocery stores in one rural county and two urban counties. Another initiative funds Cribs for Kids through the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA), the ground emergency medical services provider in the second most populated county in Nevada. Cribs for Kids is a national initiative whose mission is to prevent infant sleep-related deaths by educating parents and caregivers on the importance of practicing safe sleep for their babies and by providing portable cribs. Education is based on the ABC model recommended by the AAP Guidelines for Infant Sleep Safety.

New York

The New York State CRPs recently release their 2017 annual report, “Harness the Power of Home Visiting—A Proven and Cost-Effective Tool to Prevent Child Maltreatment.” The report is available electronically at <http://www.citizenreviewpanelsny.org/annual-report/documents/2017-CRP%20Annual%20Report.pdf>. This year’s report is unique as the Panels have chosen to focus on one recommendation—increased funding for home visiting programs. The panel members are now busy planning for their advocacy work with state legislators and other government officials.

Ohio

In Ohio, the three new CRPs are working towards crafting their recommendations for their first annual report! Each of the three panels distributed a survey across all county childrens' services agencies in Ohio during December 2017 and January 2018. They will be analyzing the results of the surveys during their February and March meetings where they will also begin to think about the recommendations they want to make. Each panel will reserve their April meeting for finalizing their recommendations and writing a draft of their annual report. Ohio’s annual report is due to the state on May 15th.

Oklahoma

In Oklahoma, Annette W. Jacobi is now the Executive Director. She comes with many years of experience as Director of Family Support and Prevention Services out of the Oklahoma State Health Department. As Director of FSPS, Ms. Jacobi was also the Director of the Office of Child Abuse Prevention and oversaw some statewide home visitation services. Though that capacity, Annette was a mandated and active member of the Oklahoma Child Death Review Board and served as Chair for two terms.

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania’s Citizen Review Panels have been actively involved in state-supported activities since the fall. In November, Pennsylvania’s Department of Human Services, Office of Children Youth and Families (OCYF) invited panel members to attend the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Council’s (PA Council) meeting. Six members were able to attend. The first portion of this meeting included a presentation from the Administration of Children and Families regarding the final results of Pennsylvania’s Child and Family Service Review. The second portion of the day included break-out sessions for each of the PA Council subcommittees to officially kick off the development of Pennsylvania’s Program Improvement Plan. Panel members were invited to officially join one of the PA Council Subcommittees on Safety, Permanency, Well-Being or Resources. At this point, one member from each panel has agreed to participate in a subcommittee.



“If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in bed with a mosquito.”

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BETTY REESE

Pennsylvania (continued)

The panels have met for their first individual meetings of 2018 and are gearing up for their Spring All Panel Meeting in April during which OCYF will join them to provide more information on panels' focus areas, give updates on child welfare in Pennsylvania, and engage in strategic planning for the remainder of the year. Meanwhile, panels continue to pursue their individual focus areas for 2018. The Northeast Panel has continued to work on older youth issues, particularly in the areas of legislation to support developmentally appropriate freedoms. The South Central Panel is currently reviewing their past recommendations since 2010 and has requested updates from OCYF on several recommendations. Upon receipt of OCYF's updates, the South Central Panel will focus their efforts on the recommendations that have not yet been fully addressed.

CRP REPORTS

Is your state's information up to date?

- ▶ Please check <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B0QNfwmT2VNrMjk2VW5rTDBncWs> for your state's reports and responses to the reports.
- ▶ Please visit the CRP web page at <https://cantasd.acf.hhs.gov/crp/> to double-check contact information.



“I’ve learned that you shouldn’t go through life with a catcher’s mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back.”

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MAYA ANGELOU

