

CAPTA Citizen Review Panels

- Established by federal statute in Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) re-authorization (1996) as a requirement for state grants to examine the extent to which states are discharging their child protection obligations
- Responsible for reviewing compliance of state and local CPS agencies with respect to the state CAPTA plan and any other criteria the panel(s) considers important
- Required to prepare an annual summary report of activities and recommendations
- Composed of volunteer members that broadly represent the community in which they are operating and include individuals with expertise in the prevention and treatment of child abuse
- Re-authorization (2003) expanded requirements to include:
 - Evaluation of CPS practices as well as policy and procedures
 - Developing of a means for public comment
 - Requiring the state’s child welfare agency to respond to annual report

Georgia’s Citizen Review Panel Program

Composed of three designated panels; Child Protective Services Advisory Committee (CPSAC); Children’s Justice Act Advisory Committee (CJAAC); and Child Fatality Review Panel (CFRP). Individual priorities and activities reflect their unique perspective and interest in the child welfare system. Collectively, they share a common goal: the safety, permanency and well-being of Georgia’s most valuable, and vulnerable, resource – children.

Citizen review panels are groups of citizen volunteers mandated to evaluate state child protective services and make recommendations for improvement. To learn more about CAPTA legislation and Citizen Review Panels, visit the National Citizen Review Panel Virtual Community at: www.uky.edu/socialwork/crp

Child Protective Service Advisory Committee

Mission: To examine the policies, procedures, and practices of state and local child protective service (CPS) agencies; to provide feedback on the effectiveness of their child abuse prevention and treatment strategies in producing the desired child and family outcomes; and to determine whether they (CPS) are effectively discharging their child protection responsibilities.

Current Priorities & Activities

- Review of Georgia’s alternative response (Diversion) system – policy, protocol and practice
- Expansion and enhancement of mandated reporter training
- Develop framework for a collaborative, comprehensive statewide child abuse prevention plan

Children’s Justice Act Advisory Committee

Mission: To provide guidance and oversight (to DHR/DFCS) on activities supported by the Children’s Justice Act Fund that are designed to improve the investigative, administrative and judicial handling of cases of child maltreatment and related fatalities, and particularly in cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Current Priorities & Activities

- Review of training curricula for all professional disciplines involved in the investigation, treatment and prosecution of child maltreatment with emphasis on child sexual abuse cases
- Review of intake policy/practice with respect to child sexual abuse
- Review of CAPTA compliance status

Child Fatality Review Panel

Mission: To serve Georgia’s children by promoting more accurate identification and reporting of child fatalities, evaluating the prevalence and circumstances of both child abuse cases and fatality investigations to prevent and reduce the incidents of child abuse and fatalities in the State.

The Georgia Fatality Review Panel was established by state legislation in 1990 to prevent child fatalities, where preventable, by establishing an effective and standardized review system to:

- Improve response to child fatalities
- Improve understanding of how and why children die
- Influence legislation, policies, and programs that affect the health, safety, and protection of children

Never doubt that a small, dedicated group of citizens can make the difference. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has... Margaret Mead

If you are interested in learning more about CAPTA Citizen Review Panels, contact: Project Coordinator at 770-642-6722.
Coming Soon: www.GACRP.com