



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY  
College of Social Work

**Total Respondents: 258**

**1. What state do you represent?**

AK - .4%	ID - 5.4%	MN - 5%	TN - .4%
AZ - 6.2%	IL - 2%	MO - 4.6%	TX - 4.6%
AR - .8%	IN - 3.9%	NH - 4.3%	WA - 4.3%
CA - 2.3%	KS - 6.2%	NJ - 2.3%	WI - 3.1%
DC - 1.2%	KY - 13.5%	NY - 2.7%	WY - 2%
GA - 10%	ME - 1.6%	OR - 3.5%	
HI - 3.1%	MI - 2.3%	SC - 4.3%	

**2. What is your profession?**

Social Work - 28.4%	Law Enforcement - 4.9%
Law - 10.1%	Non-professional - 2.9%
Medical - 7.8%	Other - 30.9%
Education - 10.1%	
Mental Health - 4.9%	

**3. What is your opinion about the following question: "Citizen Review Panels in my state are helping to improve child protective services."**

Strongly Agree - 18.4%
Agree - 50.3%
Neutral - 22.5%
Disagree - 4.4%
Strongly Disagree - 4.4%

**4. How long have you been a Citizen Review Panel member?**

Less than 6 months - 19.3%
6-12 months - 20.1%
1-3 years - 31.4%
3 years or more - 29.2%

**5. What is your gender?**

Male - 26.5%

Female - 73.5%

**6. What is your highest educational degree?**

Less than GED - 0%	Associate Degree - 5.6%
GED - 0%	Undergraduate Degree - 25.1%
High School - 2.4%	Graduate Degree - 59.3%
Some College - 7.6%	

**7. Have you visited the National Citizen Review Panel Virtual Community ([www.uky.edu/socialwork/crp](http://www.uky.edu/socialwork/crp)) within the past 30 days?**

Yes - 10.1%

No - 89.9%

**8. What is your greatest need as a Citizen Review Panel member?**

At this point in time, I do not have any needs that have not been met.

Panel members need to be very informed about the workings of the system. Too many understand very little, tend to have simplistic responses to complex problems, and to see themselves as adversaries, rather than helpmates in improving the system. The greatest need is identification of knowledgeable members with the time and energy to commit to the process.

Feedback on status/action taken on previous recommendations.

Good communication of goals.

Access to state information.

A sense of confidence that anyone will actually listen to us when we have any recommendations.

In a nutshell-- to improve the standards of our Family and Children Services across our state.

Understanding the role that various agencies play and their limitations.

Increase number of case managers in DFCS, they do a great job but their load is too heavy. I am a volunteer CASA and it is difficult to get responses on many cases because of their case load.

To be able to understand the laws and policies in plain English.

Committed panel members.

As a community member, I want to learn more about protocols, procedures, requirements, limitations, etc., so I can be less judgmental about the work of the Child Protective Services agency. As a professional, I want to learn more about the investigative process, so I can understand HOW to report suspected abuse with the best information possible. In addition, I would hope to be better able to speak with more credibility when working with my clients, who are primarily pregnant and/or parenting secondary students.

Objectives from which to conduct thorough reviews.

More education related to process of CPS & more cases to review to become expert as a panel member.

Less paperwork to read.

As a new member, a good orientation to the roles and responsibilities of the panel members as well as the scope of work that we can accomplish.

I want to be able to contribute in some small way and help the children achieve permanency. I suppose I just need our partners to let me know how I can help. I will do my best to do that.

Preventing child abuse in our community.

To become more familiar with the process of intervention after the initial referral is made and to learn how to better support the caseworkers. Also gain additional familiarity with the support services available to families in the community.

Increased responsiveness from the state.

Ongoing information to keep current.

Time. While I totally support the process, I'm a very busy professional working in an administration position. While I'm able to attend meetings (usually) I'm not the strongest work member of the Panel.

To feel and see that the panel is truly accomplishing its goals in bettering the lives of our children ... not just passing words along on paper!

Understanding of goals and mission.

Clear, concise outline of the duties and responsibilities of the panel including funding amounts and areas where that funding is currently be utilized.

Direction.

Since we are in the beginning phases our needs are being met in numerous ways. Other states, resources given, and meetings that allow for discussion.

Proper training on the role and responsibility of a panel member along with awareness of current issues and research-based practices.

I am not sure. I think our panel just took a big step to finally decide on a topic to focus on - Youth Transitioning/Aging Out of Foster Care. My greatest "need" is to feel that I am actively participating in something meaningful and that will help to effectuate change for the children in the state. Because I think we are about to embark in an exciting new direction, I think my "need" will be met.

More involvement with the committee and its goals.

To insure that our children and families are safe and that their needs are met. I personally would like to see less children fall through the cracks. Promoting community awareness and help would hopefully provide better safety nets for the children.

Direct responses from the state to our concerns/recommendations.

Continued information--not that getting information has been an issue so far--Blake is great!!

To receive information in a timely manner.

Since I was just selected, I have a lot of learning to do so that I can catch up.

To create a better collaboration/ working relationship with the Cabinet and other agencies who provide services to victims of domestic violence.

To better serve our clients and prevent our children from re-entering into the system. Also, to better collaborate with other agencies and learn about resources and prevent duplication of services, so we can better utilize our time and services.

More volunteers so we can get more ideas and perspective.

For the state to listen to us and implement our recommendations.

It seems difficult to focus in on one important topic to review because there are so many different aspects of child protective services that the panel could scrutinize. It would be beneficial to have more guidance on choosing a topic. For example, knowing more information about nationally recognized updates to best practice would be useful in focusing our meetings and discussion.

I am fairly new to this process and continue to learn at the meetings while being able to offer constructive input based on a long history of involvement as a professional and as parent.

Time to focus.

To know that recommendations made by the panel are seriously considered by the Cabinet and then implemented.

Understanding all policies and procedures regarding reporting and follow through of suspected abuse.

To get a focus on what we are suppose to be doing.

Personally I would like to see us meet more often. I find that I learn a great deal from staff members of Child Protective Services when they answer our questions. I find the local, regional representative from CPS more helpful than the state people.

Decision on direction of CRP.

What is the purpose?

Pertinent data from our child protective service to enable us as a committee to evaluate the work done by the agency.

Connections to other agents of change in child welfare.

Complete records at the time of review so that we can maximize the time of the panel. Also, that we review the critical near death cases or those that are documented years of neglect. Our role is to assure that the system has protected a child and if not that our recommendations for system change have impact. We have wondered at times why we have received some of the cases we have, e.g. not near fatal misses, or first time reports, level 4.

For some clarity about our role. Clarity as to what the law requires, clarity as to what the members of the Panel want us to be involved in, and clarity as to whether the state agency fully supports the Panel in any of the above. (If not, we need some help dealing with the disconnect.)

A direction.

I would like more guidance on the scope and purpose of the panel. I think it can be difficult to achieve concrete goals and address tangible problems while maintaining a broad focus to keep an eye on the entire child protection system. We also need assistance with recruiting members who have been involved with the CPS as clients.

Time to focus

A greater understanding of this.

To use the power of the review panel to make large scale recommendations, changes and money allocation.

A different meeting day.

greater understanding of the utility and effectiveness in our state

STAFF SUPPORT

To be provided with feedback on the recommendations that are made, to have more direction on the reviews and more consistent reviews.

More buy in from the state level.

Knowing that my time will be well used at reviews by having complete case information available. Knowing that the recommendations our panel makes to CPS will be acted upon for the benefit of child protection, policy, and practice.

To obtain accurate and thorough information on the cases that are reviewed. It is difficult to review a case without all the necessary case information.

Time to serve as a member and to do reviews.

To understand exactly how the information from the review will be used and to be certain that the work the panel does enhances the work that needs to be done.

Unbiased and complete reviews of cases

More time to review cases in depth.

Our greatest need is to get THOROUGH information about the case we are reviewing - too often, there are missing pieces of information so we are not able to answer the review questions. Our next greatest need is to feel that we are doing something important and useful. We never get any feedback so we don't know if our review created a change or made a difference at all.

Identify an effective course of action towards influencing the state legislature for prevention program funding in my state.

Clarity about role, support and direction by the public child welfare agency.

To be kept abreast of potential state changes to laws related to children and child abuse. To be given the time and space to discuss relevant issues with other members.

Funding for reimbursements and staff support; Ideas/Direction for new panels; comprehensive intro packet for new members; the database of CRPs that is being compiled will be helpful

More effective process for appointing members to the Review Panel so we can have a diversity of voices at the table.

Better meeting schedule

Understanding about what we're doing. Overall strategic plan would be helpful.

Feedback on the policies and recommendations put forth as a committee member.

Assistance with recruitment for the panel.

To continue to receive the support we now receive from our DCS central office. We also receive good resource information from their website.

Suggested guidance with existing problems.

Increased state involvement in the panels

Since I have only been on the panel for about 4 months--learning about my role and responsibility.

Data on the issues that impact CPS staff in performing their duties.

Nothing in particular comes to mind. Our Panel is very well staffed.

Adequate funding.

Research support from the Center for Child and Family studies, continued involvement of a competent coordinator, budget-funds for operation

My state agency gives me the time and resources to participate. I have no other needs

Panel members to pre-review the cases. Case workers to be familiar with the cases. Foster parents bring children to Panels. Time to discuss cases.

Better understanding of how our work ultimately impacts the systems of care.

Educating myself so that I am a positive contributing member of the committee.

To discuss Abused Children and the out come of their investigation and the services that is offered to the families.

Greatest need is to understand the work of the panel and how it can impact what we do for children in our state.

Continue to learn from others on the Panel about the needs of Social Services.

Guidance in sustaining membership and achieving state buy-in (which affects membership).

Ongoing direction and education about the role of CRP in our county.

To understand better what it is the point of the panel. What is expected from the members? How does the information gained from being on the panel really have an effect on the work that goes on.

For it to continue to become a strong support of foster care improvement tool.

A committed group to work with.

To know we are heard

Confidence in the information.

I would like states to better fund CRPs

More time with each case, more information, to trust DFACs not to let children fall through the cracks, continuity of case managers for each child

On these panels, the fix is in for those who derive their living, reputation, and power from the Child Protective Services system -- in and out of government. An effective panel would need: (1) a majority of members not entwined in the current system (whether as government officials, foundation experts, professional critics, etc.) and (2) rules to ensure the panels cannot continue to get hijacked as docile tools of the current system.

As a panel member, and a paid staff personnel, I feel that my needs are all met adequately.

Collaboration with Department of Human Services staff, clarity around the responsibilities and goals of the Panel, committed membership on the Panel, and clear goals to help guide our efforts. (I feel like we have all of these now, but there is always room for improvement.)

To have very clear instructions regarding the requirements of the Panel.

Feedback that recommendations are being considered and not ignored by those higher up in the process.

I'm eager to get started working as a Panel, rather than trying to formulate and organize. In other words, I'd like my answer to question 3 above to be strongly agree.

To insure that the state is listening to what is being recommended, instead of using the panel to make it look like it is complying with the requirement to have one.

Information and involvement

1. Clarity of purpose 2. Response from state when corrective recommendations are made 3. Better sense that work is of real meaning and not just a hoop to jump through

My greatest need is not the primary factor! The motivation, assertive, aggressive perception of this county agenda for a pragmatic definition of significant challenges of the family principles. We have to heighten the commitment to the youth of this county, state and country...not procrastinating, not under budget programs, not articulate literature and no sedulous atmosphere to best co-ordinate this information. The volunteers are the vehicle but we need drivers, gas, maintenance, and all the specialize compatibility to have a great enthusiasm for a penetrating problem in the inner cities of this country. My synopsis is this, participation is the key, and we all hope that 2008 will be high in priorities for the kid's of the community. " The life of a man consists not in seeing visions and in dreaming dreams, but active charity and in willing service..." Carpe Diem (seize the moment).

More involvement with the committee and its practices.

For our panel to work better together.

Understanding what the role is, then focusing in on our task.

Finding additional community members and not only agency representatives.

Being informed about federal changes and vision for the CFSRs.

Specialized information on how the federal dollars work, specific to our panel.

Guidance on federal requirements.

Except for having access to more funding to disperse, I must praise the broad support the Panel gets from its members, the members' employers, the community and the sponsoring department.

We have been interested in what other states of our size and panel make up are doing as well as topic areas they are looking at in their states.

Up to date information on programs and accomplishments relative to meeting goals.

Greater understanding of the mission and purpose of the panel.

A conference room that allows all members to sit and review.

My state is in the development stage, so we need information at this point.

Until a month ago I would have said stronger leadership, but we recently elected a new chair and already there are improvements regarding the effectiveness of our functioning. I have a good sense of what other panels are doing in our state - and their annual recommendations. However, I don't have knowledge of the national level. This may be a reflection on myself, our panels previous leadership, our state liaison - or the system as a whole. I'd like to know the impact panels have on the systems throughout the country - are we all making a positive impact?

We are in a re-focusing stage, recruiting new members and so are biggest need right now is to remain patient and insure are new and old members alike are getting the information they need to make appropriate recommendations.

We always need education and legislative updates to know what is happening in our state and to make informed decisions.

Additional funding for a better computer database to store information so better/more accurate data and statistics can be kept and produced as needed.

Thorough and consistent investigations. The use of the Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Scene Investigation Form (SUIDI). Cooperation between all state vital statistics departments to ensure all deaths are known to the state of residence. Complete reporting of all social service complaints, follow-up on complaints, and descriptive narratives in all reports.

How to translate trends which are identified into actual preventive action

To fully understand the constraints the Federal Government puts upon the State program. In many ways this is what drives the decisions in the program and sometimes it is not about the kiddos.

The project we are involved is all family foster care and I would like to know where to get further information.

Consistent membership

To be informed about the case under review prior to my arrival at the review meeting.

I had hoped to help improve childcare licensing regulations in the state. Suggestions have been presented but to no avail.

Timely feedback/responses from the various agencies on recommendations from the CRP.

Knowledge of effective recruitment techniques

Cohesiveness of the panel. A solid direction for the panel and the expertise to make it happen.

To protect our children! Better information and sources to aid in the protection of our children.

Follow up on suggestions made by the panel in the form of a written response from decision makers.

Unity among Panel members

Funds

Focused direction and understanding what is expected of us. Lack of resources a big problem.

Continued good leadership and vision

More administrative assistance (paid staff support) and funds to help carry out the activities of the panel.

Impact, information, the desire to see real change

A concise plan regarding the work of CRP in the state and how CRP will work with CPS in this state.

To understand all the inner workings of the system and to know the most important needs of the children.

To know that my time is well spent!

More budgetary assistance for the panel to allow for assistance in compiling data we have gathered.

Each CRP needs good leadership. I feel we have that on the panel I serve on.

A better handle on the information available on a state wide and county basis. There is just so much available.

To better understand our role as allies of our state government as apposed to playing the role of "gotcha squad." My state already has an Office of the Child Advocate. Our Citizen Review Panels often attempt to duplicate the role of the Child Advocate.

Current data in order to make relevant and better informed decisions based upon timely information and data rather than historical trends.

Time

Speaking for our committee I believe that training and recruitment are two of our biggest issues. We need better training for new people coming in and the current members need to know what they are supposed to be doing. The state seems to run the panel b/c of lack of true leadership.

Information sharing and cooperation from our state child welfare agency. The significant majority of the funding and programs of interest to our panels are under the exclusive control of the agency and the panels are unable to undertake comprehensive evaluations of programs or policies or offer fully-informed recommendations without information flow from the child welfare agency. Consequently, the agency is more likely to disregard panel recommendations and continue to treat the panels as necessary but unwanted and unhelpful features of the system and the panel members do not find their work meaningful.

Time with the team to work on our project.

To be able to assist with advice in training child protective workers to deal with extraordinary dysfunction in so many families with which they are involved.

More focus or direction on what the panel should be doing.

Access to up to date information and accurate statistical data.

To be able to help the children in the system and to identify and change policies and procedures that do not work well.

Recognition, appreciation, feedback, and cooperation with DHS.

Receipt of RECENT data and descriptive information to drive recommendations.

That we don't lose sight of the who uses the services what I mean is that we are reviewing child welfare and we need to keep in mind what is going on with the child welfare clients, what are their needs and their limitations and how child welfare workers can best help support these parents become healthy parents because it needs to be about preserve the family if at all possible.

Credible program/case information; which we consistently get.

Understandable up-to-date data...we spend far too much time at meetings trying to decipher the statistical data we are given. Our recommendations are supposed to be data-driven but I find that either the data, or the periods of data reporting are so incomprehensible (and I did take statistics in college so I am not a complete Neanderthal when it comes to data) that it is basically useless.

Response to our concerns on a timely basis by the State DHS.

A national meeting of all citizen review panels to help us clarify our roles - the original intent under the CAPTA funding of what our role was originally envisioned to be. Sending one representative from a CRP doesn't help spread the excitement that a national meeting that encompassed many CRP members would spawn. It would also be helpful if someone from our Federal Region came to our meetings to provide some guidance and education about CRPs.

Be informed of pertinent issues and not bombarded with information that I cannot impact.

The need for panel members to truly understand the mission/purpose of the panel as opposed to bring their own agenda to the table.

The respondents to adhere to the recommendations of the CRP Panel.

To be heard in regard to what the children actually need from CPS in our area, to be heard about the real complaints that are rampant among the community members, instead of hearing what the state thinks we should focus our attention on. Further, I believe it is important to meet with CPS members for input and team efforts, however, I do believe that CPS does not need to be involved in the process of selecting issues to be worked on for the year. To be effective AFTER we have turned in our suggestions to the CPS to change law, make adjustments and changes instead of lots of head shaking - yes - and nothing ever come of it.

To support other CRP groups within our state - our group is the only active group within the state.

Consistent leadership

Greater funding, resources, and much greater cooperation from Child Welfare Services.

Need technical assistance in creating more than 1 panel in the state. Currently there's only 1.

The ability to make effective change happen.

Power to enforce recommendations.

To assure that families are getting appropriate services and that services are coordinated between the different providers.

I'd like to know what makes a difference in the lives of the children who live at risk in my county.

Trying to current on the latest changes the Department implements and understanding the reasons.

To be recognized for my diverse background and how that can contribute to the overall work of CRP. I feel my talents are being wasted because of habitual box thinking and an unwillingness to change or even to recognize that the box exists. This applies to the panel as well as CPS. Einstein once said that idiotism is putting in the same input and expecting a different result. There are many times when I feel this is exactly what this is what we are doing. There's lots of research being done that shows that things need to change. Our oversight should be the catalyst for change and I don't see much of that happening. I know change is slow in government, but I also know that it doesn't have to be that way. Panel members' talents and connections should be optimized so we can initiate the needed changes.

More consumers with real needs to represent the average community person.

Make a difference. I enjoy helping people.

Open dialogue and participation without feeling pressured by the state agency we are reviewing.

Real support from the state wide Dept. of Human Services-Child Welfare Services (CPS), not just the minimum necessary to be in compliance. Since the CWS Administrator doesn't really believe in community input (except if it is supportive and positive of what she is doing), we've had minimal impact. Related, we represent one of the 4 counties, with none of the other counties having a CRP, including the most heavily populated county. We are working on getting other CRPs started, to help create more influence.

More information about topic from DCBS

All my needs are meet, and most of my wants.

More access to DCBS data and information. Be able to interview clients and children.

If anything, more time to study the issues involved, our panel has been more than busy this year.

Funding, education, awareness, marketing, collaborate relationships with the community, government, and social service agencies.

Education on how to wade through the bureaucracy and really make a difference in lives of children.

Need the panel to be more active in preventing the causes of death that we see that are preventable thus seeing the numbers decrease. We spend too much time on counting and less on doing.

At this point, being a "newbie" I would like to jump in and get involved, but the Panel does not seem to have a real focus or specific projects they are working on so there is not a mechanism in place to "get involved" - yet.

To know that what I do makes a difference.

I think the greatest need is to feel that these groups are taken seriously, that data provided is accurate and transparent, and that the partnerships between the Cabinet and these panels is seen as a means to improve outcomes I worry that sometimes these groups are perceived as "tokens" to meet a federal mandate I serve on many similar type committees and if there is not true investment outcomes will not be impacted On the flip side- panel members can sometimes "have an agenda" as well-If we are not truly involved to look at outcomes at the "big picture" (region/state level) we are not meaningfully contributing either

Better information about child welfare system and more clout regarding recommendations.

To get to know other panel members

To know that there is support from our state family services agency. I can see that it has been hard to do the work of the panel without their financial and logistic support.

**9. The federal legislation that authorized Citizen Review Panels (the Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act) is to be re-authorized in 2008. If you were to change one thing about this legislation, what would it be?**

As long as children continue to slip through the cracks, methods and practices utilized by Child protective Services will need to be reviewed by an unbiased source.

The feds have stated to us that our goals of looking at the well-being of children in care (mental health and education) services to prepare older youth for independence are not appropriate. It had been our understanding that any area of child welfare, not just the front end, was under our purview. We believe that the mission of CRPs should include all aspects of the system.

I'd like to know how much federal money is being spent on this.

to make sure our CPS workers are educated re: CAPTA and also follow procedures to the letter so any of our foster children or any children going the system in any manner will be protected and there will be no more drive-by check-ins by our caseworkers and the workers will have a fair number of cases

Since prevention is in the title, it would be helpful if the panels were actually funded with a modest sum of appropriations to facilitate education and prevention efforts.

More training and open forums

Additional funding to really do the work. Foster Care Review Boards seem to have more ability to impact policy and procedure.

Mandate CRP's in all counties

Mandating of Panels and funding. Public information regarding the Panels.

That Panel recommendations be ACTED upon ....again, not just empty "words" but implementing changes as recommended.

Enhance the powers of the committees.

Expand the end-part of the process. The panels are doing their job of identifying problem areas and making recommendations. However, the only guideline at the end of the process is that the state has to provide a written response within a timeframe. Tighten up this piece of the process- with timeframes and 'real' answers, not more bureaucratic mountains of paper saying we have good ideas.

Not been here long enough but maybe have one or two times a year that we can meet on a state level to bring regional comments and networking together.

States did not have an option to belong and it must consist of 95% non Health & Welfare people

Have no ideas at this time. Our panel is well represented and led.

Ensure that a representative from all agencies that work with children be a part of the panel.

More pressure on the states to use the recommendations of these boards to guide policy.

Purpose

Provide some pilot funds to each panel to enact specific recommendations that then might be disseminating throughout the state.

The contracts should not be implemented through a State Health Department. I strongly believe that if this is to be an objective process, the organization implementing the process should not be a governmental agency. To me this is a conflict of interest, and not objective, the process is one of form completion rather than a true evaluation of the case. I have been a member of our panel for over 6 years and I have seen its value be diminished because of the above. There needs to be a dedicated coordinator from CPS that attends each CRP session. This continuity is also critical to a value based process. We initially had a coordinator and on her leaving, there was not consistency of attendance by the state CPS coordinator.

More clarity, as mentioned in # 8. Some tools to prevent the state agency from dominating.

Reimbursement of expenses for involvement for consumers. Child care costs, travel and parking. Otherwise, you will only get one type of voice at the table. The diversity of opinions, those who have used prevention services directly.

Confidentiality requirements. The actual work, e.g. meetings, of the citizens review panels should be made available for public viewing, listening and feedback. The idea that confidentiality requirements prevent direct public knowledge of the history and development of cases even now is an unnecessary impediment to a vital form of public education. (The internet is an ideal tool for this type of education).

We need funding for staff support.

Support this idea to provide federal funding for home-visiting programs for newborn infants and their families.

Have each county participate in their own reviews - the staff who were actually involved in the case could provide valuable information and could then respond to questions. If changes need to be made, they could participate in the process so that the changes are consistent with what they know their system to be.

Add some funding support.

It seems like around the country there is a wide variation on the use, involvement and importance attached to the CRPs. My perspective is that some states seem to embrace their CRP's role and involvement. Some states seem to have the CRP as a token structure that allows the public agency to check one more fed requirement off the list. This suggests to me that there may be a need for mandatory training of CRP members and some type of monitoring criteria to ensure that states are getting the most out of their CRP.

Seriously revise the nature of reporting abuse and maltreatment to states. The majority of reports nationwide are unfounded, which tells us that families need a different type of community network to support them when they encounter challenges during child rearing. "Responsibility" for responding to child abuse and neglect has fallen onto one agency in most communities when what is needed is a true community response/responsibility for supporting all children and families. This must be a multi-system effort. How can the CAPTA reauthorization provide the impetus for a major system reform based on what we have learned about child protection over the past 35 years.

More definition around the recommendations produced by the committees and how the input affected change for better service delivery. Please keep these committees they are necessary

I believe the legislation is sufficient as presented.

Consistency on how each state organizes CRPs.

Make sure that the broader community is selected to be on the panels.

I don't know if the current legislation says anything about diversity, but if not, I would like a requirement that panel members reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of their communities.

The legislation is adequate; implementation at the state level is my concern.

Inclusion of language that makes it more clear and CRPs are autonomous and independent and are to have access to information.

Expand it to more counties.

The directions of how it is to be implemented are undefined.

More funding for things such as increase in children's mental health services, foster care reimbursement, more social workers in child protection.

More funding and the requirement that states actually allow CRPs to review the foster care system. I also think CAPTA should be connected to states meeting the CFSR outcomes.

Eliminate Citizen Review . Put the money to some productive use. Right now Citizen Review Panels are little more than networking tools for those seeking to advance their careers in the child protective establishment.

I would ask that the CRP be given more leverage and input in DFS (Department of Social Services) state policy.

Fund programs aimed at protecting American children at comparable rates to funding for other federal programs aimed at protecting American citizens.

It would be good to have a very clear link between the recommendations of the CRPs and the state agency. What exactly is the relationship?

Clarify state accountability to Citizen Review Panels

Stronger laws to insure that all states have these committees and that they fulfill the States needs.

More clarity

That states could upload data into WISACWIS from their current data systems.

I understand the need to have many aspects of community represented on panels, however, often it is difficult to get and retain good members. Also, large panels often result in misguided results. Timelines for spending are confusing.

My general response to this sort of question regarding the language of Federal legislation is particularly apropos in this case. The unique and varying diverse populations within and across the United States are not well served by having language that is so restrictive or specific that reasonably competent and experienced professionals with knowledge of the purposes and intended use of the funds are so hamstrung as to be unable to apply the limited funding that is available to the proposed programs that would best serve the children intended to be the beneficiaries of the funds.

Increase dollars to be allowed to be spent for prevention programs in the states

The review board is spoon fed a particular incident. I'm not sure how to legislate a random choice for the board to review. Set up two or three cases and then the board chooses which to review?

Unfortunately, I do not know enough about the legislation to know if changes are needed. The panels seem to be working for the most part, in my area. I think rural areas may face more challenges.

I believe that the legislation provides adequate direction if we fully understand what that direction is and are willing to act upon it.

Getting some kind of reimbursement for membership

Level of accountability of various agencies to CRP.

To be more descriptive of the relationship between the CRPs and the state. In my state, we are "in" but not "of" the department. The department controls our money.

Appropriation of funds to assist in achieving mandated activities, especially for training.

Make sure sufficient funding for the panel's activities are ear-tagged as such.

Clear language regarding the roles and expectations of Citizen Review Panels.

Add funding mechanisms and resource allocations in order to fund and implement recommendations made by the panels.

It would delineate more clearly the level of support that the state should provide.

Further clarification and narrowing of the focus of the panels and designation of funding and other support to invest the panels as a critical part of the child welfare system

Legislation needs to look at the mission of CRP and determine if the CRPs are making progress and if not, what can be done by the legislature to assist in making each CRP successful in their mission. Each CRP needs to be valued and supported; what this means is that funding needs to be provided in order to have the proper staffing to keep the CRP on track with updates, minutes, and travel.

Mandatory budget to fund CRP's.

That we have the funding to meet monthly. We would be able to accomplish even more.

In my state we have two county CRPs, and one state CRP. To me it adds yet another layer of bureaucracy - I think the legislation authorizing Citizen Review Panels should insist that the three CRPs be all county CRPs or let another state have a go at it.

Make sure it has a budget to operate or else it is of less value.

Provide more guidance to the CRPs

Provide clearer guidance and goals of what the role and duties of a Citizen Review Panel should be...who should serve (and who shouldn't serve) on them would be helpful. Also, of course, greater funding so we can better do our job. My state is a huge state and many of us have to travel (via airplane) to attend meetings - some of our employers pay but others pay out of their own pocket. Reviewing the State's CAPTA plan is one thing - picking it apart for review and testing is another. What do the Feds want us to look for and at? I also believe that there needs to be a great degree of education provided on Child Welfare and how it is funded for CRP's to be effective. Because of the diverse nature and representation on the panels everyone has a bit of knowledge about a small segment of the child welfare system - making those with the greatest knowledge the most powerful. I think one CRP per state is enough. The mandate of three CRP's per state is a burden. Because states HAVE to have a CRP to receive CAPTA funding many of the CRP's are pro forma exercises. One panel with specific mandates would make the CRP's more valuable and effective.

Place stipulations on the Cabinet to communicate openly communicate with CRP panels.

That more federal funding be provided in support of the panel either tied in with local CPS performance or tied into the local CPS branch being able to specifically earmarking the issued monies solely for CRP.

That CPS/DCBS MUST work EQUALLY with us in changing law. Currently the board members are really just a voice that can't be ignored on a surface level due to CAPTA. There's no meat to it. We are not regarded with any ability to make change and often feel we are wasting our time for a few nods every now and then. The mandate must be clearly written so that the CRP Panels can be effective instead of wasting our time, by giving us the power to make change mutually with CPS, as it stands now we seem to be regarded as a voice that must be heard only to appease the federal legislation CAPTA. The legislation must be re-written so that the power to be heard and make change is REAL. It is important that CPS workers NOT be board members and sit in on the meetings due to the fact that they sway what can be heard amongst the citizens. Citizens do not feel comfortable speaking of sometimes serious problems involving the CPS while they are sitting there. Citizens need the ability to speak openly about issues in the community which affect children and come to their own conclusions as to what issues need attention and research from the board. Only then, should CPS members offer their assistance, information, and experience to help gather the essentials that must be gathered to conduct the investigations. The state CPS workers should NOT be recommending topics to work on for the board members.

Require federal direction to be focused and truly provide local accountability.

In addition to the law that includes authorization of the panels to review the child fatalities and near fatalities in the State. The state should explore a more collaborative and coordinated mechanism among CRP's, the Child Death Review Panels and the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Panels for the purpose of prevention and improvement on services provision to families with children with many risk factors.

To require some kind of accountability that coordination of efforts to reduce child abuse and neglect are implemented in the service area. So many different groups are trying to address the issues and sometimes even the same people are involved in all but there seems to be the lack of coordination.

More unrestricted funding so we can do our job in the manner it needs to be done.

To offer more help for foster children who "age out" of the program.

CPR-Child Protection Register-mandatory for employment with children; public and private must have a CPR Clearance. Establish one system (all states including DC) and pedophile website link to CPR (One-Stop-Shop); protecting our children.

Rethink the issue of family preservation at all cost.

Somehow strengthen the respect the CPS equivalent must give them.

I feel that it should be more difficult to overturn social work findings. If there is a court finding, the appeal should automatically be denied. If the person did not file the appeal from timely they should be denied the

appeal.

Advocating for more courtroom rights for abused children.

This should be a requirement for all counties in all states!!!

Standardize reporting for all states using the same forms and methods and make this mandatory

As far as the CRP goes, I think that the way it is now is how it should be.

Strengthen the Citizens Review Panels by mandating that the panel be separate from the Department that is responsible for Child welfare in the state and specify a funding stream for the sole purpose of funding the Citizen Review Panels not just a lump sum per year for CAPTA. List in the CRP mandate a responsibility to inform policymakers of the findings and needs identified in by CRPs. This is important in case CRP is housed in state government as it allows the panel to work with legislators without fear of reprisal.

Not having read the legislation I am limited on my response- I would formalize the focus on outcomes using research evidenced based practices I would put some higher level of accountability in regards to response once the report is shared I would formalize the reports to be incorporated into how states plan for injury prevention plans for the state- recommendations and data from these reports would be a very powerful resource to help states design plans

Training on CAPTA to all

Penalties or some other enforcement measure that makes it more likely a state will truly comply with the spirit of the law where the panels are concerned.

**10. Other comments or suggestions so that we may assist your Citizen Review Panels in 2008.  
Thank you!**

I have been impressed with our panel thus far and receive excellent communication from them on a regular basis in addition to meetings.

It has been hard to recruit needed people. I would like additional literature or a web site that would provide additional information.

All of the right hands need to know what all of the left hands are doing so as to share successful ideas and minimize spending time and resources with everyone trying to reinvent the same wheel.

If we are truly to make life changes for the betterment of our children, it must be coordinated and acted upon at ALL LEVELS of government ....from the court system all the way down to intake workers.

Thanks

I am often unclear about what we are supposed to be doing together. Also, as one not working within the state's mental health care system, it is difficult for me to keep the strands straight about what the various speakers do, who they represent, etc.

Keeping connected is key and I appreciate the work through your office that keeps me informed!

I enjoy serving on the committee and look forward to learning more in the years ahead

I feel that our CRP has been very productive in addressing issues as well as the communication and collaboration between stakeholders in our region.

Good work was done when changes were made to require child protection to respond. Some difficulty in Analysis of data and getting data.

Keep working.

Please share any and all information related to recruitment and maintenance of panel members.

Keep information flowing so that it reaches the panels. Panels that aren't fully developed or panels that have very new members, need more information and help with building their panels.

Helping CRP's find out about funding sources, training options, etc. I think that ALL CRP's and their members must become members of the virtual community and receive updates from the National CRP. This is the only way they can feel connected to the larger whole and to see that other groups are working hard at their mission.

My state has recently re-energized its panels and is attempting to formalize the structure and purpose of its panels; we need continued counsel and support from states with more established track records in order to be successful. Most panel members seem to be only partially invested in the process because the purpose of the panels is largely unclear and the impact unknown.

The CRPs are a valuable component of each state's CPS program. Should definitely be continued. Our local CRP has a great leader, Blake Jones, who is very instrumental in getting information out to panel members throughout the state. All panel members should have such a wealth of information as we are provided by Blake!

We continue to search for representatives from other agencies, such as police and probation departments to gain a full understanding of systems involved and their needs. It will be helpful to read the findings of this research.

CPS administrative staff believe that we are being of significant assistance to them and I believe all of the committee members see our volunteer efforts as worthwhile and more than worth our time.

More guidance on the Federal or Regional Level. It would be helpful if Federal Regional representatives attended at least one meeting a year.

Where can I find the \$\$ amount that is allocated to state for CRP activities? And how much of the state allocation goes to the CRPs for activities and operations?

Lean on member resources and talents more. Make them feel that their time is not being wasted and is being well spent for the causes of the children in need.

Allow groups to mix up on all topics, not just assign topics to one group (to add diversity).

Progress is slow but with technology the Citizen Review Panel will grow.

Your leadership has been very helpful and in some ways inspirational. Please keep it up.

I want to be able to measure the difference we make in children lives in my state. What happened or did not happen because we meet four days this year.

Again, education for all members on their role on the panel and understanding of the impact CRP's decisions have on the lives of children. I sometimes feel that instead of protecting children, the panels are protecting the alleged perpetrators and undermining the work of front line staff.

Keep up the listserv e-mails! I appreciate really having the updates to Review Panel information/reports/etc.

A monthly (?) newsletter keeping the states informed of other states projects. This could allow the promising approaches of the other states to be showcased and built upon. I know that annual reports are available but not everyone has time to read them all and a short update would be nice.

Keep up the good work!

Blake, thank you for your efforts on behalf of children in our country. You are making a difference! Keep up the good work.

Share the results. Consider revising the review tool. Most people on the panel do not even know what CPS/laws require, but they are asked to make a decision as to if the rules/laws have been followed. Is the review tool really assessing what is important?

Child welfare agencies should be held to some standard of accountability for response to citizen review panel recommendations. It has been my experience that the same deficiencies in agency practice are seen repeatedly by the review panel and repeatedly cause harm. This is an area which might also be addressed by legislation.

Provide a Training and Technical assistance conference for legislature and CRP members.

The process is time consuming and too big for one entity. Panels need to be limited to areas that they can easily address and control. Exhausting tasks that do not have easy answers only exhausts the members and pushes good people away from solving known problems, or tweaking existing programs to better them.

None at this time due to my newness in the process. Cheryl Peterson, our coordinator is absolutely wonderful to work with.