

The River Rushes On



Seventh Annual National Citizen Review Panel Conference Keeping children safe from abuse and neglect. St. Paul, Minnesota, May 21, 22, 23, 2008

Sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Human Services and
The National Conference Planning Committee

Bandana Square Best Western Hotel, 1010 Bandana Boulevard West, St. Paul, MN 55108

Join your fellow Citizen Review Panel coordinators and members from around the United States.

Who Should Attend: While Citizen Review Panel coordinators and members are especially encouraged to attend, all stakeholders in the child protection system are invited. This includes judges, county attorneys, social workers, guardians *ad litem*, attorneys for parents and children, birth-parents, foster parents, chemical health workers, school personnel, court and social service administrators, tribal court judges, social workers and administrators.

Lodging at the Conference Site: A block of rooms at the Bandana Square Best Western Hotel will be available at the discounted conference rate of \$89.00 plus tax per night until close of business on Monday, April 21, 2008. These rooms will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. If there are vacant rooms after April 21, they will be available at the regular hotel rate. The room rate is in addition to the conference registration fee.

Conference Registration Fee: Until close of business on April 21, 2008, the registration fee for the three-day conference is \$150.00. This includes three plenary sessions and 13 workshops, one large-group session, two breakfasts and two lunches. There will be an opportunity to attend a river boat dinner cruise on Wednesday night, which is optional and not included in the conference registration fee. It is not possible to register for just one day or a portion of the conference. The registration fee for those received after April 21, 2008 will be \$200.00. Registration at the door will also be \$200.00.

Registration Deadline: The registration deadline is Friday, May 9, 2008.

Cancellation and Refund Policy: If you find you are unable to attend the conference, contact Karen Beaumont, Minnesota Department of Human Services, in writing and via e-mail at karen.beaumont@state.mn.us.

- Paid registrants who provide written notice of cancellation by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14, 2008 will receive a full refund.
- Paid registrants who provide written notice of cancellation after 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14, 2008 will have a \$25.00 administrative fee deducted from their refund.
- Paid registrants who do not provide written notice of cancellation by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2008 will not receive a registration fee refund.

Location and Parking: The conference will take place at the Bandana Square Best Western Hotel, 1010 Bandana Blvd W., St. Paul, MN 55108. There's free parking in the ramp across the street from the hotel.

- From Minnesota St Paul Airport: Take Highway 5 east towards St. Paul. Highway 5 will turn into West Seventh Street. Follow West 7th Street to Lexington and veer to the left at a six-way intersection. Take Lexington one mile north of Interstate 94 to Energy Park Drive and turn left. Take Energy Park Drive to Bandana Boulevard West and turn right. The Best Western Bandana Square is on the right.
- From the south: Take Interstate 35E to Grand Avenue, go left on Grand Avenue. Take Grand Avenue to Lexington and turn right. Take Lexington to Energy Park Drive and turn left. Take Energy Park Drive to Bandana Boulevard West, turn right. The Best Western Bandana Square is on the right.
- From the north: Take Interstate 35E south to Highway 36 West of off Interstate 35E south. Take Highway 36 West to Snelling South. Take Snelling South to the Energy Park Drive exit. Take a left onto Energy Park Drive. Follow Energy Park Drive to Bandana Boulevard West and turn left. The Best Western Bandana Square is on the right.
- From the east: Take Interstate 94 to Lexington and turn right. Take Lexington to Energy Park Drive and turn left. Take Energy Park Drive to Bandana Boulevard West and turn right. The Best Western Bandana Square is on the right.
- From the west: Take Interstate 94 to Lexington and turn left. Take Lexington to Energy Park Drive and turn left. Take Energy Park Drive to Bandana Boulevard West and turn right. The Best Western Bandana Square is on the right.

Other Area Hotels

Embassy Suites Hotel

175 East 10th Street
Saint Paul, MN 55101
(651) 224-5400/ Approx 4 mi from conf site
embassysuites.com

St. Paul Hotel

350 Market Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102
800-292-9292
651-292-9292/ Approx 5 mi from conf site
<https://www.saintpaulhotel.com/>

Country Inn and Suites

6003 Hudson Road
Woodbury MN 55125
(888) 201-1746 US Toll Free
(651) 739-7300/ Approx 13 mi from conf site
<http://www.countryinns.com/woodburymn>

Best Western Kelly Inn

161 St. Anthony Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55103
(651) 227-8711/ Approx 3 mi from conf site
www.bestwesternstpaul.com

Radisson Hotel, Roseville

2540 North Cleveland Avenue
Roseville, Minnesota 55113
(888) 201-1718 (US toll-free)
(651) 636-4567/ Approx 3 mi from conf site
<http://www.radisson.com/rosevillemn>

Crowne Plaza Riverfront

11 East Kellogg Boulevard
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
(651) 292-1900/ Approx 5 mi from conf site
<http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/cp/1/en/home>

The above are examples of hotels near the site of the conference. However, they are not within walking distance. You will need transportation to and from the conference.

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Seventh Annual National
Citizen Review Panel Conference
Keeping children safe from abuse and neglect.
Conference at a Glance

Wednesday, May 21, 2008 Effective Advocacy

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Registration
10:15 – 10:45 a.m.	Welcome – Erin Sullivan Sutton, Director, Child Safety and Permanency Division, Minnesota Department of Human Services
10:45 – Noon	Plenary
12:10 – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch and reports from CRPs across the Nation
1:45 – 3:00 p.m.	Workshops
3:15 – 4:30 p.m.	Workshops

Dinner on your own. Meet for optional excursion to the Mall of America at 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 22, 2008 Effective Outreach

8:00 a.m.	Continental breakfast
8:15 a.m.	Welcome – Chief John M. Harrington, St. Paul Police Department
8:30 – 9:45 a.m.	Plenary
10:00 – 11:15 a.m.	Workshops
11:45 – 12:45 p.m.	Lunch (box lunches, meet and dine with like-groups)
1:00 – 2:15 p.m.	Workshops or Round Table Discussions
2:30 – 3:45 p.m.	Workshops or Round Table Discussions
4:45 p.m.	Meet for optional St. Croix River dinner cruise. Bus leaves promptly at 5:00 p.m.

Friday, May 23, 2008 Effective Planning

8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
8:30 – 9:45 a.m.	Plenary
10:10 – 11:15 a.m.	Action Plan
11:15 – Noon	Short Film, <i>Mr. Positive</i> , Closing and Evaluation

Descriptions of Plenary Sessions

Wednesday, May 21, 2008, 10:45 a.m.

The Power of the River

Paul Bernabei, Tom Cody and Willow Sweeney direct Top 20 Training that provides training and materials to help youth and adults develop their potential. They have trained thousands of teachers throughout the United States and their Top 20 curriculum is being used in hundreds of schools. They have trained foster kids, foster parents and social workers throughout Minnesota for the Minnesota Department of Human Services. They have co-authored *Top 20 Teens: Discovering the Best-kept Thinking, Learning and Communicating Secrets of Successful Teenagers* and *Parenting Top 20 Kids: Developing the Potential in 0-8 Year Olds*.

The Power of the River will focus on two themes in our efforts to make a positive difference for those we serve: connections and change. This session will inspire us to enhance the lives of others by our unique power to make connections and see new possibilities. It will provide a practical tool that can be applied in all situations where change is necessary.

Thursday, May 22, 2008, 8:30 a.m.

Navigating the Child Protection System: What Parents Have to Say

Danisa Farley, Consultant and Trainer with the Minnesota Child Welfare Training System

What enhanced or broke down avenues of effective communication for parents involved in the child welfare system? Ms. Farley will speak to this from her personal experiences and the experiences of other parents. In conjunction with Minnesota's Children's Justice Initiative, Alcohol and Other Drugs Project, she conducted nine focus groups designed to give parents the opportunity to respond directly about services they received or would like to have received. Two of the focus groups were comprised of American Indian parents. Another consisted of fathers. If we really want to support the success of families as they navigate through the chemical health, child protection and juvenile court systems, the individual and collective voices of parents must continue to be asked for and heard.

Friday, May 23, 2008, 8:30 a.m.

A River of Opportunities: Update on Laws and Policies Affecting Children and Families

Howard Davidson, J.D., Director, American Bar Association's Center on Children and the Law

Mr. Davidson has worked in the field of child welfare law since 1974. He is the author or co-author of many books and articles on child protection related legal issues. He will identify what Citizen Review Panels should know about recent federal child welfare legislative and policy developments. As in past years, he will send us on our ways by suggesting what action Citizen Review Panels can take to make sure these laws and policies are in place to keep children safe in our communities.

"To put your hands in a river is to feel the chords that bind the earth together."

Barry Lopez, Author

Descriptions of Workshop Sessions

Workshops, Wednesday afternoon, May 21, 2008, 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Welcome Aboard! Involving Citizens in the Child Protection System

Richard Backman, MSW, LSW, Social Service Division Manager
Washington County Community Services
Elizabeth M. Dodge, MSW, LISW, Social Services Director
Chisago County Health and Human Services

Hear about inviting citizens into the child protection system from the perspective of the county child protection agency. These experts have been actively involved with Minnesota's Citizen Review Panels since their inception nine years ago. They will identify some of the pit-falls and how to mitigate them. They'll talk about what has worked well and how paid staff members and volunteer citizens can work together to keep children safe from abuse and neglect

Appropriate for coordinators

Rounding the Bend: New North Carolina Regional Citizen Review Panel Process

Phyllis Fulton, Coordinator, Community Child Protection Teams (CCPT), North Carolina Division of Social Services, and members of the CCPT

Participants will be updated on the changes in North Carolina's Community Child Protection Teams (Citizen Review Panels). Regional panels have been added. Steps in the process will be described and the accomplishments of the local teams will be shared.

Appropriate for panel members and coordinators

Changing the Course – Part I

Kirsten Anderson-Stembridge, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota
Marcie Jefferys, Fiscal Policy Coordinator, Office of the Minnesota Senate Majority Leader
Jim Koppel, Director, Children's Defense Fund Minnesota
Heather Kilgore, Mark Proctor, Cindy Toppin, Minnesota's Ramsey County Children's Services Review Panel

What can we do to influence policy makers and legislation to meet the safety, permanency and well-being needs of all children? Portions of this two-part session will be interactive. Included will be a description of how Minnesota's Ramsey County Children's Services Review Panel, in collaboration with others, organized a forum to educate legislators and the public about financing child welfare.

Appropriate for panel members and coordinators. Note: Part II of this session is from 3:15 – 4:30 p.m.

Workshops, Wednesday afternoon, May 21, 2008, 3:15 – 4:30 p.m.

Changing the Course – Part II

Continuation of session above.

Keeping Your Panels Afloat

Pat Briggs, New Mexico Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review Board
Blake Jones, MSW, Ph.D., Kentucky Citizen Review Panels, University of Kentucky
Anita Keyes, Minnesota Citizen Review Panels, Minnesota Department of Human Services

Learn from our mistakes and successes. Basic information about the history and operating procedures of Citizen Review Panels will be presented. Best practices for Citizen Review Panels will be shared. Ways in which Citizen Review Panels can collaborate to keep children safe will also be discussed.

Appropriate for new coordinators

Workshops, Wednesday afternoon, May 21, 2008, 3:15 – 4:30 p.m. (continued)

Common Goals: Child Safety, Permanency and Well-Being

Christeen Borsheim, Director, Training and Quality Assurance, Minnesota Department of Human Services
Kelly J. Hamilton, Executive Director, Wyoming Citizen Review Panels
Lori Munsterman, Consultant, Quality Assurance, Minnesota Department of Human Services
Daniel J. Papin, Director, Minnesota's Washington County Community Services

Federal and state Child and Family Service Reviews (CFSR) are designed to help improve safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for children and families who receive services through government child welfare systems. The CFSR is a complex process involving multiple systems. In order for the review process to be effective, collaboration across systems is necessary. Active county, tribal, court and community stakeholders' involvement is critical if the goal of improving outcomes for children and families is to be reached.

What should Citizen Review Panel members and coordinators know about the CFSR history, process and outcomes? What are examples of how ongoing, state CFSRs are conducted? How do Citizen Review Panels participate in these and the federal CFSRs? What can members of the Citizen Review Panels do to monitor Program Improvement Plans? Hear some answers to these questions and to others you may have.

Appropriate for coordinators and panel members

Workshops, Thursday morning, May 22, 2008, 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.

The Spirit and the Letter of the Indian Child Welfare Act

John Hudson, American Indian Disparities Consultant, Minnesota Department of Human Services
Jessica Ryan, J.D., BlueDog, Paulson and Small, P.L.L.P.
Terri Yellowhammer, J.D., Indian Child Welfare Act Consultant, Minnesota Department of Human Services

The disparity of the numbers of American Indian children and families involved in the child protection system is not new. These experts will discuss the history, intent and spirit of the Indian Child Welfare Act. They will show how the letter of the law and its spirit must be woven into everyday social work practice when working with American Indian children and families. Ending these disparities goes hand-in-hand with complying with the intent of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Appropriate for panel members and coordinators.

Strengthening the Levees: Educating the Community about the Child Protection System

Ted Alliegro, Carl Andor, Brenda Iliff, Jessica Hendrickson and Katy Maier,
Minnesota's Chisago County Citizen Review Panel members

Learn how this Citizen Review Panel developed, planned, publicized and executed a community meeting to educate their neighbors about the child protection system. Find out what they learned from the event, what they plan to do with the information and how you can duplicate something similar in your community.

Appropriate for panel members and coordinators

Bringing the Tributaries Together

Ann Fontaine, Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Children's Bureau, Region IV
Theresa Costello, National Resource Center for Child Protective Services

ACF Region IV has been holding annual, regional Citizen Review Panel meetings and conferences for the past three years. Those in the eight states of this southeastern region have established an ongoing network. Learn the "who, what, where and how" of organizing a meeting or conference in your region.

Appropriate for coordinators

Workshops, Thursday afternoon, May 22, 2008, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.

Perspectives on Working with African American Families in the Child Protection System

Maxie Rockymore, MSW, Supervisor, Minnesota Department of Human Services
John Edmonds, MSW, ACSW, Supervisor, Olmsted County Human Services

The role of caseworkers in identifying, developing and supporting the strengths of African American families in the child protection system and its application to practice will be discussed.

Appropriate for panel members and coordinators

Stemming the Tides

Brenda Lockwood, Consultant, Minnesota Department of Human Services
Bobbi Jo Mallery, Children's Home Society of Minnesota, Anoka, Chisago and Ramsey Counties

This session will provide an overview of Minnesota's child maltreatment prevention programs: Parent Support Outreach Program and the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) Family Connections. Both programs aim at addressing child safety and risk concerns, before they rise to the level of a mandated child maltreatment assessment. Presenters will share data, lessons learned and implementation experiences from agencies that are participating in the Parent Support Outreach Program in Chisago County.

Appropriate for panel members and coordinators

Workshops, Thursday afternoon, May 22, 2008, 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Through the Eyes of the Child: Court Improvement Projects

Judy Nord, Staff Attorney / Manager, Children's Justice Initiative, Minnesota State Court Administrator's Office

Many states' judicial branches and human services departments are collaborating on projects to improve the court process for children and families involved in the child protection system. Juvenile courts, social services agencies, prosecuting attorneys, public defenders, court administrators, guardians *ad litem*, tribes, parents and others are working together. The objective is to secure safe, permanent homes for abused and neglected children in a timely manner. All stakeholders are encouraged to operate "through the eyes of the child" in achieving child safety, permanency, and well-being. Learn about the challenges and successes of these projects and how Citizen Review Panels and Court Improvement Projects can work together.

Appropriate for coordinators and panel members

Branding Your Citizen Review Panel

Does your panel demand the respect and attention it deserves? What is the reputation of your Citizen Review Panel? Are your panels' materials readily recognizable, inclusive, appropriate and meaningful? How do you portray your mission? What images are you projecting? How can branding help with panel member recruitment, getting your messages into the community and keeping children safe?

Appropriate for coordinators

Round Table Discussions, Thursday afternoon, May 22, 2008, 1:30 – 2:15 p.m. or 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Going with the Flow: Round Table Discussions, 23 minutes one table, and then move on to next discussion.

Table 1: Grass Roots Approaches for Change, Effective Advocacy. Facilitator: Rick Cardenas, Co-Director, Advocating Change Together (ACT)

Table 2: American Indian Child Welfare: State's Policies, Effective Outreach. Facilitator: Todd Stump, Research Fellow, MN DHS. How do states approach Tribal child welfare and what are emerging trends?

Table 3: Federal CRP Feasibility Study, Effective Planning. Share your ideas about the status, accomplishments, effectiveness, future and needs of CRPs. Review the National CRP Directory.

Action Plans, Friday morning, May 23, 2008, 10:10 – 11:15 a.m.

Full Steam Ahead!

First individually and then as a group, we will develop action plans and timelines to take back to our Citizen Review Panels. Share your ideas with each other as we move on in the spirit of the conference:

It's a drop in the bucket, and a bucket in a pond,
And the pond fills the river, and the river rushes on.
Every river swells a river, until the power can't be stopped.
And what becomes a mighty ocean, started as a drop.

Lodging Reservations

Lodging costs and reservations are the responsibility of the conference participant. A block of rooms at a conference rate of \$89.00 plus tax per night have been reserved at the conference site, the Bandana Square Best Western. This rate is available until close of business, April 21, 2008. Block rooms will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For reservations by phone call the hotel directly at (651) 647-1637 or call 1-800-780-7234 and ask for reservations at the Bandana Square Best Western in St. Paul, Minnesota.

You may also get hotel and registration information via the inter net by clicking on:

[Worldwide Reservation Numbers.](#)

In the drop-down click United States and enter, then type Bandana Square in the Search window.

Transportation to Conference Site

The Bandana Square Best Western Hotel is a little over two miles from the Amtrak station. It is 19 miles from the Minneapolis, St. Paul (MSP) Airport. There is a "Blue Shuttle" from the airport that costs \$15.00 per person, one way. The phone number is 1-800-bluevan. A taxi to or from the airport costs \$25.00 or \$30.00. The Mall of America is 14 miles from Bandana Square.

There is free parking at the Bandana Square Best Western. Car-pooling is recommended, if possible.

Optional Activities For Your Enjoyment and Entertainment

Those who choose these options will pay the fees described below in addition to the conference registration fee.

Wednesday, May 21, 2008, **Excursion to the Mall of America**

Bus leaves hotel at 5:30 p.m. Bus leaves Mall of America for hotel at 9:30 p.m.

Cost for transportation is \$10.00 per person. Guests are welcome. Once at the mall, you are on your own. There are many places to dine, shop and there is an indoor amusement park. See the Web site:

<http://www.mallofamerica.com/>

Thursday, May 22, 2008, **Dinner Cruise on the Andiamo River Boat**

Meet for boarding the bus at 4:45 p.m. Bus leaves the hotel promptly at 5:00 p.m.

Cost for transportation and dinner cruise is \$35.00 per person. Guests are welcome.

Join us for a leisurely cruise down the St. Croix River. Embark the Andiamo paddlewheel for a 6:15 p.m. departure from the port of Stillwater, Minnesota, a quaint town on the St. Croix River across from the state of Wisconsin. (And the county seat of Minnesota's Washington County Citizen Review Panel.) A buffet dinner that includes chicken and ribs will be served and the boat will return to Stillwater at 8:30 p.m. From the boat you will board the bus back to your hotel in St. Paul.

Conference Registration Form

The River Rushes On Seventh Annual National Citizen Review Panel Conference Keeping children safe from abuse and neglect.

Copy and complete this form and mail, along with a check or money order for the registration fee, plus the fee(s) for optional activities (they may be included on the same check). **Make the check out to DHS – DC 180.**

Mail the completed registration and check to:
DHS – DC 180
P.O. Box 64837
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0837

Use one form per registrant. Please print.

Contact Information

Name: _____

Title: Panel Member Panel Coordinator

Other: _____

Postal Service Mailing Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Dietary Needs or Other Accommodations

Special dietary requests: _____

Special needs or accommodations requests: _____

Registration and Optional Activities' Fees

Registration Fee, received by April 21, 2008	\$ 150.00
Registration Fee, received after April 21, 2008,	\$ 200.00
Transportation to Mall of America, Wednesday evening Include \$10.00 per person. Guests welcome. Number _____ X \$10.00 per person	\$ _____
Dinner Cruise on the St. Croix River, Thursday evening Include \$35.00 per person. Guests welcome. Number _____ X \$35.00 per person	\$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed	\$ _____

The registration deadline is Friday, May 9, 2008. Space may be limited and registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Complete both pages of the form.

Page one of registration

Local Planning Committee Members, Seventh Annual National Citizen Review Panel Conference

Citizen Review Panel Members: Carl Andor, Chisago County, JoAnn Cardenas Enos, Ramsey County, Mary Feathergill, Winona County, Cheryl Glassel, facilitator, Steering Committee, Katy Maier, Chisago County, Mary Nelson, Washington County, Mark Proctor, Ramsey County. Minnesota Department of Human Services: Karen Beaumont, Anita Keyes.

National Planning Committee Members, Seventh Annual National Citizen Review Panel Conference

Karen Beaumont, Minnesota, Pat Briggs, New Mexico, Theresa Costello, National Resource Center for Child Protective Services, Sara Davis, South Carolina, Ann Fontaine, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau, Region IV, Phyllis Fulton, North Carolina, Kelly J. Hamilton, Wyoming, Blake Jones, Kentucky, Anita Keyes, Minnesota, Constance Miller, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau, Region V, Pat Newlin, Hawaii, Sylvan Robb and Fred Van Wallinga, Alaska.

Drop in the Bucket

Zoe Speaks

Lyrics and music by Mitch Barrett and Carla Gover

It's a crazy world we live in, bad news all around.
Brothers and sisters if we're gonna make a difference,
We're gonna have to stand our ground.

Chorus:

It's a drop in the bucket, and a bucket in a pond,
And the pond fills the river, and **the river rushes on.**
Every river swells a river, until the power can't be stopped.
And what becomes a mighty ocean, started as a drop.

Down in Alabama, a lady boarded a bus.
The driver said, "You're black, you gotta sit in the back."
Rosa said, "I've had enough."

Chorus

Great Britain ruled over India, made them slaves to the goods they bought.
Until Gandhi took his people to the ocean, he said, "Look, free salt."

Chorus

In the alleys of Calcutta, Mother Teresa lived her life.
She did much more than feed the poor. She taught us how to shine our light.

Chorus

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mitchbarrett.com

"Drop in the Bucket"

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For more information on Zoe Speaks, please visit www.zoespeaks.com