

QA COMMITTEE (CRP)REPORT 2005

STATE QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE REPORT 2005

The past year has seen a growing ability of the State Quality Assurance Committee to provide consumer and stakeholder input into Alabama's child welfare system. Throughout the year, the State Quality Assurance Committee met on a semi-monthly basis with working committees meeting alternate months. Working through standing and special subcommittees, the Committee has address the following:

Public Education/Nominating/Service Analysis Subcommittee

- Completed revision of By-laws which were adopted by membership
- Nominated and filled vacant seats on committee
- Educated County Directors on the State QA Committee's activities and actions in order to keep them better informed and empower them to better meet the needs of children and families.
- Worked closely with DHR State QA personnel and the DHR State office of Public Information to ensure the information we put forth meets with the Commissioner's approval.
- Educated policymakers on activities and actions of the State QA Committee.
- Reviewed and cleaned up the State QA Membership Roll to better ensure active participation by all current members.
- Received nominations for potential members of the Committee and forwarded it to Commissioner for approval.
- Oriented in-coming members and developed a orientation packet for this purpose
- Worked closely with the Public Relations staff to promote positive PR to the general public and to ensure that DHR staff at the County level stayed informed about QA activities and plans
- Developed forms for nominating new members
- Reviewed the Statewide Report of Characteristics of Children in Care and the Statewide R.C. Status report.

Policy Sub-Committee

- Coordinated joint meetings with juvenile court judges and court staff and Department employees

- Developed standardized checklist of steps to be taken by Department staff before TPR hearings and trained DHR county staff and county attorneys on checklist
- Worked with Department staff to revise safety plan formats
- Began reviewing barriers to foster care adoptions of special needs children

Latino Special Studies Sub-Committee

- Completed the first draft of the special study on service improvement for Latino families
- Developed preliminary recommendations for service improvements for Latino families

Child Death Review Committee

- Reviewed all child death review reports for 2004
- Began the development of issues raised in the reviews for further examination or special studies