

The following groups are serving as Connecticut's Citizen Review Panels:

1. The State Advisory Council on Children and Families
2. FAVOR - coordinates two of the state's CRP's. Membership in each group is based on specific topics - areas of interest to panel members.

The State Advisory Council on Children and Families (SACS) is legislatively mandated to meet on a quarterly basis and has functioned as a Citizen Review Panel for many years. Council members are appointed by the Governor and have a variety of experiences/backgrounds. Many of these members are previous consumers of the agency and can provide feedback to the department relative to their experiences. The Council is responsible to review policies, the annual budget, evaluate DCF practices and make legislative changes to the Commissioner that would improve services for children and youth.

There are a number of parent advocacy groups in the state designed to review our practices specifically in the areas of behavioral health. FAVOR is a statewide Family Advocacy Organization for Children's Mental Health. Their mission is to enhance mental health services for children with serious emotional disorders by increasing the availability, accessibility, cultural competence and quality of mental health services for children through Family Advocacy. Their organization coordinates both panels, collaborates with Area Advisory Councils that have been established statewide and has broadened their focus and responsibilities to fulfill the requirements of Citizen Review Panels for the past several years.

Stipends (transportation and daycare) are provided to encourage and support family participation. These stipends are funded out of the CAPTA grant.

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