

**NJ TASK FORCE ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT  
CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL**

**RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS REPORT**

<b>REPORT</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
<b>2004</b>	DYFS to expand the use of family conferencing & training DYFS workers as facilitators	<b>REPORTED AS BEING USED IN SOME COUNTIES</b>
	DHS is urged to expand Home Visiting Programs to all at-risk families as well as families with substance abuse	<b>INCOMPLETE</b>
	The DHS Child Welfare Plan should include a campaign to publicize the NJ Task Force's Hotline number 1-800-THE KIDS	<b>NO PROGRESS</b>
	The Panel encourages the replication of research-based prevention models by DHS	<b>REFERRED TO CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND, STANDARDS FOR PREVENTION PROGRAMS, CHILD WELFARE REFORM PLAN</b>
	DYFS to ensure all adolescents aging out of foster care should have a case plan that includes services to facilitate stability and independence, housing options, education needs and health care	<b>OPEN CASE UNTIL 21, CONTRACTS TO PROVIDE LIFE SKILLS, POST SECONDARY EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, EXPANSION OF LIFE SKILLS CONTRACTS</b>
	DYFS should develop specialized training for persons working with adolescents, the aging out population and adolescents with special needs	<b>ACCORDING TO NANCY CAPLAN, THE NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR YOUTH SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDING TRAINING ON THE NJ STRENGTH BASED ASSESSMENT, ARE WRITING A TRAIN THE TRAINERS' CURRICULUM FOR NJ, AND PLANNING A ROLL OUT.</b>
<b>2005</b>	The DHS should respond immediately to the Panel's June 30, 2004 annual report	<b>RESPONSE RECEIVED 8/1/05</b>

	The DHS should allocate funds for the purpose of carrying out initiatives related to the Panel's Federal and State mandates under CAPTA	<b>DOLLARS FOR PANEL ACTIVITIES ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH A RATHER ARDUOUS PROCESS. THE PANEL DOES NOT HAVE CONTROL OF ITS OWN BUDGET</b>
	DYFS should implement a quality assurance program to insure that the SCR Unit is operating at its highest level to keep children safe	<b>INCOMPLETE/NO PROGRESS</b>
	The initial training for SCR screeners should be expanded beyond the current three (3) days and include annual in-service training	<b>UNKNOWN</b>
	DYFS should implement a tracking system to monitor whether DYFS Local and Area Offices follow through on referrals	<b>UNKNOWN</b>
	DYFS Assistant Commissioner, Ed Cotton (or future staff), should respond to the Panel's written request to visit the SCR and to receive a copy of the NJ Spirit Application for review	<b>SCR VISITED BY CRP CONTINGENT ON OCTOBER 14, 2005.</b>
	DYFS should implement a policy on domestic violence for inclusion in the training curriculum for workers	<b>POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED 5/9/05. NO RESPONSE AS OF 6/1/06.</b>
	All reports of "child on child" sex abuse should be investigated	<b>ACCOMPLISHED</b>
	DHS should keep the panel informed of its progress in implementing community prevention services and community collaboratives	<b>ALL TEAM LEADERS DISMISSED IN MAY 06. NO PLANS TO IMPLEMENT NEW COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVES.</b>
	The DOE should identify a liaison to work with the Panel to improve training on child abuse and neglect for school personnel	<b>NO PROGRESS</b>
	CRPs should be included in the Child Welfare Reform Plan	<b>NO PROGRESS</b>

<b>2005-2006 FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR REVIEW</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
1. The Panel will continue to examine and provide comment as to how the DHS reform structure impacts the State's ability to provide safety, permanency, and well being for children.	<b>ONGOING</b>
2. The Panel will continue to examine and review the SCR system and make recommendations for improvement.	<b>ONGOING</b>
3. The Panel will analyze the DYFS survey for the purpose of identifying new areas for review.	<b>ONGOING</b>
4. The Panel will continue to work with the DHS Office of Planning and Evaluation to discuss methods to improve the questionnaire, develop a new distribution plan, and create future surveys.	<b>ONGOING – BUT CONTACT PERSON HAS BEEN REASSIGNED</b>
5. The Panel will continue its outreach efforts to the public.	<b>ONGOING</b>
6. The Panel will recruit additional members to reflect the State's diverse ethnic populations and geographic regions.	<b>RECRUITMENT ONGOING: 2005-2006 SEVEN NEW MEMBERS</b>
7. The Panel will continue to examine the areas of domestic violence, youth aging out of foster care, DYFS structured decision-making and prevention as previously identified in 2003-2004.	<b>NO ACTION 2005-2006</b>
8. The Panel will reach out to the two other review panels with the intention of collaboration and to coordinate which child welfare topics are to be covered by whom, to reduce duplication of work. This Panel recommends an annual meeting among all three (3) CRPs.	<b>A MEETING WAS HELD DEC 8 2005; MEETING ANNUALLY</b>
9. This Panel will develop a checklist to track recommendations made to the State and future directions made for the Panel to ensure compliance.	<b>DRAFT CHECKLIST COMPLETE; UPDATED AS ITEMS ACCOMPLISHED</b>

<p>10. The Panel will pursue a steady source of funds from DHS to facilitate the Panel’s ability to plan and execute projects necessary to comply with its Federal and State mandates, and to improve the quality of work performed by this Panel.</p>	<p><b>DOLLARS FOR PANEL ACTIVITIES ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH A RATHER ARDUOUS PROCESS. THE PANEL DOES NOT HAVE CONTROL OF ITS OWN BUDGET</b></p>
<p>11. The Panel will attempt to increase public awareness and visibility of the work and benefits of the CRP.</p>	<p><b>DEVELOPING A BROCHURE AND WEBSITE.</b></p>
<p>12. The Panel will continue to foster its relationship with the National Citizen Review Panel network.</p>	<p><b>PANEL CO-CHAIRS PARTICIPATE ON THE NATIONAL CRP E-LIST.</b></p>
<p>13. The Panel will pursue CRP volunteer recognition.</p>	<p><b>DID NOT HAPPEN</b></p>
<p>14. The Panel will continue its review of the relationship between the DOE and DYFS.</p>	<p><b>REPORT ON SURVEY AT NJEA CONVENTION SENT TO NJEA, SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOC, PRINCIPALS &amp; ADMINISTRATORS ASSOC; ONGOING</b></p>