



**New York State
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Dear Citizen Review Panel Chairs:

The attached document is presented in response to the *2004 New York State Citizen Review Panel's Annual Report* as required under New York State Social Services Law section 371-B (5) and the 2003 amendments to the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA).

The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) appreciates the time and thought the three Citizen Review Panels (Panels) put into the development of recommendations for improving of child protection responsibilities by local social service districts. We recognize the importance of community involvement to successful constituency building and service delivery. Active partnerships, such as the one established between this Office and the Panels promote creative problem solving with community members.

The issues and recommendations presented in the Panels' Annual Report have been reviewed by OCFS. Our response is intended to provide the framework for the on-going discussions and collaborations necessary to reach the most positive outcomes possible for the children and families of New York State.



An Equal Opportunity Employer

Your work and dedication to improving the interventions and services to children and families across the State is appreciated by this Office. The Division of Development and Prevention Services will continue to provide the required liaison activities to support the activities of the Panels.

Sincerely,

John A. Johnson