



Serving Children and Families

KATHLEEN M. HAYES, PH.D.
STATE DIRECTOR

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

Ms. Carolyn Dorrell, Chair
Midlands Citizen Review Panel
1 Shadow Creek Court
Columbia, SC 29209

Ms. Martha Jo McGlothlin, Chair
Lowcountry Citizen Review Panel
108 Murray Drive
Moncks Corner, SC 29461

Ms. Mary Ann Stroup, Co-Chair
Ms. Joyce Dilleshaw, Co-Chair
Upstate Citizen Review Panel
528 Edgefield Street
Greenwood, SC 29646

RE: South Carolina Citizen Review Panels 2008 Annual Report

Dear Ms. Dorrell, Ms. McGlothlin, Ms. Stroup and Ms. Dilleshaw:

On June 12, 2009, I received the 2008 Annual Report of the South Carolina Citizen Review Panels of the Child Protective Services System. As required under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), within six months of receipt of the annual report, South Carolina Department of Social Services is to provide a written response to you regarding how the agency will incorporate your recommendations into practice in order to improve the State and local child protection system. We provided a preliminary response in June of 2009 and I am pleased to provide the agency's formal response to the SC Citizen Review Panels 2008 Annual Report enclosed with this letter.

The recommendations of the CRP 2008 Annual Report were primarily focused on foster care and training and we coordinated with the Foster Parents Association and USC Center for Child and Family Studies in addition to the agency divisions responsible for child protective services, foster care, and training. While there were only two formal recommendations in the 2008 Annual Report, we recognized that the Report shared information about planned activities that would include other agency divisions as well as external agency partners in future projects. We will share this report and agency response with our partners and county and regional offices so that we can continue to work together to improve services for children and families in SC.

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Again, I would like to thank each of you for the time, energy and effort that you have put into leading your respective Citizen Review Panels (CRP). We value your contributions and input. DSS will strive to take maximum advantage of the work and recommendations that you have already made, as well as any that you and your panels are willing to provide in the future.

I want to express my gratitude for the hard work of the Citizen Review Panels, and to you as chairs, in particular.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Hayes, Ph.D.
State Director

KMH:lgw

cc: Katie Morgan, DSS Chief of Staff
Wendell Price, DSS Deputy State Director
Nancy Purvis, DSS Deputy State Director
Frank J. Oakley, Director – Charleston County DSS
Robert Brimmer, Director – Berkeley County DSS
Sylvia Mitchum, Interim Director – Dorchester County DSS
Cherie Vaughn, Interim Director – Greenwood County DSS
Lisa D. Richardson, Director – Laurens County DSS
Jeanne Bass-Hanna, Director – Kershaw County DSS
Greg Frohnappel, Director – Lexington County DSS
Allen Carter, Director – Richland County DSS
James Nichols, Director – Fairfield County DSS
J. Steven Strom, Director – Spartanburg County DSS
James Walker – Executive Director – SC Hospital Association
Captain Patsy Lightle – SLED Department of Child Fatalities
Keisha Adams – DHEC, Division of Injury Prevention
Carolyn Morris – Children’s Law Center, USC School of Law
Cynthia Flynn – USC Center for Child and Family Studies
Cheryl Worrell – CRP Coordinator, USC Center for Child and Family Studies
Ann Fontaine – ACF Region IV
Mary C. Williams – Division of Human Services
Ruth Kirkland, Interim Director – Professional Development and Leadership