

WEST VIRGINIA CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL
2003 ANNUAL REPORT
Revised October, 2003

I. Summary of Activities

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) was reauthorized and amended by "The CAPTA Amendments of 1996" (Public Law 104-235). One of the requirements of the amended act is the establishment of a citizen review panel. The purpose of the panel is to provide new opportunities for citizens to play in ensuring that States are meeting their goals of protecting children from abuse and neglect.

The West Virginia Citizen Review Panel is comprised of individuals representing a diverse mix of concerns, interests and professions. The Panel meets on a bi-monthly basis in a centralized location that is easily accessible for everyone.

Specific activities that have occurred in the past year include the following:

- C evaluation of sources of information for use by the Panel, including Child Protective Services Policy and statutes, the Child and Family Services Plan and the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
- C continual review of cases.
- C identification of concerns within the Child Protection system.
- C introduction of enabling legislation to codify the existence of the Panel.
- C increase in the availability of statewide cross disciplinary training for those involved in the child protection system.
- C participation in the development of the Program Improvement Plan, pursuant to the Child and Family Service review.

II. Recommendations of the Panel

Based upon the review of federal and state statutes, child protective services policy and review of cases, the Panel makes the following recommendations for the state of West Virginia;

1. Support the establishment of an independent system to assure quality and compliance with federal and state laws, rules and policies within the broader child protection system.
2. Provide funding to assure that the multi disciplinary process mandated by WV Code 49-5-D is fully implemented statewide with the provision of independent facilitators for the multi disciplinary treatment teams.
3. Increase the availability of cross-disciplinary training statewide on child maltreatment issues, including family violence issues.
4. Require Child Protective Services Workers to complete core training prior to assignment in the field.
5. Provide refresher training and advanced training for tenured Child Protective Services Supervisors and Workers.

6. Develop a process to continue to monitor the training program for Child Protective Services Supervisors and Workers.
7. Provide sufficient funding and staff positions to meet the workload standards for Child Protective Services Supervisors and Workers. This is necessary to provide adequate services to families and children and to lessen the problem of staff turnover due to stress and workload issues.
8. Improve pay scales for Child Protective Services Supervisors and Workers to a level that is comparable with other Mid Atlantic states and provide salary increases to all Child Protective Services workers after achieving two years of tenure in the position.
9. Expand the pool of eligible Medicaid service providers to include licensed professional counselors and licensed independent clinical social workers.
10. Re-establish part time collaborative coordinators to evaluate ways to fill the gaps in services that have resulted from the loss of funding and in how the state sets spending priorities.
11. Expand preventive services for children and families and services that help maintain intact families.
12. Codify the existing Citizen Review Panel into West Virginia Code.

III. Panel Membership

The following individuals serve as members of the West Virginia Citizen Review Panel;

Kathryn A. Boylan
Community Services Manager
DHHR
Martinsburg, WV

Dora Cline
Child Welfare Supervisor
DHHR
Pineville, WV

Joyce Steinbrecher Cook
Domestic Violence Advocate
Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Charleston, WV

Andrea Darr
Victim Advocate
Kanawha County Prosecuting Attorney's
Office

Victoria Roberts
PAIMI Council
Kenova, WV

Darla Ervin
Parent Empowerment Network
Morgantown, WV

Helene Friedberg
Director
Court Appointed Special Advocates
Morgantown, WV

Mary Ellen Griffith
Attorney
Princeton, WV

Taunja Hutchison
Social Worker
DHHR
Teays, WV

Lolita Joyce-Crews
Regional Family Resource Network
Huntington, WV

Lisa McMullen
Social Worker
DHHR
Grafton, WV

Teri Markley
Foster Parent
Grafton, WV

Stephanie Mendelson
Domestic Violence Advocate
Lewisburg, WV

Linda Morrison
Community Services Manager
DHHR
Princeton, WV

Catherine Munster
Attorney, Court Improvement Oversight
Board
Clarksburg, WV

Barry Row
Licensed Professional Counselor
Mountainside Services
Belington, WV

Maureen Runyon
Social Worker
Child Fatality Review Team
Charleston, WV

Vicky Slaughter
Psychologist
Martinsburg, WV

Jenny Woodson
Social Worker
Community Access
Charleston, WV