

Citizen Review Panels

LEGAL REFERENCES

Section 106(c)(6) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106).
Iowa Administrative Code IAC 441-175.43(235A)

PURPOSE

In order to be in compliance with the Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, (CAPTA), states are required to maintain a minimum of three Citizen Review Panels (CRP). One CRP must be a statewide panel. This panel, the Child Protection Council Citizen's Review Panel, is located in Des Moines. The Northwest Iowa Citizen review Panel and the Cerro Gordo County Family Violence Response Team Citizen Review Panel are the other two. The purpose of the CRP's is to bring child protection to the community level and allow for citizen input in the way in which the State of Iowa seeks to protect children. To this end the CRP's are charged with several requirements.

- Each panel is required to examine the practices in addition to the policies and procedures of State and local agencies to evaluate the extent to which the agencies are effectively discharging their child protection responsibilities (Section 106(c)(4)(A)).
- Each panel is required to provide for public outreach and comment in order to assess the impact of current procedures and practices upon children and families in the community (Section 106(c)(4)(C)).
- Each panel is required to make recommendations to the State and public on improving the child protective services system at the State and local levels. The appropriate State agency is to respond to the panel in writing no later than six months after the panel recommendation are submitted. The State agencies response must include a description of whether, or how the State will incorporate the recommendations of the panel (where appropriate) to make measurable progress in improving the State and local CPS systems. (Section 106(c)(6)).
- The current panel was implemented in 1991 when the Children's Justice task force merged with the Council on Child Protection. The membership of the Council on Child Protection was made up primarily of the professionals connected with the three Child Protection Centers. The argument supporting the merger was based on the fact that the two committees had several major functions in common with the shared goal of improving the child protection system. It was recognized that combining these two groups with their similar responsibilities would enhance the effectiveness of each and reduce the unnecessary duplication of work and staff time.
- Independently the two committees were presented with the idea of merging and both groups agreed. The combined committees were then renamed the Child Protection Council. The first meeting was held in December of 1991. The Child Protection Council met on a quarterly to bi-monthly basis with the focus of the group being on the improvement of the child abuse system in Iowa. The combining of the two groups proved valuable as it allowed the groups to pool their expertise, conserve resources and time, and to become more influential in the child abuse system in Iowa.

MEMBERSHIP

Each panel is composed of a multidisciplinary team of volunteer members who are broadly representative of the community in which the panel is established. This includes members who possess knowledge and skills related to the diagnosis, assessment, and disposition of child abuse

cases and who have expertise in the treatment of child abuse. Panels can be comprised of existing councils, or teams provided that they meet the requirements of CAPTA Section 107(c).

Current Members:

Allison Lasley, Meskwaki Tribe
Barb Small, Mercy Hospital Sioux City CPC
Beverly Saboe, University of Iowa Hospital and Clinic
Chaney Yeast, Blank CPC
Cheryll Jones, University of Iowa Hospital and Clinic
Jerry Foxhoven, Drake Legal Clinic
Richard Moore, Division of Inspection and Appeals
Regina Butteris, St. Luke's CPC
Dr. Resmiye Oral, University of Iowa Hospital and Clinic
Robert Greenlee, retired Black Hawk Co. Deputy
Stephen Scott, Prevent Child Abuse
Sue Tesdahl, St. Lukes CPC
Tim Pillack, Waterloo police

ANNUAL REPORTS

Each panel is required to prepare an annual report and make them available to the public. The reports should include the following content:

- A summary of the panel's activities in the past year, and the future direction and focus of the panel.
- The panel's recommendations to improve the child protection services system at the state and local levels.
- The progress the state and local areas are making, and description of the goals, strategies, and benchmarks for the group going forward.
- A description of how each panel is providing for public outreach and comment in order to assess the impact of current procedures and practices upon families locally and statewide.

The reports are submitted to the Iowa Department of Human Services, (DHS), and included in the Title IV-B (Federal Social Security) Annual Report which is submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services by the State of Iowa. The reports will also be published on the DHS website to provide for statewide access and comment from the public.

The overall function and purpose of the Citizen Review Panel can be reviewed at the following website:

<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/pdf/CitizenReviewPanelsGuidelinesandProtocols.pdf>