

Wyoming has a unique and effective process to give children and families a voice...

Wyoming is the only state in the nation to recruit appropriate citizens and train them to do reviews of department of family services (DFS) case files. We call this the Wyoming Child and Family Services Review or Mini CFSRs for short.

This Mini CFSR review process may seem like a review of just DFS, but it is not; DFS case files give the clearest picture of what services were provided to a child and family by the "system." Though DFS case files are reviewed, the review is looking at the "whole picture" not just DFS. This process is much larger than just a review of DFS case files; it is a review of services provided for children and families in the broad outcome areas of safety, permanency and well-being using an instrument modeled very closely after the Federal CFSR instrument.

Introductory training for the Wyoming Mini CFSR process, along with the instrument used and various forms can be found at <http://wycrp.org>



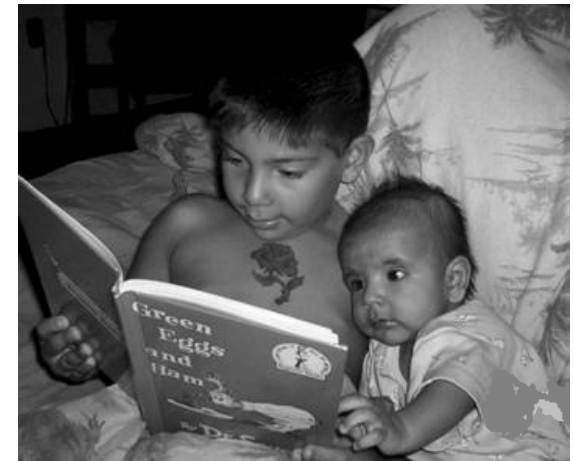
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## WYOMING CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL

### What is a Mini CFSR?

A quick look at Wyoming's child and family services review process



## What it is...

- A review focused on the three outcome areas of SAFETY, PERMANENCE and WELL-BEING;
- A chance to view the outcomes “through the eyes of the child;”
- A review of the entire child protective and juvenile justice system in Wyoming;
- A chance to educate people in the community and around the state as to what really happens in child protective and juvenile services cases;
- An opportunity to discover trends across the state and share that information in a meaningful way;
- A chance for caseworkers and others to be heard and to have a voice about what works systemically in Wyoming and what does not, and
- A way to insure that Wyoming children and families get the best services possible.

## What it is not...

- A “pass/fail” process;
- A review focused solely on the work of a department of family services case worker;
- A competition between DFS offices;
- A review about whether the i’s are dotted and the t’s are crossed in the case, and
- A chance to “rework” the case. Reviewers will be careful to not “work” the case, but to stick to the questions asked in the review instrument.

### ***What happens to the information that is recorded from the review?***

DFS takes ownership of any policy issues identified and the Citizen Review Panel takes ownership of, or advocates for, any systemic issues identified in the review. In addition, a report detailing the “story behind the data” is written by the Citizen Review Panel and sent to the district and/or regional manager. After a period for comments, the report is sent to the director of the Department Family Services and many other stakeholders. Statistical data is made available via “stat pack” as well. Annually, the information is compiled into a report that is sent to DFS, courts, prosecuting attorneys, policy makers, advocates, families and other stakeholders across Wyoming for review and response.

## The Process...

The structure of the review most often includes a training on Monday afternoon, the start of the first series of reviews Tuesday with second partying and then a debriefing on Wednesday morning. The process then starts all over again on Wednesday afternoon usually without the training; the debriefing is held Friday morning. An exit meeting is held Friday afternoon where the local office that was reviewed invites stakeholders and develops a Mini PIP (program improvement plan) in a family partnership setting. During the reviews, stakeholder meetings are held in the community with various groups and additional information is gathered.

This process holds a mirror up for the system to view itself: Many changes have occurred already in DFS policy, community awareness of the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, support for the systems, helping DFS accomplish their mission and resolving systemic issues.

