



# The State of Wyoming Citizen Review Panel, Inc.

1902 Thomes Avenue, Suite 215A  
PO Box 1504  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1504  
(307) 632-0032 – phone  
(307) 632-1591 – fax  
(307) 256-9159 - cellular  
[wycrp@wycrp.org](mailto:wycrp@wycrp.org)

Visit us on the  
world wide web  
at  
<http://wycrp.org>



*What is the Wyoming Citizen Review Panel?*

# Let's visit the early 1970's...



President  
Richard Nixon



Senator  
Walter Mondale

*“Not even  
Richard  
Nixon is in  
favor of  
child  
abuse!”*

- ***STOP BEATING THE CHILD!***
- Child abuse identified as 1 of the 3 most pressing national problems
- Unsuccessful congressional attempts from 1964-1973 to deal with child abuse
- Mondale was eyeing the presidency and found that child abuse attracted support and attention...championed legislation
- January 31, 1974 – President Nixon signed public law 93-247 – Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act or CAPTA
  - State plan
  - Reporting
  - Confidentiality
- Child neglect was still seen largely as a social issue where poverty equals neglect
- Government became involved in a big way in many different forms over the next 30 + years...

## *Fast forward 20 years...* 1990's Congressional Findings

- 1,000,000 +/- children in the United States are still victims of abuse and neglect
- Child abuse and neglect requires a comprehensive approach
  - Integration
  - Coordination
  - Prevention
  - Training
  - Ethnic and cultural diversity
- Child-centered, family-focused and community-based
  - Today, this has evolved into family centered practice
    - Remember, in the 1970's it was STOP BEATING THE CHILD!



## *National Climate in Child Protective Cases Moves from Focus on Reunification to Safety and Permanency in the 1990's..*

- ◆ Concerns:
  - ◆ Child fatalities in open cases
  - ◆ Children “languishing” in foster care
  - ◆ Children returned to unsafe environments
  - ◆ Timely termination of parental rights (TPRs)
- ◆ Federal statutory change came in 2 waves:
  - ◆ 1997 Adoption and Safe Families Act
  - ◆ 1996 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) Reauthorization



# 1996 CAPTA Reauthorization Established Citizen Review Panels or CRPs

- Must be in place by 1999
- CRP's have the responsibility to review compliance of state and local child protective service (CPS) agencies with respect to:
  - State CAPTA plan
  - Federal child protection standards
  - Other criteria the panel considers important, which may include coordination with foster care and adoption programs and review of child fatalities and near fatalities
- Wyoming has one, some states have multiple CRPs



# Wyoming's CRP Purpose...



- The Citizen Review Panel is a federally mandated group of professional and private citizens who are responsible for determining whether state and local agencies are effectively discharging child protective responsibilities; pursuant to the 1996 amendments to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) and any subsequent amendments. Through a review of policies, procedures, research and case review, the purpose of the Citizen Review Panel is to promote child safety and quality services to children and families.

## Panel Members

Andy Aldrich  
Jacqueline Brown  
John Eschrich  
Pat Hans  
Twila Kauffman  
Lori Kickery  
Kenneth Lee, Jr.  
Brenden McKinney  
Edward Moffit  
Debbie Petrie-Bullock  
Laurien Rahimi-Alangi  
Allison Sage  
Lee Ann Stephenson  
Carmen Thomas

- Broad spectrum of citizens
- Panel meets quarterly
- Board meets monthly

**15-25 member Panel;  
5 member Board;  
Executive Director**



## Board Members

### President:

Brenda Oswald

### Vice President:

Lisa Gossert

### Treasurer:

Carla Thurin

### Secretary:

Tara Ackerman

### Member at Large:

Rose Kor

# Wyoming CRP's Mission...

- The Wyoming Citizen Review Panel's mission is review of our child protective system across agencies offering summaries and recommendations for improvements benefiting children and families.





# How do we do that ???

- Focus groups around the state where we receive information on systemic issues
- Listen to children and families
- Collaborate with other organizations that share our goals
- Legislation review/comment/lobbying
- Strategic planning identifying systemic issues that we can assist in improving
- Issue a yearly annual report

# How do we do that ???



- Partner with the Department of Family Services (DFS)...
  - Conduct “mini child and family services reviews (CFSR)” in every DFS office in the state once a year.
    - One citizen and one DFS employee
      - Only state in the nation to do it this way
    - Focus on safety, permanency and well being outcomes...through the eyes of the child...
      - Information is used by DFS
      - Prepare for Federal review
      - Compile an annual report
      - Identify systemic issues

# 2005 Review Recommendations:

- **#1 – Require the Department of Family Services to follow their own recommendation to implement the Family Centered Practice Model.**



# 2005 Review Recommendations:

- **#2 – Require the use of a consistent battery of assessments to be given in all cases to the child and to all family members that child is associated with, including foster parents, if applicable.**



- **And, encourage providing services in a timely manner when needs are identified...**

# 2005 Review Recommendations:

- **#3 - Require consistent case file format across the state.**



# 2005 Review Recommendations:

- **#4 – Develop a system that will easily and consistently inform case workers, managers and supervisors of DFS policies, changes in DFS policy and other rules, laws and regulations needed to perform their jobs.**



# 2005 Review Recommendations:

- **#5 – Report to the Citizen Review Panel about exactly how the review scores are being used by DFS across the state.**



# 2005 Review Recommendations:

- #6 – Require those involved in the court systems in Wyoming to act on termination of parental rights and adoption procedures with urgency and consistency...



# 2005 Review Recommendations:

- **#7 – Require the strengthening of, continuance of, and creative additions to community partnerships and good communication between them and DFS as they pertain to these cases.**



**DFS response to these recommendations is available on our website...check it out at:  
<http://wycrp.org>**



# 2006/2007

## Review

### Schedule...



We always  
need quality  
citizen  
reviewers...

**2006**

**8/28/2006 - 9/1/2006 = District 1 (Cheyenne, Laramie)**

**10/9/2006 - 10/13/2006 = District 8 (Douglas, Glenrock, Lusk, Torrington, Wheatland)**

**10/30/2006 - 11/3/2006 = District 5 (Cody, Lovell, Powell, Thermopolis, Worland)**

**12/4/2006 - 12/8/2006 = District 9 (Afton, Jackson, Lander, Pinedale, Riverton)**

**2007**

**1/8/2007 - 1/15/2007 = District 7 (Casper, Rawlins)**

**2/5/2007 - 2/9/2007 = District 6 (Buffalo, Gillette, Newcastle, Sheridan, Sundance)**

**3/5/2007 - 3/9/2007 = District 10 (Evanston, Kemmerer, Rocksprings)**

**4/9/2007 - 4/13/2007 = Eastern Shoshone Tribe**

**4/16/2007 - 4/20/2007 = Northern Arapahoe Tribe**



# Visit us often at <http://wycrp.org>

- 2006 Annual Report
  - June 30, 2006
- Planning issues matrix changes often
- References, links, contacts
- Upcoming events
  - Trainings
  - Reviews
  - Conferences



*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."*

**Margaret Mead - Anthropologist**



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