

Citizen Review Panels (CAPTA panels): Jackson

Citizen Review Panels or CAPTA Panels, as they are known in Oregon, work on local systemic issues related to child abuse and neglect within the three designated geographic areas (Jackson, Malheur and Multnomah counties) and provide feedback and recommendations to DHS.

Citizen Review Panel Overview

Purpose

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) was originally enacted in 1974 to provide annual federal grants to states, based on the population of children under the age of eighteen, in order to improve the child protective services system. An amendment in 1996 added a new eligibility requirement for states to establish citizen review panels. CAPTA panel members are to be volunteers who broadly represent the community in which the panels were established. The mandate of the citizen review panels is to “evaluate the extent to which the agencies (state and local) are effectively discharging their child protection responsibilities.” The panels are required to examine policies, procedures, and where appropriate, specific cases handled by state and local agencies providing child protective services. The panels were also mandated to “prepare and make available to the public, on an annual basis, a report containing a summary of the activities of the panel.”

The act was most recently amended in June 2003 when “Keeping Children and Families Safe Act,” Public Law 108-36, was signed by the President. The law reauthorized CAPTA through federal fiscal year 2008. Public Law 108-36 revised citizen review panel duties to include: 1) requiring each panel to examine the practices (in addition to policies and procedures) of the state and local child welfare agencies, 2) providing for public outreach and comment in order to assess the impact of current procedures and practices upon children and families in the community, and 3) requiring each panel to make recommendations to the state and public on improving the child protective services system. In addition, the appropriate state agency is required to respond in writing no later than six months after the panel recommendations are submitted. The state agency’s 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 child protective services system.

Background/History

Citizen Review Panels were established in three counties in Oregon: Multnomah, Jackson, and Malheur. The counties were selected to reflect the demographic, economic, social and political conditions found in different areas of Oregon. Together the panels provide a significant depiction of the varied conditions of child protective services in Oregon. Technical assistance, guidance and coordination are available to the panels through the Grants Coordinator for Family Based Services, Children, Adults and Families (CAF). CAF has contracted with the child abuse intervention (assessment and advocacy) centers in each of the selected communities to provide facilitation and staff support for the panels.

Malheur County Citizen Review Panel Annual Report

Malheur 2007 Annual Report

October 1, 2006 – September 30, 2007

Panel Members

Jeana Critchfield	Executive Director, Project DOVE
Roberta Donovan	Former Executive Director, Project DOVE
Keely Ponce	STAR Center Coordinator
Christina Bautista	STAR Advocate, STAR Center
Marivel Jimenez	Project DOVE
Myrna Anderson	CASA
Wendy Hill	DHS
Wendy Bristol	DHS
Linda Beal	Malheur Co. Sheriff's Office
Kelly Poe	Executive Director Malheur Commission on Children and Families
Jeannette Buck	Project DOVE
Suzi Douglas Sapp	Ontario Middle School
Ed Galdabini	DHS

Meetings

December 6, 2006 5:30 PM @ Fiesta Guadalajara; January 24, 2007 @ DOVE office 5:30 PM; March 7th, 2007 @ Sizzler 5:30 PM; May 29, 2007 @ Fiesta Guadalajara 5:30 PM; September 6, 2007 @ DHS 11:00 AM

Activities

For the **2007 April Child Abuse Awareness Month**, CAPTA focused on an awareness campaign in partnership with Walmart in Ontario, OR. Members of CAPTA handed out packets of information and activity books to parents and children. Balloons, bracelets, suckers, and stickers were provided to children and parents. Panel members were available to answer any questions from the public regarding child abuse and or neglect.

July 2007 CAPTA co-sponsored and assisted Malheur Commission on Children and Families in planning the **Child Neglect Summit**. The Summit consisted of speakers from Northwest Institute for Children and Families. There were 118 attendees and Malheur County was well represented in all aspects of our community from Social Workers from DHS to officers from the Ontario Police Department and Sheriff's Department. Representatives from the District Attorney's office also participated. There were many community action agencies participating and learning about child abuse prevention. In addition to the educational speakers, a parents' voice was heard by all as she spoke about her own dealings with community agencies, police department and DHS especially due to her own negative choices and the impact that her choices had on her children and herself. She spoke about how she and her children benefited from the close working relationships of multi-agencies and therefore they did not "fall through the cracks" in the system and have since been returned together as a family.

The Summit concluded with participants forming small focus groups in which ten different action plans were developed to address child abuse and neglect within our community. The CAPTA Panel continues to follow up with the action groups each month at CAPTA meetings and they continue to stay on the forefront of discussion at many multi-agency meetings. To date we continue to see progress and success in the building of the **Boys and Girls Club/ Our Kids- Our Future**, a grant has been written to fund a coordinator who will continue to oversee fundraising and further development of this action plan; **Networking for Youth** continues to move forward with youth topics being discussed or presentations made in public forums as well as multi-community based meetings; **Pater Later/ S.P.E.R.M. (Sexual Promotion through Education from Responsible Mentors)** has moved forward with their action plan and will be entering the schools at the first of the year 2008. The

lead worker in this action group attended a conference where information and curriculum was discussed for young men's groups within school systems. A curriculum has been purchased and will be used for the boy's process group. Currently recruitment is being done for male mentors to assist with this group; *Malheur County Relief Nursery* continues to be an ongoing project that is seeing progress and fruition. This group has recently organized a Board of Directors and is working on a non-profit status. The official name has now become "Treasure Valley Children's Relief Nursery"; with a community "visioning" meeting to be held on November 15, 2007.

CAPTA's primary focus this year has been "**Train the Trainer: Advice from Child Molesters**" presented by Cory Jewel Jensen. The goal of this training is for CAPTA and trained community members to present trainings to parents within the Malheur County 8C School District. Our hope is that parents will become educated and informed and take back the responsibility of providing safety to their children from child sexual abusers. It is the intent of CAPTA to present several community forums during the month of April 2008 in Malheur County for the purpose of informing and educating parents about child abuse awareness, specifically child sexual abuse awareness.

Subcommittees

None for this period.

Future Plans/Next Steps

CAPTA plans to continue educating the community, parents especially, regarding protecting their children from child molesters. We strongly believe that this is an issue that needs to be addressed in our community and that responsibility to protect children needs to be on the shoulders of adults.

CAPTA looks forward to activities in April 2008 for Child Abuse Awareness Month. The planning will begin in January and we hope to form new partnerships with community organizations in order to include a variety of activities that are unique and informative to the public regarding the effects of child abuse and the need to prevent such abuse.

Recommendations

Malheur CAPTA Panel makes the following recommendations in the areas of number 7 and 8 in the CAPTA 14 Program Areas.

#7- Surveying workers who have been in the child welfare system for five or more years and identify coping strategies, trainings and personal self-care practices that allow them to continue working in a difficult population and field is key. There are those workers who have maintained in the child welfare system for many years and who continue to work tirelessly to assist children and families. What makes these individuals different from those who burn out quickly and how can DHS recruit workers that will be able to sustain and maintain in a high stress career and make the difference needed?

#8- We recommend that at both the County and State level more trainings are conducted for professionals and para-professionals in schools, private non-profits that work with children and families, individual counselors or behavioral mental health agencies that come into contact with children and families be required to have additional trainings in the area of mandated reporting and that protocols are more “spelled” out for reporting child abuse or neglect.

Looking Ahead

We would request that our recommendations and feedback come in the form of written or oral reports quarterly from our local County DHS agency.

Acknowledgments

We have several that deserve to be recognized for their contributions in our efforts to educate and prevent child abuse and neglect. Our local Walmart in Ontario has been a consistent partner in assisting us with space to educate patrons in our community. Malheur Commission on Children and Families assisted greatly in attaining a grant and organizing the Child Neglect Summit. The Malheur District Attorney’s office partnered with CAPTA to bring Cory Jewel Jensen to Malheur County for training. CAPTA and CAMI funds were used to provide this training to professionals in our community. Malheur Department of Human Services allows us to meet for CAPTA meetings in their building as needed. We also appreciate our CAPTA Panel members who continue to give of their time and assist in our efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect.

MALHEUR CITIZEN REVIEW (CAPTA) PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS AND DHS RESPONSES

From CAPTA Panel Reports 10/06-09/07

These are all excellent recommendations and areas in which the Oregon Department of Human Services staff strives to create the best possible situation for children and youth.

Malheur County CAPTA Panel

Recommendation 1

CAPTA Area #7- Surveying workers who have been in the child welfare system for five or more years and identify coping strategies, trainings and personal self-care practices that allow them to continue working in a difficult population and field is key. There are those workers who have maintained in the child welfare system for many years and who continue to work tirelessly to assist children and families. What makes these individuals different from those who burn out quickly and how can DHS recruit workers that will be able to sustain and maintain in a high stress career and make the difference needed?

DHS Response 1

The McKenzie Group was hired by DHS to study and make recommendations about changes to the Departments organizational structures including child welfare. McKenzie was specifically charged with examining the workload of child welfare caseworkers and staff turnover. Their work includes a survey of child welfare staff and an examination of the percentage of time that caseworkers spent in accomplishing required duties. They also examined factors that assist in retaining staff. They are providing DHS administrators with finalized recommendations in June of this year.

Recommendation 2

#8- We recommend that at the County and State levels more trainings are conducted for professionals and para-professionals in schools, private non-profits that work with children and families, individual counselors or behavioral mental health agencies that come into contact with children and families. These groups would be required to have additional trainings in the area of mandated reporting and that protocols are more “spelled” out for reporting child abuse or neglect.

DHS Response 2

The “The Role of Mandatory Reporters in Child Abuse Cases” (A video guide for mandatory reporters) was revised in 2007 and DVD copies were distributed to the superintendent all school districts in Oregon.

Copies of the “What you can do about child abuse” booklet are available by calling DHS, Juanita Raymond at (503) 945-6624 or Lisa Zacharias at (503) 945-5683. The first five (5) copies are available at no cost; additional copies are available for one dollar each.

The video of “The Role of Mandatory Reporters in Child Abuse Cases” (A video guide for mandatory reporters) is available at the following website
<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/children/committees/capta/capta.shtml>

MDTs routinely provide training in their counties concerning the responsibilities of Mandatory Reporters.