

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Technical Assistance Report



Prepared DC Citizen Review Panel

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On February 2-3, 2007, I met with faculty from Howard University, the District of Columbia Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA), and the DC Citizen Review Panel in order to provide training and technical assistance.

On the morning of February 2, I met with Drs. Annie Brown and Ruby Gourdine, as well as the CRP coordinator Pat O'Meally. We discussed the research I have done around Citizen Review Panels and lessons learned from this research. I also discussed the model of collaborating with a university in order to provide support for the Citizen Review Panels.

On the afternoon of February 2, I met with the senior staff of CFSA, including several Deputy Directors and the Director, Uma Ahluwalia. We discussed numerous issues, including how to include the Citizen Review Panel in the Child and Family Services Review, how to provide appropriate and timely information to the CRPs in order for them to accomplish their work, and how to facilitate the work of the Panel without being seen as dictatorial. The CFSA leadership team voiced their strong support of the Panel.

On February 3, 2007, I met with approximately 25 Panel members and CFSA staff. I provided the Panel with an overview of the CAPTA legislation as it related to the formation of Citizen Review Panels. Per their request, I also discussed the national models of CRPs, the importance of the Annual report, and tips for—among other things—recruiting a diverse membership.

I spend the rest of the meeting assisting them in developing strategic plans. The teams developed a work plan for their chosen areas: evaluation of mandated reporters and youth who are ageing out of foster care. I offered follow up services to the people with whom I met and I will check in with them throughout the Spring to track their progress. Several members are planning on attending the 2007 National Citizen Review Panel conference.