



Citizens Review Panel

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) provides federal funding to states for child abuse and neglect prevention, treatment and training for staff who work in the child protection system. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) serves as the lead agency for the federal funding and asked the Advisory Council to consider serving as a Citizens Review Panel because of its work in and knowledge of faith and community involvement to achieve positive outcomes for child well-being.

Citizen Review Panels were included in the 1996 CAPTA reauthorization and must:

- Be composed of volunteers who are representative of the community in which they operate.
- Meet at least quarterly.
- Prepare an annual report that describes the panel's activities and includes recommendations to improve the child protection system.
- Have at least one member with expertise in child abuse and neglect prevention and treatment.

Each panel is responsible to review:

- Compliance of state and local child protection service agencies and state CAPTA plan
- Coordination with foster care and adoption programs
- Review of child fatalities and near fatalities (performed by the Child Abuse Death Review Team)

The Advisory Council agreed to serve in this capacity and was formally designated as a Citizens Review Panel for the Federal Fiscal Year 2015. Below are recommendations provided to the DCF:

- To share information and outcome expectations from the state's *Pinwheel for Prevention* campaign with all Community Development Administrators so they can effectively plan ahead for their pinwheel events in their areas. This is to assist efforts in having Florida qualify for a designation of best or evidence-based practice for its pinwheel campaign.
- To establish a mechanism to provide treatment services to parents of children who have incidents of substance abuse or mental health. These efforts are designed to strengthen the parent's protective capacities so they can ensure the health and well-being of their children.
- To continue development of and providing information for the Child Fatality Website.
- To have staff participate on the Trauma Informed Care Workgroup to assist in the development of language, training and awareness activities.
- To provide training/information sessions to faith and community organizations who support the work of DCF on the Safety Methodology.
- To update the online training course offered to Florida teachers on the signs and responsibilities associated with child abuse reporting.