

**CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL
PER THE CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT**

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.

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, and
- 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, and
- Review of child fatalities and near fatalities (performed by the Child Death Review Team).

The Advisory Council is being asked by the Department of Children and Families to consider serving as a Citizen Review Panel. The Department of Children and Families recognizes the Advisory Council's commitment to ensure that all families and communities are safe, stable, nurturing, and promote child well-being. The Department also recognizes the importance of engaging faith and community organizations to fulfill this commitment.

If supported, the Advisory Council would be expected to:

- Identify activities that improves the lives of children and families in the child welfare system ranging from prevention through post-adoption,
- Identify activities that result in faith-based and community-based organizations becoming involved in supporting state agency initiatives and efforts, and
- Provide recommendations to refine, improve or strengthen policies, priorities, and objectives in child welfare and for the state's comprehensive effort to enlist, equip, enable, empower, and expand the work of faith-based, volunteer, and community organizations.