

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The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) was originally enacted in 1974 to provide annual federal grants to states, based on the population of children under the age of eighteen, in order to improve the child protective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.

Citizen Review Panel Annual Reports

Jackson County 2007 Annual Report

April 1, 2007 through September 30, 2007

(Please see Eighth Annual Report submitted by Jackson County, for the time period covering October 1, 2006 – March 31, 2007)

Panel Members

Dr. Curtis Oddo (Chair)	Medical Director, Children's Advocacy Center (CAC)
Tracy Thompson	Administrative Secretary, CAC
Karla Carlson	Supervisor, DHS
Karen Doolen	Community Volunteer, CAC Board Member
Marlene Mish	Executive Director, CAC
Diana Hamilton	Director, Victims' Assistance Program
Roxann Jones	Project Coordinator, Commission on Children and Families
Doug Mares	Jackson County Branch Manager, DHS
Michelle Pauly	Deputy District Attorney
Rainy Olsen	Child Welfare Program Manager, DHS
Penny Esser	Foster Family Recruitment & Retention Specialist, DHS

Thomas Price, PhD Family Based Services Consultant, DHS
Linda Vanbuskirk Medical Coordinator, CAC
Mary Curtis Gramley Director, Family Nurturing Center

Other Attendees:

Mary Chambers Supervisor, DHS
Pam Bergreen Supervisor, DHS
Stephanie Stafford Grants Coordinator, CAPTA at DHS

Meetings

Date	Time	Location
Monday, December 19, 2006	3:30 pm - 5:00 pm	CAC
Monday, March 19, 2007	3:30 pm - 5:00 pm	CAC
Tuesday, June 19, 2007	3:30 pm - 5:00 pm	CAC
Monday, September 17, 2007	3:30 pm - 5:00 pm	CAC

Activities

1. The Jackson County CAPTA Panel was a co-sponsor of the “Focus on the Child” child abuse symposium on May 18th, 2007. One hundred and thirty participants, representing a broad spectrum of agencies, programs and counties committed to improving the evaluations of child victims of abuse attended the symposium. The keynote speaker was internationally acclaimed child abuse and child sexuality expert Toni Cavanagh-Johnson. The presentation focused on various sexual behaviors that raise concern; in addition there was a focus on “victimization”. Dr. Oddo presented on ways in which law enforcement officials might confuse physical abuse with mimicking conditions as well as an overall presentation on signs of physical abuse. He also emphasized that physical abuse and neglect have longer lasting effects than sex abuse, according to research. Local law enforcement officials presented on how to conduct an appropriate investigation, as well as training regarding how to photograph injuries to assist with the evidence gathering to substantiate cases. Twenty-six digital cameras were purchased with CAPTA funds and distributed to local law enforcement and DHS child welfare staff to insure agencies provide responsible child abuse investigations with adequate equipment for documenting injuries.

2. The panel distributed over 30,000 Life Saver flyers to local schools and daycare centers to publish the results of fatality reviews during the last year. Co-sleeping and aboveground pools were the main cause of death.

3. The Jackson County CAPTA Panel was awarded a Children's Justice Act (CJA) grant to host a community-wide Child Neglect Summit on July 27, 2007. The summit was attended by 85 individuals representing 18 different community organizations that are committed to increasing the awareness and response to child neglect in Jackson County. Dee Wilson, Director of the Northwest Institute for Children and Families, provided a comprehensive picture of child neglect and its impact on children and ultimately our communities. In addition to the formal presentation, we had a multidisciplinary panel made up of local experts from the following fields: early childhood; substance abuse; affordable housing; health care; and child welfare. Our community engaged in developing ten innovative Action Plans to impact child neglect covering topics ranging from: a public awareness campaign; increased coordination and knowledge of resources between child welfare system partners; quality childcare; foster parent recruitment and training; and parent education and support. The Jackson County Commission on Children and Families will utilize the Action Plans during their comprehensive planning process as potential strategies during planning for the focus area of Child Abuse and Neglect. The Jackson County CAPTA Panel forwarded the results of the community-wide summit to all registered participants, and will be connecting with the key contact for each Action Plan to track results of the plan.

4. CAPTA provided a dunk tank, tee shirts and distributed 1,000 Life Saver flyers at Channel 10's Kids' Day in the Park. Law Enforcement and staff from the Children's Advocacy Center were on hand to discuss child safety issues, as well as to answer questions regarding child abuse. The community turnout for the event was amazing, providing a wonderful opportunity to engage the community in conversation regarding serious child safety issues that have been a concern for the Jackson County Fatality Review Panel and CAPTA.

Future Plans/Next Steps

1. Explore options for providing training for foster parents, to insure that they have the skills and supports to provide safe and nurturing homes to the children placed in their care.

2. Recruit new members to participate in CAPTA to insure that our panel is a broad representation of the community, and that expertise in prevention, intervention and treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect is represented.

Additionally, provide training opportunities for CAPTA Panel members to guarantee they are prepared to meet the responsibility of assisting the State in improving the child protective system.

3. Continue to support training and the importance of collaboration and communication in the investigation of child abuse.
4. Explore which Action Plans created at the Child Neglect Summit, would be appropriate for CAPTA to endorse.
5. Review cases from DHS.

Subcommittees

The Jackson County Child Neglect Summit sub-committee was formed to pursue the Children's Justice Act grant to host a community-wide Child Neglect Summit. The Jackson County CAPTA Panel applied and was awarded the grant. The subcommittee worked with Dr. Katharine Cahn and Kellie Herold to plan for our local summit. The subcommittee did the following: secured an appropriate location, recruited local community experts and service providers to serve on the multidisciplinary panel, recruited key stakeholders and other community members to participate in the summit, provided each participant with a packet of information regarding the impact of neglect; and provided support on the day of the event. Subcommittee members were Michelle Pauly, Dr. Curtis Oddo, Mary Curtis Gramley, Libby McDaniel, Roxann Jones, and Linda Vanbuskirk.

Recommendations

The Jackson County CAPTA Panel strongly recommends the following:

1. Oregon seeks ways to develop cooperative agreements with states for the sharing of confidential Child Welfare information. The efforts of prosecutors and child welfare professionals to protect children are often hampered by the various states and federal laws governing the sharing of information regarding children and families who have been involved in the system.
2. Increase team building with an emphasis on strong partnerships among community-based organizations and public systems to provide support and effective services. Develop state-wide/regional trainings inclusive of the partners in the child welfare system (i.e.; Child Welfare, Local Enforcement Agencies (LEA), MDT's, Child Abuse Prevention Programs) incorporating the development of trust and respect necessary for collaborative partnerships.

3. Provide statewide/regional trainings on appropriate investigation and documentation of injuries. Insure that LEA and Child Welfare have the training, and appropriate equipment to document injuries to comply with Karly's Law.
4. Target trainings to medical professionals, to better equip the medical profession in identifying child abuse traumas.

In addition the Jackson County CAPTA Panel encourages the state to:

1. To explore tougher state legislation and modification to federal laws regarding the protection of children from sexual predators including online predators. The focus needs to be on child safety issues and on protecting children from online sexual abuse, as well developing prevention and deterrence tools (e.g. education and awareness campaigns, filtering solutions, anti-grooming tools, etc.). Additionally, effective law enforcement responses to hold accountable those who exploit children via the internet.

Looking Ahead

We look forward to being informed of DHS's responses to our local CAPTA Panel recommendations in a written report at least quarterly, or more frequently if information becomes available. We appreciate the opportunity to assist the State of Oregon in improving our child protective services system, to be accountable for safety, permanency, and well being of children.

**JACKSON COUNTY 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.

Jackson County CAPTA Panel

Recommendation 1

Oregon seeks ways to develop cooperative agreements with states for the sharing of confidential Child Welfare Information. The efforts of prosecutors and child welfare professionals to protect children are often hampered by the various states

and federal laws governing the sharing of information regarding children and families who have been involved in the system.

Clarification: Families move from state to state and can stay ‘under the radar’. Thus, their histories with the Child Protective Services (CPS) in other states is often undiscovered. Once they do come to the attention of Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), Oregon may not be able to discover the family’s involvement with the CPS of other states because of confidentiality issues.

The states inability to obtain records from other states is a huge and ongoing obstacle to fully litigating a case and advising the dependency court of a child’s situation. Because the state cannot obtain complete child welfare records from other states, the child remains at risk. We cannot adequately protect children. This is true of all child welfare cases.

A release of information is not the answer. The state is not able to obtain a release of information because it is generally the parent(s) whose records the state is seeking. Since they are an adverse party, they are generally uncooperative in acceding to a request for a release of information. The state does not have subpoena power nor can the state utilize any other force of law which would permit Oregon to obtain records that another sovereign state has deemed confidential or otherwise protected.

The CAPTA Panel realizes that it will take federal legislation to remedy this problem; the obstacles to obtaining CPS records from other states is still a concern to the CAPTA Panel.

DHS Response 1

DHS appreciates this recommendation to develop information sharing between States, however, this recommendation requires federal legislation and is beyond the scope of DHS.

Recommendation 2

Increase team building with an emphasis on strong partnerships among community-based organizations and public systems to provide support and effective services. Develop state-wide/regional trainings inclusive of the partners in the child welfare system (i.e.; Child Welfare, Local Enforcement Agencies

(LEA), MDT's, Child Abuse Prevention Programs) incorporating the development of trust and respect necessary for collaborative partnerships.

DHS Response 2

As a local issue, the Jackson CAPTA Panel has partnered with Jackson County Health and Human Services and the Commission on Children and Families to bring "Stewards of Children", an evidenced based Child Sexual Abuse Prevention program developed by Darkness of Light, a grass-roots national non-profit organization, to Jackson County. The program is designed to place the responsibility squarely on adult shoulders to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse.

The Jackson County CAPTA Panel held a train the trainer workshop and trained ten facilitators representing eight different organizations in the county: Community Works; Job Council; Girl Scouts; Commission on Children and Families; Children's Advocacy Center; Family Nurturing Center (Crisis Relief Nursery); Neighborhood Watch and a privately licensed counselor. There are 11 trained facilitators to date and the training is also available in Spanish.

The Commission on Children and Families plan on taking the lead to get the word out to the community and scheduling presentations. Each partner has agreed to present the training a minimum of four times in the next year to a variety of community-based groups. The CAPTA Panel and the Jackson County Health and Human Services provided the funding for facilitator training and for purchase of the notebooks for the classes. The CAPTA Panel hopes to obtain another grant from Jackson County Health and Human Services to train additional community trainers.

Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention (CAMI) presented a team-building event at the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Training Day in Medford during June 2007. MDTs may be better served by focusing on new member orientation for MDTs. Klamath County developed a MDT orientation manual available from CAMI. The CAMI Program Coordinator is Stacy Liskey. She can be reached at 503-378-5344 ext. 238. The CAMI Grant Assistant, Mackenzie Gray, can be reached at 503-378-5344 ext. 239.

DHS Child Welfare (CW), District Attorney Offices and MDTs in Oregon partnered together to offer "Karly's Law" (House Bill 3328) Training Days from February to April 2008. The trainings were funded by CAPTA grant funds and focused on House Bill 3328 definitions, practice and implementation of the law,

forensic photography training by Jennifer Schindell, communicating with the non-designated medical professionals and networking with MDT partners to strengthen local protocols. The trainings were located geographically throughout Oregon and held in Eugene, Salem, Coos Bay, Medford, Bend, Pendleton and Portland. MDT members and Child Protective Services (CPS) staff were encouraged to attend the trainings.

Recommendation 3

Provide statewide/regional trainings on appropriate investigation and documentation of injuries. Insure that LEA and Child Welfare have the training, and appropriate equipment to document injuries to comply with Karly's Law.

DHS Response 3

DHS Child Welfare (CW), District Attorney Offices and MDTs in Oregon partnered together to offer "Karly's Law" (House Bill 3328) Training Days from February to April 2008. The trainings were funded by CAPTA grant funds and focused on House Bill 3328 definitions, practice and implementation of the law, forensic photography training by Jennifer Schindell, communicating with the non-designated medical professionals and networking with MDT partners to strengthen local protocols. The trainings were located geographically throughout Oregon and held in Eugene, Salem, Coos Bay, Medford, Bend, Pendleton and Portland. MDT members and Child Protective Services (CPS) staff were encouraged to attend the trainings.

DHS provided "L-shaped" photo scales to participants who attended the "Karly's Law" Training Days.

DHS provides CPS workers with one (1) digital camera per two (2) workers. Additional cameras have been purchased and provided to DHS CW offices for CPS workers with funding from local MDTs.

Karly's Law was covered during Department of Public Safety Standards and Training's (DPSST) February 2008 Child Abuse Training Conference, as well as the Basic Detectives Academy in March 2008. Last year's Child Abuse Training Conference (Jan 24-25, 2007), DPSST provided appropriate investigation and documentation of injuries training, as well as case studies, to attendees.

Recommendation 4

Target trainings to medical professionals, to better equip the medical profession in identifying child abuse traumas.

DHS Response 4

Information was provided at the “Karly’s Law” Training Days on communicating with the non-designated medical professionals.

DHS worked in collaboration with CARES NW, a Regional Child Abuse Medical Assessment Center and CAMI, the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Program at the Department of Justice in the Crime Victim Assistance section to provide training to the local medical professionals.