

## WHAT IS A CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL?

The Wyoming Citizen Review Panel is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation comprised of 15-25 members. These members appoint a board of executive officers who hire an executive director. The Wyoming Citizen Review Panel (WYCRP) partners with the Wyoming Department of Family Services (DFS) and Wyoming Department of Health, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division (DOH/MHSASD) and other community based agencies.

Citizen review panels originated through a 1996 amendment to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) legislation which requires all states to create these panels.

Citizen review panels are charged with evaluating effectiveness of the agencies (state and local) administration of their child protection responsibilities. The panels must examine policies, procedures, and where appropriate, specific cases handled by the state and local agencies providing child protective services.

The panels are also to evaluate the extent to which the agencies are effectively discharging their child protection responsibilities in accordance with the state's CAPTA plan, child protection standards, and any other criteria that the members consider important to ensure the protection of children. In Wyoming, the WYCRP administers the Wyoming Child Major Injury and Fatality Review Team.

### WYOMING IS UNIQUE...

We are the only state in the nation to partner DFS workers with citizens to review randomly selected DFS case files throughout the state; both in child protective services and juvenile services. Reviewers are required to sign confidentiality statements, submit to a central registry check and participate in a training. The case file is thoroughly reviewed and the parties involved in the case are interviewed; the findings are recorded in an instrument. The compiled results are used for many purposes by a number of stakeholders. This is not just a review of DFS; it is much larger than that! Through this process, the child welfare systems are examined in the areas of child safety, permanency and well-being.



### Would you like to become involved?

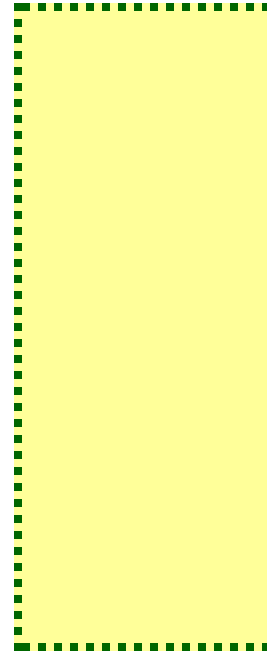
The hours can be long, but the rewards many...we are always taking applications for citizen reviewers. As a volunteer citizen reviewer, you will find it to be a very worthwhile experience. We will pay all your expenses incurred for lodging and meals as well as pay your mileage at the current federal rate for necessary travel. *If you would like to know more, please contact us using the information below:*

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**PURPOSE OF THE WYOMING CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL...**

The Citizen Review Panel is a federally mandated group of professional and private citizens who are responsible for determining whether state and local agencies are effectively discharging child protective responsibilities; pursuant to the 1996 amendments to the Child Abuse Protection and Treatment Act (CAPTA) and any subsequent amendments. Through a review of policies, procedures, research and case reviews, the purpose of the Citizen Review Panel is to promote child safety and quality services to children and families.

Host for the 8th Annual, 2009 National Citizen Review Panel Conference.



**WYOMING CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL, INC.**

The Wyoming Citizen Review Panel's mission is review of our child protective system across agencies offering summaries and recommendations for improvements benefiting children and families.

Visit us on the world wide web at <http://wycrp.org>



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