

Citizen Review Board Panels



- DHS and CRB signed an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in September 2012 making the CRB responsible for Oregon's compliance with federal CAPTA grant requirements for states to establish three Citizen Review Panels.
- In September 2012, the local CRBs in Deschutes, Lane, and Lincoln counties became the Citizen Review Panels as required by the CAPTA.

DHS/CRB MOU

The three counties represent a variety of regions & number of children in care

The Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) awards grants to states provided they:

1. Establish at least 3 Citizen Review Panels (CRP) responsible for:
 - Evaluating the extent to which DHS is effectively discharging their child protection responsibilities by examining the policies, procedures, and practices of State and local agencies
 - Provide for public outreach and comment in order to assess the impact of current procedures and practices upon children and families in the community, and
 - Prepare an annual report summarizing the activities and recommendations of the panel.
2. Provide a written response describing whether and how it will implement the recommendations of the CRP.

Introduction: CAPTA

Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act Grant

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) provides funding to assist states in improving their child protective service system. The funding is administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families. Federal legislation authorizes an annual award of funds to states that submit state plans every five years and meet certain other eligibility requirements. The amount of CAPTA funding received by the states varies from year to year with no matching requirement. The funding is provided to the state for use on a statewide basis, and is allocated to projects designed to improve the child welfare service system. A portion of the budget is also set aside to provide support to three CAPTA Panels which are mandated as part of the federal award to provide a citizen review of the child welfare system and to make recommendations for improvements to the system.

CAPTA: Oregon receives @ 325K/year:

prevention and support services - these might include respite care, early developmental screening of children, services to increase parenting skills, home visiting, and family support or resource centers; protective services (which, among other things, includes investigations, case management, and service referrals); training; intensive family preservation or services to expeditiously reunite children removed from their homes with their Parents

CAPTA Community Based Grants @ 300K/year – local child abuse and neglect prevention programs CJA (Children’s Justice Act Grant @ 220K/year

The purposes of these funds are to 1) improve the handling of child abuse and neglect cases, especially those involving child sexual abuse and exploitation, in a manner that limits additional trauma to the child victims; 2) improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect cases, especially those involving child sexual abuse and exploitation; and 3) improve the

The three CRB Panels:

- Conducted monthly CRB case reviews
- Helped create a statewide system issues survey that was completed at each review day for every case reviewed (November 2012 - April 2013) to identify the most prevalent state & local issues
- Met regularly as a Panel to discuss survey results, identify local system issues, and consider possible recommendations
- Met with community partners on multiple occasions to gain their input on local system issues and proposed recommendations
- Held a community forum to gain community input on local issues and proposed recommendations

CRB Panel Efforts

The prevalent statewide DHS system issues include:

1. DHS caseworker turnover, insufficient supervision, and/or lack of training
2. OR-kids case plans do not include current and/or sufficient information
3. Lack of compliance with face-to-face contact requirements

Statewide survey results

1. DHS increase efforts to address flaws in the OR-Kids program.
2. DHS increase OR-Kids training and support for caseworkers.
3. DHS work with the OJD to develop a statewide Court and CRB report.
4. DHS provide better training and support for caseworkers.
5. DHS comply with face-to-face contact requirements and accurately document the contact.
6. Oregon Legislature provide sufficient funding to allow caseworker staffing at the 80% level as recommended in the Governor's budget.

The prevalent DHS system issues in Deschutes include:

1. Lack of timely ICWA determinations
2. Insufficient medical and dental services
3. Lack of diligent efforts to search for and engage relatives
4. Insufficient documentation and/or efforts to develop the concurrent plan.

Deschutes CRB Panel Survey Results

Possible Recommendations being considered:

1. DHS preserve specialized staff positions for relative searches/ICWA determinations.
2. DHS develop policies to ensure the specialized staff follows up with ongoing relative search and ICWA efforts, communicate efforts to the assigned caseworker, and accurately and timely document efforts.
3. DHS comply with policies and provide adequate and timely medical and dental services.
4. DHS work with community partners to increase parent/child visitation, and continue to explore foster parents and/or foster grandparents as mentors and visit supervisors.

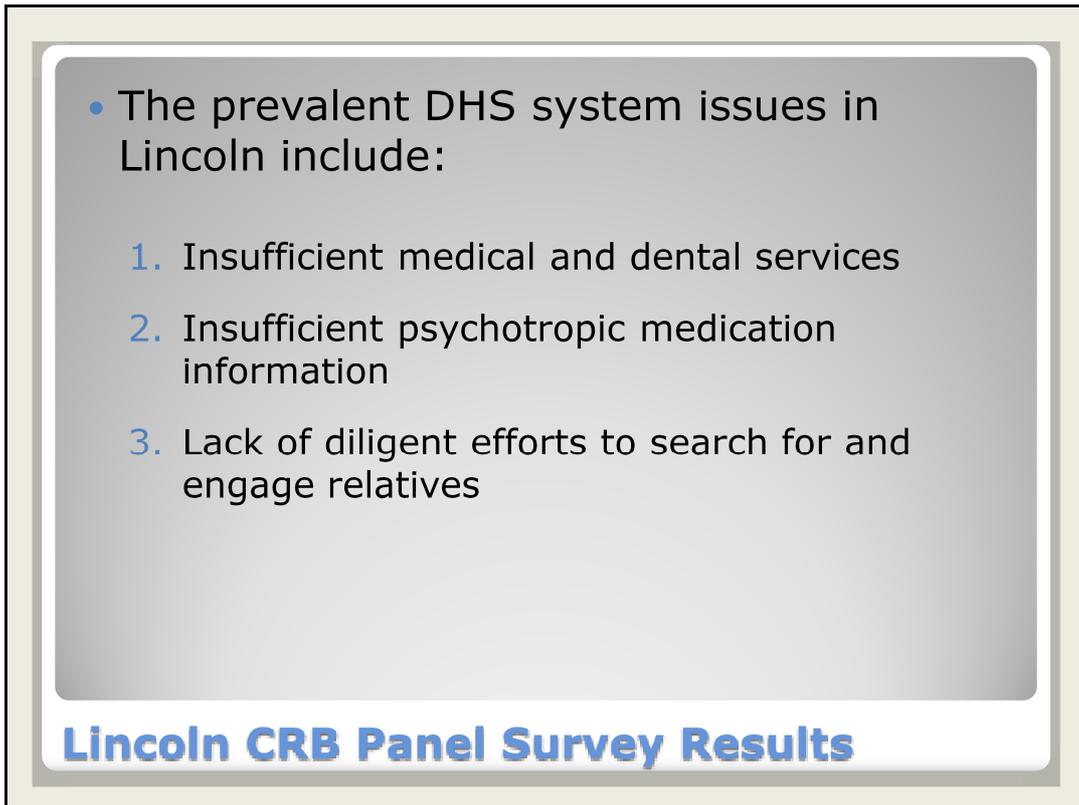
The prevalent DHS system issues in Lane County include:

1. Insufficient medical and dental services
2. Insufficient psychotropic medication information
3. Insufficient ILP services for youth who need them and caseworkers are not in compliance with ILP policies regarding development and review of comprehensive plans
4. Insufficient/lack of visitation with parents

Lane CRB Panel Survey Results

Possible Recommendations:

1. DHS comply with policies and provide adequate and timely medical and dental services.
2. Consider opportunity to develop incentives for dentists to serve children in foster care (e.g. tax credit).
3. DHS increase visitation services.
4. DHS identify community resources that may be able to support reduced DHS services (e.g. visitation services – churches).

A graphic with a grey background and a white border. It contains a bulleted list of DHS system issues in Lincoln and a title at the bottom.

- The prevalent DHS system issues in Lincoln include:
 1. Insufficient medical and dental services
 2. Insufficient psychotropic medication information
 3. Lack of diligent efforts to search for and engage relatives

Lincoln CRB Panel Survey Results

Possible recommendations

1. DHS develop a specialized staff position for relative searches and ICWA determinations and ensure that workload duties are not compromised due to general case work assignments.
2. DHS develop policies to ensure the specialized staff follows up with ongoing relative search and ICWA efforts, communicate efforts to the assigned caseworker, and accurately and timely document efforts

Of the three most prevalent DHS system issues identified across the state, please:

- 1) **come to consensus on the top issue and write a short explanation why**
- 2) **identify and write one or two possible recommendations to address the issue**

- DHS caseworker turnover, insufficient supervision, and/or lack of training
- OR-kids case plans do not include current and/or sufficient information
- Lack of compliance with face-to-face contact requirements

Table Talk Discussion Today