

**ASU Center for Applied Behavioral Health Policy
Coordinates Citizens' Panels to Oversee Child Protective Services
Volunteers Needed**

Arizona State University's Center for Applied Behavioral Health Policy (CABHP) serves as the coordinating center for the Arizona Citizen Review Panel Program. Initiated in 1999, the Arizona Citizen Review Panel Program was developed to respond to a 1996 amendment to the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) which requires states to establish citizen review panels.

Three panels operate in the Northern, Central and Southern regions of the state. The panels review Arizona's Child Protective Services (CPS) state policies, current practices, pertinent data, and case file information on children and families involved in CPS. The panels are comprised of 12 to 15 volunteers, including private citizens, educators, child advocates, adoptive and foster care parents, adoptees and foster care alumni, law enforcement, physicians, pediatric specialists, mental and social service providers, faith-based and tribal affiliations. The panels also evaluate the relationship between CPS and foster care, adoption, and other related agencies. The panels make recommendations to CPS for system changes and improvements, including annual reports of activities and goals.

With support from the ASU School of Social Work, CABHP analyzes data to identify trends and develop comparisons across districts based on prevalence and child and family characteristics. Enhancements in coordination, communication, and reporting of child welfare data are expected to maximize public input and interagency collaboration.

If you are interested in volunteering on the Arizona Citizen Review Panel in your area, please contact Program Coordinator Lisa Moen at lisa.moen@asu.edu or (602) 496-1480 for more information.