

Arizona Citizen Review Panel Program

Volunteer Job Description

General Function:

Volunteer community members analyze trends, provide independent insights and outside validation of the child protection system, recommend and advocate for needed changes and resources, promote cooperation among community resources and child protection service agencies and increase community understanding and investment in protecting all children. They will examine child protection policies, procedures and practices of the state Child Protective Services. They will evaluate the extent to which the agencies are discharging their child protection responsibilities. Panel members will gather information through interviews and observations, and review records, case files and reports. The members will assist in preparing and make available to the public an annual report containing a summary of the panel's activities and recommendations to improve the child protection system.

What the Volunteer Experience Can Offer You:

- An opportunity to be an active participant on the behalf of abused and neglected children in your community and your state.
- An opportunity to put your interests, talents and expertise to good use for a worthy cause.
- Initial orientation regarding the child protection system. This includes child abuse and neglect issues, foster care, case plans, efforts towards family reunification, alternatives to family reunification, the best interests of children, child development and attachment issues, cultural considerations including the Indian Child Welfare Act and heritage preservation, the dynamics of domestic violence, and the court process.
- In-service training on topics such as cultural diversity, chemical and mental health, education and community resources.
- Ongoing professional support and consultation.
- Access to a wide variety of community resources and people.
- An opportunity to update and add to your resume.
- Reimbursement for mileage at the state mileage rate as needed.
- An opportunity to promote and affect positive changes for the well-being of children.
- A meaningful, important volunteer experience that will add skills and provide new insights, interests and challenges.

Qualifications and Skills:

- Genuine concern and compassion for those involved in the child protection service system.
- Desire to have a positive impact on the child protection service system and those involved.
- Desire to learn about the current child protection service system.
- Common sense and maturity.

- Sensitivity to cultural, ethnic and economic diversity.
- Ability to articulate ideas, concerns and thoughts.
- Ability to listen, be open minded, non judgmental and constructive.
- Ability to work as part of a team.
- Desire to promote needed changes in the child protection system as identified by the panels.
- A willingness to make an initial commitment of two years.
- May not currently be involved in a child protection, child custody dispute or criminal matter.
- Must maintain confidentiality.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Personal

- Maintain confidentiality.
- Complete initial orientation and participate in in-service training sessions.
- Attend and participate in all meetings, unless advance notice is given.

As a Member of the Panel

- Gather information by reviewing files, records and reports and interviews.
- Participate in educational activities to better understand the child protection system.
- Review the child protection service agency's consistency of practice and compliance with stated policies, laws and procedures.
- Assist in the analysis of the information gathered.
- Assist in the compilation of an annual report summarizing the activities of the panel.
- Provide feedback on what is working well.
- Make recommendations for needed policy changes and suggest corrective actions.
- Promote cooperation among community resources and child protection service agencies.
- Increase community understanding, ownership and investment in child protection.
- Be an advocate for needed resources to protect children from abuse and neglect and to ensure permanent homes for children in a timely manner.

For more information contact:

Lisa Moen
 Program Coordinator, Sr.
 Center for Applied Behavioral Health Policy
 College of Public Programs
 Arizona State University
 500 North 3rd Street, Suite 200
 Phoenix, AZ 85004-2135

Telephone: 602-496-1480
 Fax: 602-496-1494
 Email: lisa.moen@asu.edu