



# CITIZENS REVIEW BOARD FOR CHILDREN

## COMMUNITY CONNECTOR



Volume 1, Issue 2

June 2017

# CRBC Moving Forward

## Membership

At the end of fiscal year 2017 there were a total of 33 new members appointed to CRBC local out-of-home placement review boards by the Governor representing Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Caroline, Dorchester, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's and Worcester counties, as well as Baltimore City. CRBC held 2 New Member Orientation and Pre-Service training Sessions in Essex, Maryland in February and March and 1 in Dorchester County in May to train new members. There were four regional trainings on permanency and volunteer appreciation events held to commemorate Child Abuse Prevention Awareness and Volunteer Appreciation.

**CRBC Mission:** To conduct case reviews of children in out of home care, make timely individual case and systemic recommendations; and advocate for legislative and systematic child welfare improvements to promote safety and permanency.

**CRBC Vision:** We envision the protection of all children from abuse and neglect, only placing children in out-of-home care when necessary; and providing families the help they need to stay intact; children will be safe in a permanent living arrangement.

## Meetings with LDSS, DHR and SSA

CRBC met with Local Department Administrators and staff in Cecil, Harford and Prince George's County and had a telephone conference with Kent and Garrett counties for advocacy and to discuss child welfare in the respective regions, CRBC updates and/or CRBC review findings, as well as Local Department of Social Services (LDSS) stats, plans, goals, initiatives and resources needed.

CRBC attended and participated in meetings hosted by the Coalition to Protect Maryland's children (CPMC) with Department of Human Resources (DHR) Secretary Lourdes Padilla, Social Services Administration and DHR administrative and IT/Office of Technology. CRBC also, participated in SSA Advisory Group meetings and the Alternative Response Workgroup.

In February members of CRBC met with DHR/SSA Administrative staff regarding CRBC health findings and a CRBC Work group to collaborate on healthcare of children in out of home placement. This was initiated by DHR in response to CRBC findings regarding the local boards' determinations regarding health care needs being met. CRBC concerns include the lack of documentation of standard health exams and department data that verifies health care services and needs being met.

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## Promoting Well-being and Prevention of Maltreatment

CRBC joined a collaborative effort that was in existence between the two other Child Abuse Treatment Act (CAPTA) Review Panels, the State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (SCCAN) and the State Child Fatality Review Team (SCFRT) which formed the Maryland Child Abuse and Neglect Fatality (MCANF) Work Group to review unexpected child fatalities statewide. The purpose of the work group is to provide systemic recommendations to prevent future child abuse and neglect, fatalities and near fatalities.

CRBC participated in SSA Advisory Board and Alternative Response Workgroup Meetings. The purpose of these group meetings is for DHR and SSA to engage with stakeholders and for input regarding the strategic vision, identifying priorities, resources, policy and practice.

## Legislation

CRBC has a Children's Legislative Action Committee (CLAC) that weighs in on relevant legislation and makes recommendations to the CRBC State Board, which is the governing body of CRBC. CRBC is also an organizational member of the Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children (CPMC). During the 2017 legislative session, CLAC reviewed 61 pieces of legislation and supported 6 with written testimony. CRBC also supported 29 bills via CPMC.



### 16th National Citizen Review Panel Conference

May 10-12, 2017

Anchorage, Alaska

## National Citizen Review Panel Conference

Members of CRBC attended the National Citizen Review Panel Conference (NCRP) hosted by the State of Alaska Citizen Review Panel in Anchorage, Alaska. Representatives from twenty five states attend this conference. The theme was: Citizen Participation in Child Protection Common Goals, Many Paths. This annual conference is a forum for discussion of best practices and innovative ideas on enhancing public participation in protecting children. Debra Schilling Wolfe, founding executive director of the Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice & Research at the University of Pennsylvania was the keynote speaker. She oversees a multidisciplinary team of nationally recognized child-welfare experts, who work to improve child protection policy and practice as well as research, advocacy and education. She also was instrumental in developing the nationally recognized Family Builders model of community response to child abuse and neglect.