



SUMMER/FALL
2022

CITIZEN CONNECTIONS

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State information and
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Goodbye and Best Wishes From Blake Jones

As they say, all good things must come to an end.

As I say farewell to the Citizen Review Panel (CRP) community, I want to express my gratitude to all of the amazing people I have met along the way and thank you for the tireless work you have put in on behalf of our nation's children and families.

I have been honored to walk beside you in this important work and to witness the hundreds of thousands of hours put in by CRP volunteers. Never forget that your work DOES make a difference, and please continue to advocate for the resources that you need to do that work.

Remember to build lines of communication with your child protective services representatives and to keep an eye on your group's viability. Make sure that you have a solid strategic plan and that you always keep in mind the mission of improving the system that is charged with protecting our most precious gifts.

I would love to stay in touch, so please let me know how you are doing by dropping me an email at Blake.Jones@uky.edu.

I'll leave you with quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson that I hope will be an encouragement in the work ahead:

"To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived—that is to have succeeded."

—Blake Jones



Message From the CRP Advisory Board

The Advisory Board would like to express its sincere gratitude to the California CRP program, coordinated by the Child and Family Policy Institute of California, for hosting a fantastic conference on May 23–25 in Monterey. With support from the California Department of Social Services and Casey Family Programs, the conference offered a wide array of motivating and informative plenaries, workshops, and peer-networking opportunities for more than 115 attendees representing 23 states. The following [link](#) will take you to an interactive agenda with hyperlinks to the presentations from the Conference: June 2022 National CRP Conference. After a two-year “COVID hiatus,” it was good to get together again in person, see old friends, and make some new ones. Once again, congratulations California!

In 2022, the CRP Advisory Board redefined its purpose and objectives. Its primary objective is advocating for and supporting the CRP community and board members decided that the best way to do this was to concentrate the Board’s efforts on sustaining its unique annual conference by working closely with host states to identify and coordinate resources. In addition to possibly hosting a future conference, there will be several opportunities in the coming year for individuals from the CRP community to contribute to a variety of activities at a national level. The board is also excited about working with the Capacity Building Center for States to identify additional collaborative opportunities for the CRP community.

—Deb Farrell, Chair, National CRP Advisory Board

Host the Next CRP Conference

Please consider offering to host the next CRP conference in your state! A host state for the 2023 conference has still not been determined and the CRP Advisory Board would like to encourage state CRP programs to consider doing so. In addition to assistance from the experienced Advisory Board members whose states have hosted the conference, the California CRP program will have much to share with our next host state.



Join the Advisory Board

One of the major priorities of the CRP Advisory Board is to expand the board by adding five to eight new members. Several conference attendees have already indicated an interest in joining the Advisory Board, and we would encourage anyone who would like to get involved on the board as a peer leader, CRP champion or in some other capacity to contact NCRP Advisory Board Chair, Deb Farrell, at debfarrell@caresolutions.com.



Resources for CRP Development

CRP Tip Sheets

The CRP Tip Sheet Series provides useful information concerning CRP requirements and practice suggestions for panel members and coordinators. For new CRP members, these tip sheets can be an excellent way to learn about the work of the CRPs; they also serve as a helpful refresher for existing members and coordinators.

The following tip sheets are available:

- ▶ Citizen Review Panels 101
- ▶ Working Successfully With Child Welfare Agencies
- ▶ Recruitment and Retention of CRP Members
- ▶ Structures That Support CRP Success
- ▶ Preparing the CRP Annual Report
- ▶ Communicating With External Groups
- ▶ Using Data to Enhance the Work of CRPs

To access all of the tip sheets, visit <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/management/administration/partnerships/oversight/citizen/>

Center for States Resources on Racial Equity and Lived Expertise

Throughout its products and services, the Capacity Building Center for States emphasizes diversity and inclusion, recognizes intersectionality, and raises up the voices of youth and families with lived expertise. The Center offers skill-building resources that discuss racial equity principles and methods for including those with lived experience and expertise when implementing change and implementation approaches for child welfare systems.

[Focusing on Race Equity Throughout Change and Implementation](#) details the Center's commitment to racial equity principles and includes questions for teams to consider throughout change and implementation processes—from the earliest stages of exploring a problem to identifying solutions to ensuring sustainable implementation. To view this publication and other helpful resources about racial equity visit the Center's Racial Equity topic page at <https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/topics/racial-equity>.

[Strategic Planning in Child Welfare: Strategies for Meaningful Youth, Family, and Other Partner Engagement](#)

provides information about the importance of engaging youth, families, and community partners in child welfare agency initiatives and offers strategies for working with them as equal partners. It is important for CRP panel members and coordinators to be familiar with federal and other agency processes and to seek opportunities for participation and collaboration with agencies. The brief offers information on teaming, participation in the Child and Family Services Plan, the Annual Progress and Services Report, Child and Family Services Review and Program Improvement Plan, and the use of partner input to support these processes. To review the publication and other resources in the series, visit the series web page at <https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/topics/cqi/strategic-planning>.

Federal Partner Resources

[Methods and Emerging Strategies to Engage People With Lived Experience](#), a brief by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and ICF, provides an overview and results of federal initiatives to engage youth, young adults, and adults with lived experience to improve federal research, policy, and practice. Based on the analysis, the brief offers information on emerging models, practices, and considerations that agencies can use to effectively engage people with lived experience across a broad array of human services initiatives. To view the full brief, visit <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/lived-experience-brief>.

The [Child Maltreatment 2020](#) report offers detailed statistical information related to reports of child maltreatment as well as a Special Focus chapter for fiscal year (FY) 2020 that compares it with FY 2019 quarterly data to determine changes during the COVID-19 pandemic. The data showed a decrease in screened in referrals and total reports and a decrease in the number of child victims. For the full report visit <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/report/child-maltreatment-2020>

On June 29, 2022, the Center sponsored the *Child Safety Forward Webinar* featuring Amy Templeman and Romero Davis, who presented on Child Safety Forward, a 3-year demonstration initiative from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime to develop multidisciplinary strategies and responses to address serious or near-death injuries as a result of child abuse or neglect and to reduce the number of child fatalities. To view the webinar recording and PowerPoint slides, visit <https://vimeo.com/727147596/a7e8e2cbc7>

The work of Child Safety Forward is based on recommendations made in a 2016 report from the U.S. Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities. Many of those who attended the webinar indicated that they were not aware of the Commission's 2016 report, [Within Our Reach: A National Strategy to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities](#).



COMMISSION TO ELIMINATE
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT FATALITIES

Upcoming Events

Search for New CRP Peer Coordinator

While we will all miss Blake Jones and the work that he has accomplished in working with the CRP Peer Group, we are looking for a replacement for Blake and will announce the selection as soon as possible. Please know that the work of the CRP Peer Group will continue until a replacement is announced. You can contact Kathy Simms at kathy.simms@icf.com if you have any questions or comments regarding peer group activities.

Child Welfare Virtual Expo 2022

The Child Welfare Virtual Expo (CWVE) is an annual, one-day conference, sponsored by the Children's Bureau and the Capacity Building Collaborative Center for States, that brings together child welfare professionals from federal, state, local, and Tribal organizations across the country together with youth, families, and service partners to engage in online activities, discussions, and skill-building activities.

[CWVE 2022: Power in Partnerships: Prioritizing Lived Experience in Child Welfare](#) will be held on Wednesday,

September 28, 2022, 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. EST. The event will explore the power of intentionally partnering with people with lived experience and expertise to transform child welfare systems and better serve and support children, youth, and families.

The organizers of this year's CWVE aren't just experts in youth and family engagement—they've lived it! All sessions of the 2022 CWVE were designed and led by young adults and family representatives with lived experience and expertise in child welfare, working together with Center for States staff and other partners. For more information and to register visit the CWVE website at <https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/virtualexpo>.

National Child Abuse and Neglect Conference 2023

[The 23rd National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect \(NCCAN\)](#) will be held virtually April 11–13 and April 18–20, 2023. The virtual conference will be held over 6 days and will feature both live and recorded sessions, posters, and other special features. Look for more information on registration soon!

YOU'RE INVITED!
CWVE 2022
Child Welfare Virtual Expo
Wednesday, September 28th

Join the Center for States (Center) and the Children's Bureau at the Child Welfare Virtual Expo (CWVE).
"Power in Partnerships: Prioritizing Lived Expertise in Child Welfare."

This year's CWVE will explore the power of intentionally partnering with people with lived experience and expertise to transform child welfare systems and better serve and support children, youth, and families.

Attend From Anywhere. Earn CEUs.
Earn continuing education units (CEUs) and remotely participate and access resources without leaving your home or office; just log in from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

Define Your Digital Experience.
Explore the Exhibit Hall and Resource Gallery. Access presentations, real-time virtual discussions, and team chats with states, experts, and Center staff to connect and share what you've learned.

DON'T MISS OUT!
Scan the QR code to register and reserve your virtual seat.

LEARN, NETWORK, AND SHARE VIRTUALLY.
Choose from engaging sessions and workshops that offer:

- Best practices, information, and lessons learned for working with people with lived experience and expertise across social service systems
- Strategies for incorporating people with lived experience and expertise into the agency workforce and other roles
- Practical examples to help authentically engage youth, families, and organizational partners and integrate lived expertise

PARTICIPATE VIRTUALLY AS A TEAM.
The 2022 CWVE provides exciting opportunities to:

- Join interactive sessions developed by experts with lived experience and expertise
- Engage in facilitated discussions
- Exchange ideas with your colleagues and peers across the country

Join the conversation:
#CWVE #ChildWelfare #YouthandFamilyPartnerships

[HTTPS://CAPACITY.CHILDWELFARE.GOV/VIRTUALEXPO/](https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/virtualexpo/)
CAPACITYINFO@ICF.COM

Capacity Building Collaborative Center for States
Children's Bureau