



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

SUBMISSION DUE DATE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2015

Citizen Participation in Child Protection: Common Goals, Many Paths

Citizen Review Panels (CRP) are citizen-volunteers federally mandated to review their state and local child protective service (CPS) agencies. This conference brings together CRP volunteers and staff, researchers and professionals in child welfare, public administration and allied fields, as well as child protective service providers, to exchange best practices and innovative ideas to enhance public participation in child protection.

Please read the following carefully before submitting your proposal.

CRPs are a unique experiment in public participation. Through review of child protection policy, practice, and procedures, public outreach and advocacy, CRPs are expected to assist child protective services to be more responsive to community needs.

There are more than 340 CRPs across the nation, at least one in each state, Puerto Rico, and Washington DC. A successful CRP enterprise requires a deep and committed relationship with its CPS agency – one that facilitates prolonged and effective collaboration. The 2017 national CRP conference will explore challenges and opportunities to developing constructive CRP-CPS relationships and more effective public involvement in protecting children.

The conference invites proposals that relate to one or more of the following areas:

- **Structure:** Developing an effective system for review and outreach by a citizen group is challenging due to a diversity of perspectives, objectives, and priorities as well as a broad spectrum of stakeholders. This track explores structural and operational models for public participation in, and collaboration with a government agency that include systems for review and/or systems for outreach to stakeholders.
- **Process:** CRP's broad mandate requires collaboration between the CRP and the CPS agency at different levels of decision making. This track explores ways to further collaboration between CRP and CPS agencies (or other government agencies) in areas such as goal setting and information sharing at multiple stages and levels.
- **Accountability:** Accountability is fundamental to any relationship. Mechanisms to enforce mutual accountability at various levels are key to a long-term collaborative relationship. Identifying and clarifying mutual roles of citizens (or citizen groups) and government agencies, specifying mutual responsibilities, and providing respectful but effective mutual oversight are some of the key elements in ensuring mutual accountability. This track explores ways that citizen participation exercises and citizen review exercises can ensure mutual accountability.
- **Child welfare topics:** These sessions provide the opportunity to discuss broad topics informing CRP work, including trauma, family engagement, substance abuse, and child fatalities.

Accept formats: presentations, workshops and panel discussions

Length: 45 minutes

Proposals: Proposals must be practice-oriented and may describe experiences with citizen reviews, or may be empirical research, theoretical frameworks, policy or advocacy proposals, best practices, or work of or about one or more CRP across the nation. Relevance to the conference and originality of the content will be primary criteria for acceptance.

Lead presenter submits proposal that should include well-defined topic, identifies co-presenters and/or panel members, and indicates how presentation, workshop and/or panel discussion will be delivered. Interactive sessions, including demonstrations of practical application and role playing are encouraged as are handouts, additional materials, and opportunities for continued discussion post conference.

Complete attached form and email to diwakarvk@alaska.edu by December 16, 2017, 11:59 PM EST.

May 10-12, 2017
Anchorage, Alaska



Deadline: December 16, 2016

Title of the presentation _____

Name of the lead presenter _____

Agency/University affiliation _____

Contact information _____ (phone)
_____ (email)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Track (select all that apply): ☐ Structure ☐ Process
☐ Accountability ☐ Child welfare topics

Session type (select one): ☐ Presentation ☐ Workshop ☐ Panel discussion

Proposed Audience: ☐ Administrator/Professional ☐ Volunteer/No Prior Experience

Abstract/description (200 words or less)

Primary presenter's professional background (100 words or less)

Learning objectives (for workshops only)

☐ My presentation requires special set up. Please describe.

Please email the completed form to diwakarvk@alaska.edu.