



West Virginia Citizen Review Panel

Annual Summary Report

December 2025

For More Information:

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Citizen Review Panel Focus Areas – 2025

The Citizen Review Panel (CRP) met on:

- January 15, 2025
- February 19, 2025
- March 19, 2025
- April 16, 2025
- May 21, 2025
- June 18, 2025
- August 20, 2025
- September 17, 2025
- October 15, 2025
- December 17, 2025

The meetings were held via Google Meet. Meetings were scheduled from 9:00 am to 11:00 am but usually ended early.

Activities of the CRP include review of information and deliberation of issues relating to the effectiveness of the comprehensive child welfare system and formulation that includes recommendations for improvement by the West Virginia Department of Human Services (WVDoHS) where needed. During the meetings in 2025, the panel discussed:

- How to identify family/fictive kin and sibling placement.
- Out of state placements.
- Data on safety plans and visitation issues.
- Training for the panel.
- Bills in the West Virginia House and Senate and legislation that were passed.
- Social Necessary Services - availability and adequacy.
- CRP recruitment for panel members.
- Uniform mandated reporter training; and
- Reference guide on safety planning and visitation to share with judges and others involved in the child welfare system, which has been completed and can be shared with others.

The following was evaluated by the panel.

- Quick reference guide for judges and others involved in the child welfare system on safety planning and visitation. This was completed in conjunction with the WVDoHS approved and can be shared by panel members.

Websites that have been shared to help during the meetings include:

- Support Network
 - <https://ucdavis.app.box.com/s/9oknj9mt3fcs60c02y8wn5c0oeckb0ks>
 - <https://dhhr.wv.gov/bss/reports/pages/West-Virginia-Citizen-Review-Panel.aspx>
 - <https://dhhr.wv.gov/Pages/childwelfaredata/dashboard.aspx>
- Visitation trainings
 - <https://www.wentztraining.com/visitsconnections>
- Mission WV adoption resource exchange website
 - <https://www.Adoptachild.org>
- Signs of Safety
 - <https://www.signsofsafety.net/what-is-sofs/>

- Software that could assist child welfare with data.
<https://evidentchange.org/analytics/safemeasures/>
- New Foster Parent training model –
ntdctraining.org
- WV CRP Annual Reports and Responses
<https://bss.wv.gov/page/west-virginia-citizen-review-panel-report>

Rebuilding the Panel

There has been an abundance of interest in joining the CRP. There has been a subcommittee organized to recommend membership to the CRP. It is important to build upon existing organizations and group contacts in recruiting panel members. People are most likely to volunteer if they are asked by someone they know and trust. Potential members can be nominated by current members or by completing the application form with information related to their field of expertise and sending it to the CRP Coordinator.

Recommendations to the West Virginia Department of Human Services

1. The CRP would like to continue to support the efforts, but not duplicate existing efforts, of WVDoHS. The CRP recommends inviting the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner to attend a yearly meeting.
2. The CRP recommends that, if funding is available, the WVDoHS consider tracking uploaded copies of paper safety plans through the CCWIS by adding a button noting it has been uploaded and adding the date for reporting purposes. This would give more accuracy regarding the safety plan report and help staff ensure safety plans are completed and updated as necessary.
3. The CRP recommends that the WVDoHS track data on the Child Welfare Dashboard regarding the percentages of reunifications each year as well as the percentage of children coming back into foster care.