

Citizen Review Board

Background Notes

In 1985 Oregon created a statewide foster care review program of citizen volunteers to help state courts ensure that case plans and services meet the needs of children in foster care and youth offenders in the custody of the Oregon Youth Authority. These citizen volunteers and the staff who support them are the Citizen Review Board, known as the CRB. The legislature purposefully placed the CRB in the state judicial branch under the direction of the Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, independent of the state's foster care programs. The CRB reviews cases of children who have been placed in substitute care for six months or longer. They make recommendations in those cases and make findings regarding whether reasonable efforts have been made towards the current case plan. DHS can choose to follow the recommendation of the board or submit in writing its intention not to follow the recommendations.

Tasks / Assignments:

- Ask your Supervisor for a couple of case plans to read. Review them noting the content and format. Discuss the timelines required by your office for completion of paperwork and the documentation required for submission.
- Find out when the CRB reviews occur in your office and attend for a day. Note the difference between cases when reviews are easily managed and those that are more difficult.
- Read a CRB findings report. Note the recommendations and ask your Supervisor what will happen with those recommendations.

Discoveries:

- *What points are covered in a CRB report?*
- *How serious is the CRB review, what impact does it have on the plan, work?*
- *How is the presentation organized? What is the format of the review? Who attends and when do they speak?*
- *Talk with coworkers and your Supervisor about the collaboration between the CRB and the office. How do they work together?*