

Citizen Review Panels on Prevention, 2019-2020

We know that many families are investigated for child abuse or neglect due to the effects of substance misuse, resulting in a variety of interventions, including removing children and youth from their families. Recovery from substance misuse is difficult without supportive relationships, stability, and concrete resources for times of need – one stressful event can trigger a relapse for parents, destabilizing their family and exposing children to further trauma. We also know that early experiences of child abuse or neglect increase one's risk of developing a substance use disorder later in life. The Citizen Review Panel on Prevention is seeking input from youth and parents themselves, as well as from professionals working with children and families to contribute to the state dialogue and help answer the following questions:

For young people experiencing the child welfare system because of family instability due to substance misuse:

1. In what way did substance misuse contribute to any instability of your family, including your living with someone other than your parents?
2. What assistance would have helped that wasn't given? To you, to your birth parents, to other caregivers?
3. What assistance was available that did help?
4. What are your recommendations for policymakers who want to better support children, youth and families affected by substance use?

For parents and other caregivers (foster or adoptive parents, relatives, others) experiencing the child welfare system because of family instability due to substance misuse:

1. In what way did substance misuse contribute to any instability of for the children or youth in your care, including having them removed from their birth home temporarily or permanently?
2. What assistance would have helped that wasn't given? To you, to the children and youth in your care, to other caregivers?
3. What assistance was available that did help?
4. What are your recommendations for policymakers who want to better support children, youth and families affected by substance use?

For service providers:

1. What are the barriers experienced by the youth/families whom you serve with regards to recovering from substance use and maintaining family stability?
2. What resources have the youth and families whom you serve reported to be helpful?
3. What are your recommendations for policymakers who want to better support families who have been affected by substance use?

For public servants and other professionals whose work involves children, youth and families:

1. How has the separation of families due to substance use affected your work?
2. What are the barriers have you experienced in your efforts to respond to the effects of family instability from substance use?
3. What resources have you learned that these youth and families find useful? What other resources should be available?
4. What other recommendations would you make to policymakers who want to more strongly support families who have been affected by substance use?

Michigan's Children has an on-line option for comments that will be entered into the official transcripts of the CRPP process for people who cannot attend the panels themselves, and for those who would rather provide their comments anonymously. That option can be accessed on Michigan's Children's website here:

<https://www.michiganschildren.org/citizen-review-panels-on-prevention/>

Other resources informing this conversation will also be available at that link. If you have resources that we should add, please just forward them to Michele Corey at michele@michiganschildren.org