



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

January 15, 2004

Patrick E. Flahaven
Secretary of the Senate
231 Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: 2003 Child Maltreatment Review Panel Report

Dear Mr. Flahaven:

As required by the Laws of Minnesota Special Session 2001, chapter 9, article 11, section 3, I respectfully submit this Report on the Child Maltreatment Review Panel activities for calendar year 2003. In accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, we are sending six copies of the report to the Legislative Reference Library.

The Child Maltreatment Review Panel was created by a Special Session of the 2001 Legislature. The panel reviews maltreatment investigations in state-licensed facilities such as day care centers, correctional institutions, or schools. An adult, acting on behalf of a child, may make a written request for a review of a licensed facility's child maltreatment investigation findings.

The Child Maltreatment Review Panel schedules quarterly meetings to review cases for consistency with Minnesota Statutes, section 626.556, subdivision 10i, paragraph (b). The Child Maltreatment Review Panel requests and encourages written statements and documentation from all parties involved in an investigation under review. The Minnesota Department of Human Services panel coordinator manages all communication with the Child Maltreatment Review Panel.

The Office of Ombudsman for Crime Victims was eliminated in 2003; as a result, the panel includes the following required agency representatives:

Amy Roberts
Minnesota Department of Education
Roberta Opheim
Minnesota Office of the Ombudsman for Mental Health/Mental Retardation
David Johnson
Minnesota Department of Corrections
Ruth Clinard
Minnesota Department of Human Services
Nancy Blume
Minnesota Department of Health

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The Child Maltreatment Review Panel held only two of its scheduled quarterly meetings during calendar year 2003 because there were no cases to review until the third quarter meeting.

The first meeting on April 24, 2003, was an orientation meeting. The entire panel, excepting the Minnesota Department of Human Services panel member, was newly appointed.

No additional meetings were held until the third quarter because there were no cases to review. The second meeting was held on October 23, 2003, to review two submitted cases. The next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2004, to review one case.

The following information is provided per instructions found in Minnesota Statutes, section 256.002, subdivision 3:

- Number of requests for review: three
- The number of cases where the panel requires the investigating agency to reconsider its final determination: one
- The number of cases where the final determination is changed: none
- Recommendations to the Legislature on improving the review or investigative process: the panel has no recommendations.

Yours sincerely,



Kevin Goodno
Commissioner