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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Call For Volunteers To Help On Foster Care Citizen Review Panel**

TWIN FALLS - The South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) is looking for volunteers to serve on a panel that will help evaluate and provide recommendations for the protection of children in foster care programs across Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka and Twin Falls Counties.

SB 1341, a legislative bill passed earlier this year, gives SCPHD the opportunity to organize a Citizen Review Panel for the area that will bring local perspective and recommendations to the foster care system.

"An effort shall be made to create a panel comprised of members from diverse professional backgrounds who demonstrate a strong motivation to improve the lives of children," the bill reads.

The legislature also emphasized a need for members who have experience in preventing and treating child abuse and neglect.

"We want to bring together a group of individuals who are passionate about helping children at risk," said Cheryle Becker, Public Health Division Administrator for SCPHD.

The panel was formerly organized by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare but, via SB 1341, the panel has moved into local Health District hands this year.

"Through the efforts of the previous panel some good things have happened for children in this area. We want to build on that framework and continue moving forward," Becker said.

Volunteers can apply on the SCPHD website and at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Citizen\\_Review\\_Panel](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Citizen_Review_Panel)

Volunteers selected for the panel will need to complete a training this fall in Boise, Idaho, and attend monthly meetings in Twin Falls in person or via phone or computer.

For more information, please contact, Cheryle Becker at (208) 737-5936

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