

Diocesan and Religious Order Review Boards

What every review board member should know



Presenters from the National Review Board:

Mr. Howard Healy

Judge Kate Huffman

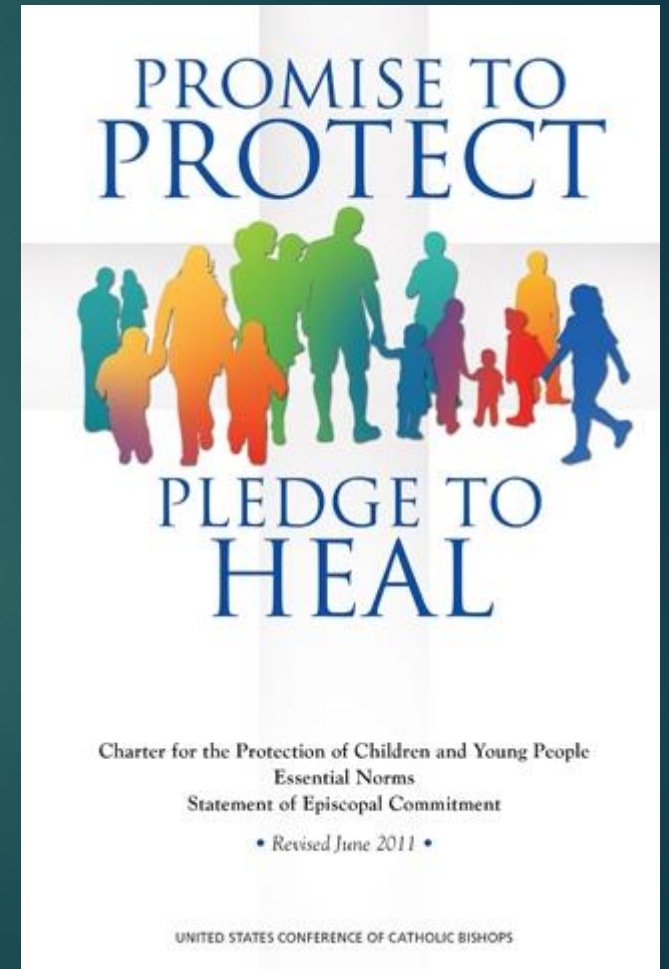
Mr. Ernie Stark

Historical Background

- ▶ Bishop's response in 2002 to sexual abuse crisis
 - ▶ Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People
 - ▶ Essential Norms
- ▶ Conference of Major Superior's of Men's Response
 - ▶ Instruments of Hope and Healing
 - ▶ Praesidium Standards

The Charter

- ▶ Four main emphases
 - ▶ To promote healing and reconciliation (Articles 1, 2, and 3)
 - ▶ To guarantee an effective response (Articles 4-7)
 - ▶ To ensure the accountability of our procedures (Articles 8-11)
 - ▶ To protect the faithful in the future (Articles 12-17)
- ▶ Established
 - ▶ Bishops' Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People (CPCYP)
 - ▶ National Review Board
 - ▶ Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection



Essential Norms

- ▶ Relationship to the Charter
- ▶ Particular law in the U.S. Church

Essential Norms
for Diocesan/
Eparchial Policies
Dealing with
Allegations of
Sexual Abuse
of Minors by
Priests or Deacons

Review Boards

- ▶ Definition: What is it?
- ▶ Main Tasks
 - ▶ Assessment of allegations
 - ▶ Suitability for Ministry
 - ▶ Assessment of Policies and Procedures

Assessment of Allegations

- ▶ ALL allegations
- ▶ Who “takes” or receives
- ▶ Forwarded to the bishop
 - ▶ Review Board involvement from the beginning
- ▶ Not found to be “manifestly false or frivolous”
- ▶ Preliminary investigation
 - ▶ Outside investigator
- ▶ Issuance of Report
 - ▶ Based on the “preponderance of evidence”
- ▶ Bishop sends to Rome

Suitability for Ministry

- ▶ Proper screening for diocesan/religious order candidates for ordination
- ▶ Is Charter education included in seminary formation?
 - ▶ Is continuing education included in ongoing clergy formation?
- ▶ Making recommendations on boundary violations
- ▶ Having available support for any cleric or religious who self identifies unhealthy behaviors or thoughts

Assessment of Policies and Procedures

- ▶ Verify adherence to intentions of the Charter
- ▶ Make recommendations on improving diocesan policies and procedures
- ▶ Periodically review diocesan safe environment training program
- ▶ Review annual diocesan audit results
- ▶ **Encourage parish/school audits**
- ▶ Improving diocesan culture – making victim assistance and child protection core values

What Makes a good Review Board Member

- ▶ Strive for a diverse board
- ▶ Talk to other members
- ▶ Read the Charter, the Causes and Context Study, Nature and Scope Study
- ▶ Review most recent Annual Report
- ▶ Know your own diocesan policies and procedures and review board policies
 - ▶ Record keeping policies
- ▶ Participate in new member orientation
- ▶ What to expect from your diocese
- ▶ Know what to do

Do and Don't

▶ DO

- ▶ Determine as a board how to handle media requests
- ▶ Consider reading documents together as a board
- ▶ Participate in webinars and other trainings
- ▶ Review the Annual Report
- ▶ Understand the importance and helpfulness of parish/school audits
- ▶ Encourage your diocese to be as transparent as possible regarding Chartered priests
- ▶ Review your own diocesan annual audit and CARA survey

▶ DON'T

- ▶ Individually engage with the media
- ▶ Individually respond if you receive an allegation from a victim/survivor or the general public
- ▶ Engage in a different process for different allegations
- ▶ Permit or authorize non-approved interested parties to investigate allegations

Review Board Deliberations

- ▶ Bishop may or may not be present
- ▶ No “one size fits all” method for review boards
- ▶ Encourage a thorough preliminary investigation with independent investigators
- ▶ Utilize consistent methods of investigating and reporting allegations
- ▶ Utilize probable cause as the norm for assessing allegations
- ▶ Issues that may occur
 - ▶ Complacency
 - ▶ Civility in deliberations

Review Boards of Religious Communities

- ▶ Safety Plans
- ▶ Praesidium Standards



Resources

- ▶ Resource Toolbox
- ▶ Child and Youth Protection online community
 - ▶ Contact Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection for access to both
 - ▶ scyp@usccb.org
- ▶ Diocesan personnel
 - ▶ Canon lawyer
 - ▶ Safe Environment Coordinator
 - ▶ Victim Assistance Coordinator

Questions?

Thank You

