

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN  
AND FAMILIES**

**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND  
TREATMENT ACT**

**State Plan and Annual Progress and Services  
Report FFY 2012**

**Submittal Date: June 24, 2011**

## Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act State Plan (CAPTA)

The CAPTA allocation, managed by the DSP, is used to provide training and technical assistance to counties and tribes operating child protective services (CPS) programs. These activities support efforts to 1) integrate safety intervention throughout the CPS case process, 2) prevent maltreatment of children and the recurrence of maltreatment, and 3) promote cross system collaboration in order to enhance services to children and families.

Wisconsin implemented new child protective services (CPS) statewide policy, training, and documentation requirements over the last several years in order to increase the skills of caseworkers and supervisors as they intervene in the lives of children and families. The CAPTA grant helped fund these activities and supported compliance with CAPTA requirements added with the 2010 reauthorization. The grant also supported statewide activities that provided clarity and specificity to CPS practice and resulted in greater quality and consistency in decision making throughout the CPS case process.

In FFY 11, Wisconsin received technical assistance from the National Resource Center for Child Protective Services. Technical assistance was targeted at 1) supporting improvements to the safety intervention system, 2) facilitating the Supervisors as Safety Decision-Makers program, and 3) presenting information at the Public Child Welfare Conference about “Child Safety: A Guide for Judges and Attorneys.”

### CAPTA Reauthorization Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-320) New Requirements

With the reauthorization, there are 7 areas where an assurance in the form of a certification by the Governor is needed that the State has in effect and is enforcing a State law, or has in effect and is operating a statewide program that includes provisions and procedures for:

- reporting of child abuse and neglect, including a State law for mandatory reporting on child abuse and neglect by certain individuals required to report such instances (section 106(b)(2)(B)(i)) **This currently is state law and can be found at ss. 48.981(2) and 48.981(3)**
- addressing the needs of infants born with and identified as being affected by a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (including appropriate referrals to child protection service systems and for other appropriate services) (section 106(b)(2)(B)(ii)) **Current state law only addresses infants born with controlled substances or controlled substance analogs in the body fluids. The Department will seek to introduce and amend to existing State statutes provisions to address infants born with and identified as being affected by a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder**
- including differential response in triage procedures for the appropriate referral of a child not at risk of imminent harm to a community organization or voluntary

preventive service (section 106(b)(2)(B)(v)) **Included in state law (section 48.981(3m))**

- training in early childhood, child, and adolescent development for guardians ad litem (GALs) appointed to victims of child abuse or neglect in cases which result in a judicial proceeding (section 106(b)(2)(B)(xiii)) **This training item will be included in the 2011 “Through the Eyes of a Child” Conference which is the primary training for GALs in Wisconsin.**
- assuring that the State does not require reunification of a child with a parent who has been found by a court to have committed sexual abuse against a child of the parent or who the court has required to be registered in a sex offender registry under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16913(a)) (section 106(b)(2)(B)(xvi)(V) and (VI)) **This currently is state law and can be found at s. 48.355(2d).**
- requiring criminal background checks that meet the requirements of section 471(a)(20) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 671(a)(20)) for prospective foster and adoptive parents and other adult relatives and non-relatives residing in the household (section 106(b)(2)(B)(xxii)) **This currently is state law and can be found at s. 48.685**
- technology systems that support the child protective service system and track reports of child abuse and neglect from intake through final disposition (section 106(b)(2)(B)(xxiii)). **Since 2004, Wisconsin has a fully implemented SACWIS that tracks child protective services cases from the point of Access (intake) through case closure.**

#### *Promoting Homeless Children’s School Attendance*

The DSP provides IV-B, Part 1 funding to the Wisconsin Association for Homeless and Runaway Services to support technical assistance, training, and programs for homeless youth. Program services are available on a walk-in basis as well as through a 24 hour crisis hotline. The organization also advocates for legislation and regulations to improve services to runaway and homeless youth.

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and the DSP collaborate to meet the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. DPI has an Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program and offers an array of information for advocates, the general public, CPS and other child welfare professionals.

#### *CAPTA Annual State Data Reports*

The Division continues to make improvements to eWiSACWIS on an ongoing basis to 1) better support case practice and 2) enhance the quality of data retrieved from the system. To address the reporting requirements under the reauthorization, the DSP will continue to

partner with the DCF Bureau of Information and Technology to include to the extent practicable these items in the annual State data reports:

- 1) the number of families that received differential response as a preventative service during the year;
- 2) the average caseload for child protective services workers responsible for intake, screening, assessment, and investigation of reports;
- 3) information on the caseload requirements for child protective service personnel, including requirements for the average number and the maximum number of cases per worker and supervisor;
- 4) the number of children referred to child protective services under policies and procedures established to address the needs of infants born with and affected by illegal substance abuse, withdrawal symptoms or a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder; and
- 5) the number of children under the age of three involved in a substantiated case of child abuse or neglect that were eligible to be referred to agencies providing early intervention services under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and the number of these children actually referred to these early intervention services.

Additionally, by the end of 2011 the DSP will have a Learning Management System in place to collect information on the education, qualifications and training requirements established by the State for child protective service personnel, data on the education, qualifications and training of personnel, and demographic information of personnel.

#### *Children's Justice Act - Multidisciplinary Task Force*

The Wisconsin Children's Justice Act (CJA) Grant Administrator will include adult former victims of child maltreatment as well as individuals experienced in working with homeless children and youth on the task force. The DSP CAPTA State Liaison Officer is a CJA task force member and will be able to verify compliance with this reauthorization requirement.

## CAPTA Program and Progress Report FFY 2011

During the past year, several areas continue to be the focus of CPS program enhancements using CAPTA funds. During FFY 2012 and beyond, Wisconsin intends to use the CAPTA state grant for the following activities or initiatives that strengthen the child protective services system. Each planned policy or activity relates to one or more of the 14 program areas delineated in CAPTA.

- A. Alternative Response Pilot
- B. State Standards – Ongoing Services and integrated Case Planning
  - Child Welfare Practice Model
  - Family Participation in Case Planning
- C. Safety and Stability of Children Placed in Relative or Foster Care
- D. Cross System Collaboration
  - *CPS and Law Enforcement Agencies*
  - *CPS and Domestic Abuse Programs*
  - *CPS and Health Care Professionals*
  - *CPS and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies*
  - *CPS and the Judicial System*
- E. Training for CPS caseworkers, CPS supervisors, and Guardians ad litem
- F. Citizen Review Panels Support

### A. Alternative Response

CAPTA Program Areas:

- Improving the intake, assessment, screening, and investigation of reports of abuse and neglect. [section 106(a)(1)]
- Developing, strengthening, and facilitating training including (A) training regarding research-based strategies to promote collaboration with the families and (B) training regarding the legal duties of such individuals. [section 106(a)(6)]

While in Wisconsin all CPS cases require a comprehensive assessment in order to assure that children are safe and protected, not all cases need a maltreatment and maltreater determination for the family to receive services. In fact, these determinations may interfere with service provision by creating an atmosphere that feels adversarial for families. To develop the most appropriate, effective, and cooperative response to reports of child abuse or neglect, the legislature has authorized a pilot of an alternative response approach to child protective services in a limited number of counties.

The legislature specifically identified Milwaukee as one of the pilot program sites and has authorized a maximum of four additional county departments to pilot an alternative response child protection services program. After a competitive award process, Eau Claire, Marathon, La Crosse, and Pierce Counties were selected to pilot AR.

The pilot program uses three responses/tracks and pilot sites will be expected to implement practice that responds to CPS reports based on the screening decision:

1. Screened out CPS: Referral to Community Services or Community Response Program
2. Screened in CPS: Alternative CPS Response
3. Screened in CPS: Traditional CPS Response

Wisconsin is working with American Humane and the Barium Springs for Children (North Carolina) regarding training, technical assistance, and coaching and mentoring activities. The pilot process started on July 1, 2010 and an evaluation will be submitted to the legislature and the Governor in 2012.

The current Governor's budget proposes authorization to expand AR beyond the original pilot sites. The Department will continue working with national experts to:

- Develop a thoughtful strategic plan for expansion, taking into consideration critical information about system capacity, readiness and infrastructure
- Develop in-state resources to assist in training and mentoring, using key members of the original pilot sites, as well as staff from the Department and the Professional Development system.
- Facilitate informational meetings for counties interested in learning more about the AR process to gauge interest in inclusion in the expansion.

***B. State Standards – Ongoing Services Standards and Integrated Case Planning***

CAPTA Program Areas:

- Enhancing the general child protective system by developing, improving, and implementing risk and safety assessment tools and protocols. [section 106(a)(4)].
- Developing, strengthening, and facilitating training including (A) training regarding research-based strategies to promote collaboration with the families and (B) training regarding the legal duties of such individuals. [section 106(a)(6)].
- Improving the case management, including ongoing case monitoring, and delivery of services and treatment provided to children and their families. [Section 106(a) (3)].

DSP will continue to review all CPS Standards on a regular basis to make adjustments and revisions as needed to assure case practice direction and activities remain current.

One of Wisconsin's primary PIP goals relates to improving the case planning and review process. The first action in achieving this goal is to rewrite the Child Welfare (CW) Ongoing Services Standards. The revised Standards will support integrated case planning to clarify the safety management process, improve family engagement throughout the case process, and enhance case planning practice, including permanency planning responsibilities.

The DCF will continue to work with the Child Welfare Case Process Committee to bring the requirements of the CW Ongoing Services Standards into an integrated case plan in

the eWiSACWIS system. This integrated plan will provide families, caseworkers, and courts a comprehensive plan that includes elements of the current plans (Court orders, Case Plan, Permanency Plan, Safety Plan, Family Interaction Plan, Independent Living plan, etc.). A fully integrated case plan will become a more useful tool for both agencies and the court system process, and thus engaging the family in case planning will become more meaningful. Information regarding managing threats to child safety, direction for behavioral change, the court's expectations for reunification, and planning permanence goals for the child will be synthesized so that the case planning process is clear for all participants.

With this enhanced capacity for meaningful planning and family engagement, DCF on-site consultants will train local agencies to increase purposeful family and child visits to assure children maintain safe and permanent homes. The CW Ongoing Services Standards will also clarify policy and provide specific guidance for compliance with the Fostering Connections to Success Act and best practice for notifying, locating and engaging relatives; placing siblings together; and maintaining sibling interaction when siblings cannot be placed together. This will provide much-needed direction for caseworkers to fully engage relatives, preserve family and community connections, and maintain parental and sibling relationships. Through regional trainings, DCF will reach all 72 counties to educate and answer questions about the new policies under the CW Ongoing Services Standards for all local agency directors and managers.

#### *Family Engagement*

The Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System consistently offers training that reflects and supports family and engaging families is an underlying principle found in the *CPS Safety Intervention Standards* as well as in Wisconsin's Continuous Quality Improvement process.

The "Engaging Families and Building Trusting Relationships" training is a foundation training that all child welfare case managers must complete within their first two years of employment. This training strives to increase caseworker skills in engaging families in the case planning process as well as improve their skills in developing case plans.

Over the next several years, policy staff from the DSP will continue to collaborate with Continuous Quality Improvement staff to use the results from the Quality Services Review process to inform the development of additional training or policy as well as target technical assistance to local county agencies.

#### *Child Welfare Practice Model*

As a part of the PIP process, Wisconsin is developing a practice model to improve the consistency and quality of desired outcomes for children and families. The practice model defines standards of practice, identifying how practices implemented in the agency support positive outcomes. It also defines how the outcomes will be measured both quantitatively and qualitatively. The practice model makes an explicit link connecting the agency's policy, practice, training, supervision, and quality assurance with its mission, vision, agency values, and strategic plan. It is the agency's guide to daily

interactions among employees, children, families, stakeholders, and community partners who work together to achieve defined outcomes. This practice model is a standard for providing in-home, out-of-home, prevention, and after care services statewide within a consistent framework.

**C. Safety and Stability of Children Placed in Foster Care**

CAPTA Program areas:

- Enhancing the general child protective system by developing, improving, and implementing risk and safety assessment tools and protocols. [section 106(a)(4)]
- Developing, strengthening, and facilitating training including—(A) training regarding research-based strategies to promote collaboration with the families and (B) training regarding the legal duties of such individuals. [section 106(a)(6)]

Child safety is enhanced by assuring that OHC providers have the skills, knowledge, experience, and training to meet the needs of the children placed with them. As of January 2011, training was mandated for all foster parents to increase their ability to care for children placed in their home.

Division policy directs local child welfare agencies regarding requirements associated with the implementation of a support plan for foster parents to clarify statutory requirements regarding permanency planning requirements to ensure a child's needs are met while in OHC. Providing appropriate support services is dependent upon an accurate and robust understanding of a child's needs and Wisconsin uses the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool for this purpose.

The CANS tool will also be used to assist in matching a child's needs in higher level placements such as treatment foster care, group homes, and RCCs. Rate regulation ensures that providers are licensed to provide a certain level of care, based on the types of services they offer, and receive a pre-defined amount for providing those services to a child who needs them. In conjunction with rate regulation, this tool helps ensure that providers are well-matched with children's needs and are appropriately compensated for services they provide.

Additionally, the Division is examining ways to integrate the CANS assessment process and the assessment of foster home safety in order to have a more comprehensive understanding of dynamics, conditions, and behaviors associated with a child in his or her foster home setting.

**D. Cross-System Collaboration**

CAPTA Program areas:

- Creating and improving the use of multidisciplinary teams and interagency protocols to enhance investigations; and improving legal preparation and

representation, including—(i) procedures for appealing and responding to appeals of substantiated reports of abuse and neglect; and (ii) provisions for the appointment of an individual appointed to represent a child in judicial proceedings. [section 106(a)(2)]

- Developing, strengthening, and facilitating training including—(A) training regarding research-based strategies to promote collaboration with the families; (B) training regarding the legal duties of such individuals; and (C) personal safety training for caseworkers. [section 106(a)(6)]

### *CPS and Law Enforcement Agencies*

As state statutes and policies change, the DSP works with CPS and law enforcement agencies in updating their Memoranda of Understanding (MOU). The process of developing a MOU results in enhancing the understanding and appreciation of roles, responsibilities, skills, and limitations of both systems as they collaborate to improve safety for children. The DSP also consults with county CPS agencies in their work with law enforcement agencies to clarify roles and responsibilities in these cases.

Additionally, during the last year the DSP continued its collaboration with law enforcement through activities related to the Wisconsin Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (DEC). The DEC Alliance is a multi-disciplinary partnership that assists communities in assessing service needs and coordinating efforts to keep children safe and free from the danger of drugs. The DEC steering committee supported the development of a website, a video highlighting the stories of children who have lived in homes affected by methamphetamine use, and continuation of the backpack program which provides supplies to children removed from drug affected environments.

The DSP will also continue discussions with law enforcement professionals to identify any impact that potential changes in CPS practice and policy may have on law enforcement as well as to advocate for cross-system training.

In the Western Region of the state, eighteen counties and two tribes are part of a five-year grant to provide coordinated intervention services for children in out-of-home placement or who are at risk of out-of-home placement and whose parents or caregivers have substance use issues.

### *CPS Agencies and Domestic Abuse Programs*

In 2010, the DSP issued the “Guide to Domestic Violence for Child Welfare Professionals.” The guide provides useful information for cases in which domestic violence coexists with child maltreatment and highlights practice applications, which include guidelines and suggestions for CPS staff to assist them in recognizing domestic violence and applying “best practices” in those cases.

In addition to the handbook, DSP staff continued to provide consultation and technical assistance on various issues to CPS and domestic abuse agencies. Domestic violence advocates are also members of the Child Welfare Case Process Committee and provided

input and feedback on child protective services policies and procedures. Work has also started on a “Guide to Child Welfare for Domestic Violence Workers.”

#### *CPS and Health Care Professionals*

The DSP is an active member of the Wisconsin Child Abuse Network (WI CAN). The project's vision is to improve the health and safety of Wisconsin's children and families through increased access to medical expertise in child abuse investigations. Goals include enhancing multi-disciplinary communication, education, and collaboration.

The Department hired a state staff person to manage the Project LAUNCH grant. Wisconsin's Project LAUNCH, Well-Child Connections (WCC), provides primary prevention services in an eight-zip-code area of Milwaukee to promote health for children ages 0–8. The purpose of the grant is to coordinate a comprehensive early childhood system, with the goal of ensuring that young children and their families can access programs that foster wellness in all areas of a young child's life. Through the grant award of Project LAUNCH, Wisconsin was able to increase the capacity to provide high quality, evidence-based home visiting services in eight zip codes with the highest rates of poor birth outcomes in the City of Milwaukee. Through available LAUNCH funds, Wisconsin expanded the services of two home visitation programs operating out of the City of Milwaukee Health Department. Project LAUNCH has also provided the infrastructure and funding for both home visiting programs to offer infant mental health consultation as an enhancement to their services. Finally, under the leadership of Project LAUNCH and Empowering Families of Milwaukee Administration a *Maternal & Child Home Visitation Community of Practice* has been developed with the intention to engage home visiting practitioners – at the direct service and supervisor/administrator levels – to improve the way they work together, including sharing resources/tools, making referrals, implementing best practice standards, and keeping informed about one another's programs.

As a part of the PIP, the implementation of a nursing initiative in Milwaukee County provides a mechanism for the ongoing oversight and coordination of health care services for children less than three years of age in out-of-home care. Professional nurses support continuity of health care and the monitoring of health needs for the target population. Nurses provide periodic home visits to children under age 3 in out-of-home care and foster parent support regarding health education. Collaboration with ongoing case managers supports improved understanding regarding specific health needs to facilitate individualized case planning and management.

In addition, through an RFP process Wisconsin is aligning the state-GPR funded Family Foundations, the TANF-funded Empowering Families Milwaukee programs, and the new federal Affordable Care Act home visiting dollars in terms of target population, program goals and activities, training and technical assistance, program evaluation and timeline for the distribution of funds. Awards will be made to up to 10 programs in 2011 for evidence-based programs focusing on healthy birth outcomes and prevention of child abuse and neglect.

### *CPS and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies*

Each of the 11 federally-recognized Indian Tribes located in Wisconsin is a sovereign entity focused on improving the lives of the children and families in our state. The Department works with the 11 Tribes, both individually and collectively. This includes consulting with and involving Tribes in all Department programs, including child welfare, child support, economic security, domestic violence, and child care to assure that mutual goals for children and families are achieved. Current efforts are directed toward training and implementing the Wisconsin Indian Child Welfare Act (WICWA) codified in state statutes in December 2009, collaborating with tribes to better serve Indian children and families, and addressing needs for culturally informed service for Indian children in Out-of-Home Care.

The Department holds bi-annual consultation sessions with Tribal leaders regarding its programs and other topics of interest to Tribal people to identify specific issues to work on and develop implementation plans. In addition to the consultation process, representatives from the Department and the Division meet regularly with the directors of the tribal child welfare programs for each of the 11 tribes to work on Indian child welfare issues. The Department pursues an established set of child welfare program priorities with the Indian Child Welfare Directors Group.

### *CPS and the Judicial System*

The Commission on Children, Families, and the Courts is comprised of judicial, legal, state, and child welfare agency executives, and tribal child welfare and court representatives. It works to identify and address child welfare system improvements, particularly as related to court and agency coordination. Division representatives meet with the commission to review data and evaluate performance twice a year. The Commission provides feedback to the Division to support further evaluation of the state's child welfare system performance.

The Division and the Director of State Courts Office (DSCO) hosted the May 2011 Wisconsin Summit on Children and Families. The Summit is a multi-disciplinary conference where state, tribal, and county child welfare and court system professionals focused on strategies to improve outcomes for Wisconsin children and families. The conference content emphasized effective engagement of children and families to achieve timely permanence.

The DSP will continue to seek opportunities to engage DSCO in cross-system efforts.

### **E. Training Opportunities for CPS Caseworkers and Supervisors and Guardians ad Litem**

Description of Services and Training to be Provided [sec. 106(b) (2) (C)]

#### CAPTA Program area:

- Supporting and enhancing collaboration among public health agencies, the child protection system, and private community-based programs to provide child abuse

and neglect prevention and treatment services (including linkages with education systems) and to address the health needs, including mental health needs, of children identified as abused or neglected, including supporting prompt, comprehensive health and developmental evaluations for children who are the subject of substantiated child maltreatment reports. [Section 106(a) (14)].

The majority of the training to be provided with CAPTA funds will continue to support conferences, the Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System (WCWPDS), and targeted technical assistance to county agencies.

The four regional Partnerships for child welfare training and the Inter-tribal Child Welfare Training Partnership provide most of the training for over 2,000 CPS caseworkers and supervisors throughout the state. These activities were funded in part with the CAPTA grant. Training curricula is developed collaboratively with the WCWPDS and the regional Partnerships. Over the last several years, Wisconsin significantly revised these foundation courses to reflect new knowledge and research in the field and to incorporate laws, policies, tools and formats specific to Wisconsin. Additionally, DSP and the child welfare training system continued to incorporate skill-based training into both the foundation and specialized courses.

The WCWPDS also worked with local child welfare agencies individually to improve practice and performance outcomes after their local QSR by implementing coaching and mentoring around the central issues of engagement with families, interviewing and team based practice for the purpose of institutionalizing these newly acquired skills within the local child welfare agency.

#### *Parental Notification/Legal Rights Training*

The DSP continued its collaboration with the Child Welfare Professional Development System to provide online training for CPS staff regarding legal duties to protect the legal rights and safety of children and families throughout the CPS case process. The training addresses 4<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> amendment issues as well as information specific to Wisconsin law.

#### *Drug Endangered Children Training*

Wisconsin, like other states, experienced in recent years a rise in the use of methamphetamine. In an effort to provide information to CPS staff as they work with families who abuse methamphetamine, the Department continues to collaborate with the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children and Wisconsin's Department of Justice to provide training throughout the state.

In July 2010, the fifth annual Wisconsin Drug Endangered Children Conference included all disciplines working with drug endangered children with the goal to share best practices from throughout the state. The conference objectives were to help communities realize past opportunities for intervention; determine what is needed in present cases to appropriately identify and document DEC victimization; and prepare needed information and expertise for future DEC investigations.

### *Annual Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect*

Wisconsin's 24<sup>th</sup> annual "Together for Children" Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect took place in April 2011. Reverend Darrell R. Armstrong, founder and board president of the National Association of Foster Children, Inc., was one of the keynote speakers. Reverend Armstrong is a former foster child from South Central Los Angeles who graduated from Stanford University, Princeton Theological Seminary and is the author of several books, including *Snapshots of a Foster Child* which chronicles his time in foster care in Los Angeles. This conference has a long tradition of being multi-disciplinary in its focus, and encouraged persons in the fields of CPS, law enforcement, public health and medicine, domestic violence, law, education, prevention, and advocacy to come together to discuss joint issues and solutions. DSP is a co-sponsor and participates each year on the planning committee.

### *Annual Tribal Conference*

The Annual Tribal Conference, "Healing Our Communities", was held on October 5 and 6, 2010. The conference is sponsored by the Department of Health Services, Department of Children and Families, and American Indians Against Abuse, and provided a unique opportunity for county, tribal, state health, human service and other professionals to increase their skills while celebrating the cultural traditions of Native American tribes in Wisconsin. The conference's mission was to send attendees home with a deeper understanding of how to provide culturally appropriate services in tribal communities.

### *Guardian ad Litem Conference*

DSP continues to co-sponsor the annual Guardian ad litem Conference. DSP staff are involved in the multi-disciplinary planning committee to assure that information critical to representing children who have been maltreated, who are unsafe in their homes, or who are in the out-of-home care system is presented at each conference. The 2010 GAL training included: Case law and legislative update; Brain Development; Multidisciplinary Teaming; Levels of Care Initiative; Long and Short Term Consequences of Abuse and Neglect; Personality Disorders; Diversity and Differential Treatment of Race in Foster Care.

CAPTA funds support a full-time CPS Policy and Consultation Specialist position in the DSP who, in addition to coordinating policy and program development and training initiatives, responds directly to the public on concerns about how CPS cases have been handled, how to access services and other resources, and how the CPS program and child welfare system in Wisconsin generally operate. This position also provides technical assistance to communities and providers that are developing policies and practices about interaction with the CPS system as they seek to provide better services to their clients.

The CAPTA grant is also used for a Trainer/Curriculum Specialist position. This individual teaches and develops individualized training events based on the needs identified in a county's Quality Service Review. Additionally, the Trainer/Curriculum Specialist co-trains foundation training events throughout the state to help ensure consistency statewide in the provision of skills based training in the areas of 1) engaging families, 2) child welfare interviewing, and 3) team based practice.

## **F. CAPTA Citizen Review Panels**

In 2010, Wisconsin remained in compliance with CAPTA requirements for citizen review panels. Wisconsin has five panels, Outagamie County Citizen Review Panel, Marathon County Citizen Review Panel, Pierce County Citizen Review Panel, Milwaukee Child Abuse Review Team (CART), and Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council (MPC). All of the panels fulfilled CAPTA requirements regarding meetings, mission, and submission of annual reports. In 2010, each panel received \$7,000 per panel from the DCF to support their activities. Each panel will be funded at this same level in 2011.

Please see the enclosed Citizen Review Annual Reports for a description of each panel's 2010 activities. Please note there are two annual reports from Outagamie County; i.e., the Outagamie County Citizen Review Panel and the Outagamie County Child Death Review Team. Also, attached please find the current DCF responses to the panels' annual reports.

In 2010 the panels continued working together on a statewide CRP project, the Child Fatality Review System, identified in 2009. A subcommittee was identified and members began working on actions steps. At this time, the group is collecting data from the DCF Disclosure website on 2010 child death cases where maltreatment was substantiated. The information is being compiled into one document, and the panels will begin analyzing the data in 2011. A project mission statement, including project goals and objectives was developed as follows:

### *Wisconsin Citizen Review Panels Statewide Project*

**Mission Statement:** Citizen Review Panels will enhance the quality of life for children and families by ensuring that Wisconsin is meeting its goals to protect children.

**Project:** Child Fatality Review System

**Project Scope:** Citizen Review Panels will collaborate with each other to identify and address characteristics of cases received by the panels under the Child Welfare Public Disclosure Act to reduce and prevent child fatalities, serious injuries and egregious incidents due to maltreatment. The project outcome is recommendations to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) related to law, policy and practice changes, staff training and public education.

**Goal 1:** Establish a consistent review system to examine the notification and summary reports forwarded to the panels by the DCF.

#### *Action steps:*

- 1a) Identify panel members to participate in a project subcommittee
- 1b) Identify needed reports and data and the appropriate resources to obtain the information
- 1c) Identify the targeted audience for the CRP completed project

1d) Develop a timeline for the project and meetings

**Goal 2:** Review and analyze relevant information and data (by December 31, 2011)

*Action steps:*

2a) Study information to identify case factors and statewide trends

2b) Communicate findings to local panels

2c) Compare information with the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) results

2d) At the discretion of the local CRP, review, analyze and respond to local incidents

**Goal 3:** Develop recommendations based on project findings (by January 30, 2012)

*Action steps:*

3a) Identify findings and issues using data for a one-year period

3b) Develop clear, concise recommendations based on state and national data

3c) Identify the author(s) to develop the CRP recommendations document

3d) Convene a meeting to assist in writing an accurate, purposeful report

**Goal 4:** Collaborate with the DCF to address the forwarded recommendations (by June 30, 2012)

*Action steps:*

4a) Present the completed report to the DCF and identified target audience (1c)

4b) Inform the DCF about CRP expectations regarding a timely response to the report

4c) Collaborate with the DCF regarding a plan to address the recommendations and to effect needed changes

4d) Request a response from the DCF by 6/30/12

Goals developed at statewide CRP Meeting 8/12/10

## **Juvenile Justice Transfers**

The CAPTA Amendments of 2003 require states, to the extent possible, to collect information on children under the care of the state child protective services (CPS) system who are transferred to the custody of the state juvenile justice system. In Wisconsin, under the supervision of the Department of Children and Families (DCF), county human service departments and BMCW operate the Child Protective Services (CPS) program. County human service departments also typically operate community-based juvenile justice programs, although some juvenile justice programs are attached to courts. In most counties, child welfare workers carry a mix of CPS and juvenile justice cases. The Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) operates juvenile correctional facilities and aftercare programs for juvenile offenders.

Wisconsin counties are required to use the eWiSACWIS system to record all activity for child protective services cases. DCF does not manage the Wisconsin juvenile justice program, and counties are not required to use eWiSACWIS to track all juvenile justice program activity. The only juvenile justice placements counties are required to record in eWiSACWIS are non-secure placements in licensed facilities where the placements are subject to federal Title IV-E and AFCARS reporting requirements.

For a child to transfer from the custody of the state child protection system to the custody of the state juvenile justice system, the child would have to be placed in a juvenile correctional facility after having a history of out-of-home placements in an open CPS case. Most of the children transferred to the DOC have patterns of delinquency and juvenile justice-related services at the county level before being transferred from the county agency to juvenile correctional facilities. Data from DOC for the total number of commitments by courts for calendar year 2010 is not yet available.

To calculate the number of children under the care of the CPS system who transferred into the custody of the State juvenile justice system, eWiSACWIS records for CY 2010 were queried to identify children who were placed in a juvenile correctional facility (using the service ending reason in eWiSACWIS) after having been in out-of-home placement in an open CPS family case. This method identified 52 children meeting the transfer criteria. Based on a five year trend of juvenile commitment counts from DOC (i.e. 523), it can be estimated that approximately 9.9% of Wisconsin's juvenile correctional commitments for CY 2010 were previously in out-of-home care under the placement and care of the CPS system.

*2010 Citizen Review Panel Annual Reports*

**Citizen Review Panel Annual Report  
For the Period January 1 – December 31, 2010**

|                 |                                      |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Name of Panel:  | Marathon County Citizen Review Panel |
| Contact Person: | Nicole DeBettignies                  |

**Briefly describe the number and type of meetings held in 2010:**

The full committee met 4 times or quarterly and the Public information and Membership subcommittee met 6 times. The Marathon County CRP also has an executive committee, made up of the Chair, Vice-Chair, coordinator and director, which meet 4 times a year.

Where applicable, please describe the panel’s activities in regards to:

**Evaluating local child protection services**

- Reviewed the Community Response Program as it relates to CPS.
- Learned about Alternative Response in quarterly meeting.
- Some members attended the community orientation meeting for Alternative Response.
- Received information regarding prescription drug abuse and what issues are most prevalent in Marathon County.

**Evaluating local and State progress under the State CAPTA Plan**

- Panel members who attended the National Conference presented information regarding federal changes or updates related to CAPTA.
- The chair, vice-chair and coordinator also attended a statewide meeting that focused on updates regarding what the other panels in WI are doing and to work on a statewide goal.

**Review of cases, child fatalities and near fatalities**

- In March the Citizen Review Panel learned about the new requirements for Public Notification. Paula Brown joined the group by video conference to provide clarification to the role of the CRP in this new law. In September the panel reviewed all of the cases report through Public Notification in a summary report which detailed the type of abuse, cause, age etc.
- The Citizen Review Panel also continues to have the medical examiner that is the head of the Child Fatality Review team on the panel. He provides information related cases in Marathon County.

**Review of the extent to which the child protective services system is coordinated with the foster care and adoption programs**

- In 2010 the Membership subcommittee recruited a Foster Care parent to join our panel.

**Public outreach and comment**

- In 2010 the Public Information subcommittee put a stronger focus on Public Outreach. The group distributed over a thousand Blue Ribbons and book marks for Child Abuse and Prevention month. Members of the Citizen Review panel distributed the Blue Ribbons at other public meetings with a letter that summarized the importance of the month and what citizens/community can do. The chair of the CRP also wrote a letter to the editor discussing the Child Abuse and Prevention month. This lead to invites for community presentations with Civic Group regarding Child Protective Services.

**Please describe other panel activities or issues addressed in 2010:**

- Panel members attended the National CRP conference.
- See attached work plan.

**Describe any challenges or difficulties the panel encountered in 2010:**

- I believe an ongoing issue for Marathon County Citizen Review Panel is attendance and turnover of members. Our full panel only meets four times a year which can be problematic if members miss one meeting. We also have turnover in members on the subcommittees, who are doing a lot of the work so that can lead to struggles with accomplishing tasks.

**Recommendations to improve child protection services at the local level:**

- One area that the panel has been recommending for Marathon County is to educate, create more awareness in the community related to Child Protective Services. At the statewide meeting there was a connection made with Outagamie County regarding a Public Engagement model they used re: a journey bus tour. The Public Outreach subcommittee is now preparing to do something similar in Marathon County. The plan is to do all the preparation in 2011 and have the event in spring 2012. There is a lot of energy and excitement related to this event.

**Recommendations to improve child protection services at the State level:**

- Continue to support counties in the work they are doing in CPS related to finances and mandates. As resources are dwindling Social Workers are being expected to do more with less. This needs to be balanced with their primary role in protecting children.

**Recommendations to improve State support of local CRPs:**

- It would be helpful to clarify, for the statewide group that is working on the goal, how the information they are pulling together will be used and to ensure that the state will see value in it.

**Indicate if training and/or technical assistance is needed or desired in 2011.  
Specify the areas in which you would like to receive training or assistance.**

- For 2011 it will be important for the CRP to have a connection with the new leaders in the administration. CRP is always interested in what level of support and what type of relationship will exist when staff changes. Beyond that Paula has always been supportive and able to respond to requests that the panel has as they come up.

## Citizen Review Panel 2010 Work plan

*We work toward improvement of the quality of life for children and families in the community and to provide new opportunities for citizens to play an integral role in ensuring that Wisconsin is meeting its goal of protecting children.*

| <i>Activity</i>  | <i>Cornerstone/Goal</i>   | <i>Responsible Person/s</i>         | <i>Timeline</i>           | <i>Notes</i>   |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Continue efforts to maintain and stabilize membership.  | CRP has fully participating individuals representing a balanced cross section of our community.   | Membership Committee                | Ongoing                   |  |
| 2. Work with Marathon County Child Fatality Review team to identify a project that the two groups can work on together.                              | Increase public input, ownership and investment in the child welfare system. Enhance dialogue with state stakeholders. Improve communication and involve others in execution. | Executive Committee and John Larson | Ongoing                   |  |
| 3. Work on statewide goal related to reviewing child fatalities in WI and looking for trends to support improved practice and outcomes for children. | CRP has a short and long range Strategic Plan with action steps & progress updates. This cornerstone is the group that sets direction and provides oversight for the group.   | Executive Committee/Full Committee  | Ongoing                   |  |
| 4. Recruit Foster Care family and additional citizen members to participate in CRP.  | CRP has fully participating individuals representing a balanced cross section of our community.   | Membership Committee                | Quarterly Meeting - March | <b>Reported on in June</b>   |
| <i>Activity</i>  | <i>Cornerstone/Goal</i>   | <i>Responsible Person/s</i>         | <i>Timeline</i>           | <i>Notes</i>   |
| 5. Provide education and training regarding Public Notification and CRP role.  | CRP has a short and long range Strategic Plan with action steps & progress updates. This cornerstone is the group that sets direction and provides oversight for the group.   | Executive Committee/Full Committee  | Quarterly Meeting – March | <b>Completed March 17<sup>th</sup> mtg<br/>Reported on in Sept 2010.</b> |
| 6. Review new member orientation packet.   | CRP has fully participating individuals representing a balanced cross section of our community.   | Membership Committee                | Quarterly Meeting – March | <b>Completed June 16</b>   |
| 7. Recognize Marathon County Social Workers during National Social Worker month in March.  | Increase public input, ownership and investment in the child welfare system. Enhance dialogue with state stakeholders. Improve communication and involve others in execution. | Public Information Committee        | March 2010                | <b>Completed March 17<sup>th</sup></b>                                   |

|  |   |                                     |  |   |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| 8. Write articles that build on creating strong families.  | Increase public input, ownership and investment in the child welfare system. Enhance dialogue with state stakeholders. Improve communication and involve others in execution  | Public Information Committee        | April 2010   | <b>In honor of CA/N month an ltr to the editor was printed which spoke about what the community could do to engage in protecting children and strengthening families.</b> |
| 9. Create awareness through activities during Child Abuse and Prevention month in April.   | Increase public input, ownership and investment in the child welfare system. Enhance dialogue with state stakeholders. Improve communication and involve others in execution. | Public Information Committee        | April 2010   | <b>Completed – Blue Ribbon Efforts</b>  |
| <i>Activity</i>  | <i>Cornerstone/Goal</i>   | <i>Responsible Person/s</i>         | <i>Timeline</i>  | <i>Notes</i>  |
| 10. Provide opportunities for CRP members to have exposure to and experience with the National CRP initiative through attendance at state and national CRP Conference in Kentucky. | CRP has a short and long range Strategic Plan with action steps & progress updates. This cornerstone is the group that sets direction and provides oversight for the group.   | Executive Committee                 | May 26-28, 2010<br><br>Reports at June Quarterly Meeting | <b>Completed – Report on June 16<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Meeting</b>   |
| 11. Provide education and updates on the CPS Alternative Response Model  | CRP has a short and long range Strategic Plan with action steps & progress updates. This cornerstone is the group that sets direction and provides oversight for the group    | Nicole DeBettignies and Carolie Fox | Quarterly Meeting – June                                 | <b>Completed – Report on June 16<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Meeting</b>   |
| 12. Research public engagement models and outcomes related to Child Protective Services and make recommendations to full committee.  | Increase public input, ownership and investment in the child welfare system. Enhance dialogue with state stakeholders. Improve communication and involve others in execution. | Public Information Committee        | Quarterly Meeting – December                             | <b>Report Out on in Dec</b>   |
| 13. Evaluate and discuss community concerns related to prescription drug abuse.  | Increase public input, ownership and investment in the child welfare system. Enhance dialogue with state stakeholders. Improve  | Full Committee and law Enforcement? | Quarterly Meeting - December                             | <b>Presentation on December 15, 2010</b>  |

|   |  |                                     |                              |  |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
|   | communication and involve others in execution.   |                                     |                              |  |
| <i>Activity</i>   | <i>Cornerstone/Goal</i>  | <i>Responsible Person/s</i>         | <i>Timeline</i>              | <i>Notes</i>                           |
| 14. Report on 2008 CAN data.                                  | CRP has a short and long range Strategic Plan with action steps & progress updates. This cornerstone is the group that sets direction and provides oversight for the group | Nicole DeBettignies and Carolie Fox | Quarterly Meeting - December | <b>Not accomplished</b>                |
| 15. Review and Celebrate CRP work for 2010 and plan for 2011. | CRP has a short and long range Strategic Plan with action steps & progress updates. This cornerstone is the group that sets direction and provides oversight for the group | Executive Committee                 | Quarterly Meeting - December | <b>2011 Activity Ideas:</b><br>Website |

12/15/2010 nad

## **CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL ANNUAL REPORT**

January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010

**Panel:** Outagamie County Citizen Review Panel

**Contact Person:** Melissa Blom, Division Manager - Children, Youth and Families Division, Outagamie County Department of Health and Human Services.

### **Briefly describe the number and type of meetings held in 2010.**

On the following dates Outagamie County Citizen Review Panel meetings were convened: January 6, 2010 March 3, 2010; May 5, 2010; July 7, 2010; August 13, 2010 (statewide meeting); September 1, 2010 and November 10, 2010.

The meetings are held at the Outagamie County Extension Office. The co-chairs of the panel consist of Pastor Larry Creamer and Andrea Alpert-Buss, the manager of Parent Connection at Family Services Inc. The meetings occur over the lunch hour and boxed lunches are provided. Clerical support attends meetings to take minutes. A roster is attached of our current panel members.

### **The Panel's Activities in Regard to:**

#### **Evaluating Local Child Protection Services:**

In 2010, two case reviews were presented. The first, on Jan. 6, involved shaken baby syndrome. The case review led to a discussion addressing:

- The cost of child abuse/neglect cases and how prevention would lower those costs;
- Consideration of developing an advocacy service for relatives of victims who have no immediate family members to care for them.
- Ways in which school systems are addressing the subject of Shaken Baby Syndrome.

The second, on Nov. 10, exposed no gaps in the system and supports were put in place in a timely fashion. Courtesy supervision was explained by the social worker. Discussion focused on cases involving alcohol abuse (approximately 75% of cases do involve alcohol). How are schools and churches addressing this issue, and are there ways we as a community can be more proactive? Panel determined that prevention and early intervention are key: How do we help decision makers understand that the costs of abuse and neglect far outweigh the costs of prevention? Also discussed whether or not information is gathered on parents' trauma history. Trauma informed care is an important training for staff.

#### **Evaluating Local and State Progress Under the State CAPTA Plan.**

Public Notification Act 78 and GAL training adhere with CAPTA.

### **Review Cases, Child Fatalities, and Near Fatalities.**

A new reporting disclosure act has been passed; Act 78, which forces the State office to furnish a report of child fatalities and egregious incidents within 48 hours to the Secretary and to the media if they require it. CRPs are to be the vehicle for public notification. Panel members discussed whether they wanted to be informed of these incidents and if so, through what avenue. Melissa is part of a state panel that is looking into what this legislation means and how we need to move forward. The statewide strategic planning session in Wisconsin Dells on August 13 was attended by Melissa Blom, Emily Lewis, Connie Raether and Crystal Natzke. At that meeting, Melissa asked for volunteers who would be willing to serve on a subcommittee with representatives of the other four CRPs to formulate a plan for looking at the notification data. Nicole, Deputy Director of Marathon County, Paula Brown, and Melissa Blom will be spearheading the subcommittee. The subcommittee will not be analyzing specific cases; rather they will be looking at the death notices and summaries and tracking for indicators such as age, compliance issues, gap in service delivery to the family, or other issues which might establish trends. There were suggestions of holding the meetings as teleconferences, perhaps meeting three times a year. The subcommittee will collect a year's worth of data, starting in January. The panel will create a report using the data collected and furnish it to the state. Volunteers for the notification data subcommittee were Emily Lewis, Sara Laumer, Crystal Natzke and Jerrolyn Orr-Carstens.

### **Review of a Coordinated Effort between Child Protective Services System and the Foster Care and Adoption Program:**

The CRP expended funds for the county's *Journey Home* Bus Tour, which was an effort to draw attention to both child abuse and foster care. (See "public outreach" section.)

### **Public Outreach:**

The CRP voted to expend funds for Outagamie County's *Journey Home* Bus Tour. Thirty business people, community leaders and elected officials boarded a bus on May 13, 2010 to learn more about child abuse and neglect as well as needs of foster care youth and the system. Young adults who had grown up in the county system accompanied the bus riders and shared their stories. The bus stopped at four host sites (Fox Cities Community Health Clinic, Child Advocacy Center, Outagamie Department of Health and Human Services, and the Justice Center) where the participants were educated about the services provided to children in the child welfare system. Feedback was very positive and two themes emerged: the need for more foster parents and the need to improve the facility used for parental visitation. Since the tour, 12 new foster parents have been trained and DCF staff have met with Community Foundation staff to develop a proposal for funding improvements to the visitation facility. While the number of new foster homes is a positive, each home requires 26 hours of work by CYF staff for licensing: This adds to the workload of staffs who are already struggling to keep up. Other discussion focused on the discrepancy in pay between foster

homes for adults and foster homes for children: Adult foster homes are compensated at a higher rate.

The Panel voted to co-sponsor training on brain trauma with Harbor House Domestic Abuse Shelter. The training was held on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dr. Steve Kaplan and Dr. Tom Tatlock shared information on how the brain works and the long lasting effects of brain injuries. This was very pertinent information to staff of both agencies.

#### **Other Panel Activities Addressed in 2010.**

The Citizen Review Panel co-chair, Pastor Larry Creamer, and Connie Raether attended the March division meeting of Children, Youth and Families to show appreciation for the staff. Pastor Larry spoke and a cake was presented.

In the fall of 2009, the Citizen Review Panel began to develop a priority list of issues facing children and families in Outagamie County. Those issues included (1) lack of medical, mental health, and dental care access for children; (2) crossover kids in the CPS/Juvenile Delinquency departments; and (3) the current Guardian ad Litem (GAL) system in Outagamie County. It was determined that the issue to tackle for 2010 would be the GAL system.

First, a subcommittee was formed to look at the present system and improve the system to effectively address the welfare of children in Outagamie County. The objectives were as follows: To identify state statutes, standards and CAPTA requirements related to the system and to identify the current operating system for GALs, to develop an understanding of the current process for recruitment, selection and payment, to develop a process for evaluation of the GALs, and to examine best practices in the nation. Goal 2 was to make recommendations to the judges based on the findings. The committee looked at applicable statutes as well as selection, training, and evaluating GALs. Other counties and states were contacted to determine how their programs differ and what best practices might be.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Developing minimum standards that GALs have to meet, i.e. Requirement that they meet with the child before the court hearing
- Requiring a more detailed report from the GAL to the court
- Having current GALs mentor new GALs.
- Expanding our proposal from CHIPS and JIPS cases to include family law cases with custody/placement issues
- Making sure compensation for GALs is fair
- Any concerns re: GALs should be kept at the Clerk of Court's office and reviewed prior to renewing his/her contract for the next year
- Requiring a certain amount of training for GALs and possibly having the CRP develop a training

At our September meeting, we had a presentation on the Brown County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) Program. A CASA is a volunteer who is appointed by a judge to advocate for, and be involved with, any child in the court system. There are presently 1000 CASA programs in the nation. The volunteer stays with the child for the duration of the case. Approximately two years ago, Judge DesJardins was working on forming a CASA program in Outagamie County and may still be working on the issue: Funding was the stumbling block at that time. It was mentioned that the Panel might become involved as part of a steering committee. We will have more discussion about the possibilities for our County at our January 2011 meeting. Some suggestions were to form a subcommittee to move the issue forward, to find out if Outagamie County could come under the auspices of Brown County, and to look into forming a regional CASA program.

**Attendance at the National Citizen Review Panel Conference in Lexington, Kentucky:**

Connie Raether attended the National Citizen Review Conference in May in Lexington, Kentucky. This three-day conference was filled with informative, supportive, and technical ideas from other Citizen Review Panels across the nation, including recruitment and retention strategies. A presentation regarding the conference was made to the Outagamie County Citizen Review Panel at the July meeting. A major theme of the conference was youth in transition, especially the importance of involving youth aging out of the foster care system when implementing changes in the system. Another theme was the importance of children in foster care having someone stay with them as a guide and advocate throughout the time they are in care: The CASA program (such as the one in Brown County) was held up as a model. Topics being addressed by other CRPs that we could consider: medical passports, reviews of failed adoptions, educating dentists on child abuse/neglect, meeting regularly with city, county, state and federal elected officials to help them understand the issues, consistency of child fatality reviews, preparing kids for moves, father's involvement, and crossover kids.

**Describe any Challenges or Difficulties the Panel Encountered in 2010.**

Several new members have been introduced in 2010. We continue to recruit people so we have a good cross section of the community.

**Recommendations to Improve Child Protection Services at the Local Level.**

The number of cases of abuse/neglect has increased, with an average of 300 child abuse/neglect reports each month. The screen-in rate is 48% from intake; with more cases transferred into ongoing there is an increased workload for staff. Two years ago workers had caseloads of 10-12 families. Now they have between 14 and 16. It is a challenge for the social workers to manage these numbers. We have identified prevention and early intervention as key; we need to focus on specifics in 2011.

It is also obvious that alcohol abuse is involved in the majority of cases. We need to look at ways our panel can disseminate this information to the public. Some suggestions: encourage people whose lives have been affected by alcohol to speak at forums, provide information on how alcohol abuse is related to child abuse/neglect, and work with schools/churches to get information out to the public.

At our final meeting in 2009, we determined that some of the issues facing children and families in Outagamie County were lack of access to mental/dental health services, kids crossing over from CHIPs to JIPs, and issues with the GAL system. While we focused on the GAL system, the other two issues are still significant, and we may decide to focus on one or both of those in 2011.

**Recommendations to Improve Child Protection Services at the State Level.**

A coalition is forming to look at what individuals can do to stop fatalities caused by child abuse. An email from Blake Jones/Paula Brown went out to the panel members regarding calling your Congressperson and asking that there be congressional hearings about child abuse deaths. Two thousand children a year/five children a day die due to child abuse/neglect. To find more information on the petition you can find it at [endchildabusedeaths.org](http://endchildabusedeaths.org).

**Recommendations to Improve State Support of Local Citizen Review Panels.**

The panel members appreciate the routine communication from Blake Jones with updates and information on child and family issues. Having someone from the state attend our meetings on a quarterly basis would be ideal, but probably unrealistic given current budget constraints. We also appreciate the ability to be part of a statewide gathering each year.

**Indicate Training and/or Technical Assistances Needed or Desired in 2010.**

Results of a survey by Blake L. Jones, MSW, LCSW, Ph.D., University of Kentucky College of Social Work, regarding topics to be addressed at free quarterly telephone conferences were as follows:

- (a) *Foster care*
- (b) *How other states are doing in regard to state reviews. (Each state is being measured on the same 7 outcomes.)*
- (c) *Child fatality trends*
- (d) *GALs and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs)*

Our panel members also mentioned trauma induced care.

## **Outagamie County Child Death Review Team 2010 Annual Report**

The Outagamie County Child Death Review Team continues to meet on about a monthly basis on the second Tuesday of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to review all child fatalities and domestic abuse fatalities. There were 17 child fatalities reviewed in 2010, including attendance at a Brown County child death review team regarding a child that passed in our county, but was a resident of Brown. The following is a summary of each meeting:

- January 12, 2010

Discussion occurred regarding safe sleep and the use of our safe sleep Public Service Announcement (PSA). The fatality reviewed was a multiple blunt force trauma involving a teen and alcohol.

Recommendation: Invite Chris Wardlow, Theda Care Prevention Specialist to discuss the prevention of teen access to alcohol by teens in our community.

- February 9, 2010

Discussion occurred regarding the \$5,000 mini grant and how our team was going to use the funds. The fatality reviewed was a teen suicide involving a shotgun; alcohol was also involved. A major discussion occurred by our group on how to engage parents regarding underage drinking and suicide prevention. Lawrence University recently received a SAMSA Grant and is bringing QPR training to the University and to the community.

Recommendation by the team to possibly have a family member, who has experienced a child's death as a result of alcohol, come and speak to the group. Early discussion regarding sending funds to school prevention suicide programs.

- March 9, 2010

Recommendations made to develop subcommittees to promote safe sleep and teen suicide. A guest speaker, Jennifer Gauerke, spoke on ThedaClark Neenah High School's PARTY (Prevent Alcohol and Risk Related Trauma in Youth) event in which 5,000 youth from our community attended. Ruth Wulgaert from our Coroner's office spoke on listing texting as a cause of death on certificates and controversy. The coordinator, Melissa Blom, and co-chairs Kathy Stromberg and Jean Coopman-Jansen met to discuss how to better prepare team members for a review. The program manual for death reviews was used as a resource. Two child fatalities were reviewed - both newborns.

- April 13, 2010

Members of our team signed two letters of support for Senate Bill 1445 Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Prevention Education Awareness Act of 2009. The letters were sent to representatives Herb Kohl and Russ Feingold.

The Street Smart Resource Guide was distributed and the Suicide Walk in Kaukauna in September was announced. Two teen suicides, both strangulations by hanging, were reviewed. Our group identified key people or groups in the community to be asked to join our team for future prevention discussions due to the unusual number of suicides in one school district. We identified common risk factors, including the following:

- Lack of connection with caring adults
- Access to alcohol and drugs
- Access to firearms
- Type of peer group
- Victimization

Our May meeting will be solely dedicated to a discussion regarding teen suicide prevention.

- May 11, 2010

Data was distributed to our group reflecting Outagamie County's teen suicide rate:

2002: 1 death  
2003: 1 death  
2004: 2 deaths  
2005: 1 death  
2006-2008: 0 deaths  
2009: 3 deaths  
2010: 1 death

2010: Guest speaker Amy Schlotthauer, from the Medical College of Wisconsin-Injury Research Center, presented the *Burden of Suicide in Wisconsin* book to our team. The suicide rate for Wisconsin during a 6-year period was 11.3 deaths per 100,000. Outagamie County's rate during the same period was 9.7. The state rate for inpatient hospitalizations due to self-inflicted injury was 89.9 per 100,000. Outagamie County's rate of hospitalizations was 90. This report can be found at <http://www.mcw.edu/display/docid20172/BurdenofSuicideinWisconsinReport.htm>.

Abby Collier presented statistics from the Center for Disease Control National Survey. Nationally, suicide accounts for roughly 11% of all deaths for young people between the ages of 12 and 19. It is the third leading cause of death for people between the ages of 10 and 24. Alcohol's influence regarding teen suicides was discussed. Not everybody is tested uniformly across the state in autopsies, so this is difficult to track. Discussion occurred more regarding children's mental health concerns.

Prevention Recommendations: Development of a resource guide and what is locally used.

Recommendations: Identify information needed to go on the resource guide, including websites (concern for duplication in our community will need to be checked into). Development of a subcommittee to address what information is needed, and then identify target audiences by topics and possible warning signs to get an adult involved. We needed to extend this prevention discussion into our June meeting where we will invite Mary Wisnet from United Way Fox Cities, Susan Richards from United Way Fox Cities 211 manager, and Karen Aspenson from NAMI Fox Valley Inc.

- June 8, 2010

This was a continuation of our May suicide prevention discussion. Yuan Zhou (medical student) created the 211 poster and compiled the Mental Health Resources Outagamie County Listing which was e-mailed to members. NAMI also has a resource guide, as does the Boys and Girls Club, which has a pocket guide. Recommendations were made by the team to pull together all information to develop a process for identification of the resources and list them in one resource guide, and possibly creation of a decision tree. Melody Bockenfeld offered to pull together the information to develop a prevention statement regarding suicides.

- July 13, 2010

One fatality accident, asphyxia due to overlay, was reviewed.

Recommendations: Discussion regarding the possibility to have alerts put in hospital records or charts when suspicion of child abuse history is present. Discuss confidentiality and HIPAA laws. Safe sleep discussion regarding how to get a consistent message across to our community to save babies. Questions regarding our hospitals and clinics using the safe sleep materials handed out by our Public Health Department. The Safe Kids Coalition in our community is under restructuring.

- August 10, 2010

A small group met on August 5, 2010 including Kathy Stromberg, Jean Coopman-Jansen, Melissa Blom and Abby Collier to develop our team's action plan (please see attached). Three fatalities were reviewed – one a trisomy 13 and two extreme prematurities.

- September 14, 2010

A presentation of the final 211 poster and magnets; discussion occurred about identifying who should be on the mailing list for these posters and magnets. A presentation from United Way's 211 program occurred.

Members gave updates on:

- The mental health summit being formed in our community by Kathleen Fuchs.
  - NAMI
  - Mental Health First Aid program
  - Public Health Outagamie County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)
    - priority to address depression and suicide in teens
  - Schools receiving QPR
  - Wisconsin Child Death Review Summit in November
  - Update on Wisconsin Public Disclosure Act 78. A motion was made by our team to include the public notification and summary as part of our reviews.
- October 12, 2010  
Four fatalities were reviewed - all natural causes. The Suicide Prevention Problem Statement was handed out to members. Discussion included GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender) youth issues and other community dates were given.
  - November 9, 2010  
One fatality ruled an accident, asphyxia by hanging, occurred. Agreement that a team of Outagamie County members would attend the Brown County Death Review on a child that died in our county. The GLBT youth teens and suicide meeting will occur on November 17, 2010 at the Appleton Police Department.
  - December 14, 2010  
Three extreme prematurity fatalities were reviewed. The Brown County Death Review Team presented information on that child's death. Melody Bockenfeld and the suicide prevention group developed a cover letter to be sent out with the poster and magnets. The safe sleep subcommittee gave a report on the progress made regarding their prevention efforts. Melissa Blom and Chris Wardlow will look at what's available for online training dealing with compassion fatigue.

The Outagamie County Child Death Review Team has a very vibrant, well-attended, enthusiastic team dedicated to prevention. We have focused on safe sleep and suicide prevention as two target areas. Three members, Melissa Blom, Kim Krueger and Melody Bockenfeld attended the Wisconsin Health Alliance Summit in Wisconsin Dells. A focus for 2011 will be on taking care of our team members by recognizing that this work is difficult and by offering training and self-care tips for our members at each and every meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Blom

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**Citizen Review Panel Annual Report**  
For the Period **January 1 – December 31, 2010**

|                 |                                    |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Name of Panel:  | Pierce County Citizen Review Panel |
| Contact Person: | Cassandra Malloy                   |

**Briefly describe the number and type of meetings held in 2010:**

The newly formed Pierce County CRP held about ten two-hour-long meetings this year during which we reviewed child deaths in Wisconsin and CPS cases in our own county, and we determined needs to focus on locally.

Where applicable, please describe the panel's activities in regards to:

- **Evaluating local child protection services**

Our panel had the opportunity to learn about and evaluate the local child protective services through discussions generated by local case reviews and statewide child fatality reviews.

- **Evaluating local and State progress under the State CAPTA Plan**

One of the elements of the State's CAPTA plan is to develop and pilot an Alternative Response program. Pierce County is one of the pilot counties for the Alternative Response program and the Citizen Review Panel has been kept informed of what Alternative Response is and the implementation of it in Pierce County. Citizen Review Panel members have attended community information meetings about Alternative Response.

Our panel has also evaluated many of the other goals of the State's CAPTA plan through case reviews and discussions generated by the receipt of the notifications of fatalities and egregious incidents.

- **Review of cases, child fatalities and near fatalities**

We decided that it is necessary for each of our members to receive the child fatality notifications in order to fulfill the requirements of Act 78, the Public Disclosure Act, as we have interpreted it. With the information we have received, we have been made aware of definite trends within the state. Our group discussed these child fatalities throughout at each meeting. One of our members was chosen to be a part of the statewide project team and has been keeping thorough records of data and trends from the reports we receive to contribute.

We also reviewed the one child death in our county and discussed how it was handled by our CPS Department. We met with a couple of different workers to review current cases of theirs, have our questions answered, and make

suggestions. In addition, we reviewed a case in which the substantiated maltreater had requested an appeal of the determination and made a recommendation that the agency's decision be upheld.

- **Review of the extent to which the child protective services system is coordinated with the foster care and adoption programs**

This is not an area of review that we have focused on in 2010.

- **Public outreach and comment**

We developed a brochure to distribute throughout the county describing the mission and responsibilities of the CRP, the need for community involvement, and how citizens can participate to improve the lives of abused and neglected children.

**Please describe other panel activities or issues addressed in 2010:**

The Pierce County CRP determined that it would be beneficial to look into the requirements of Guardians ad Litem to see if they are meeting the needs of the children in our county. Our local judge, Judge Boles, attended one of our meetings to discuss the role and expectations of the GALs from his perspective and to discuss with the panel their concerns and ways in which the needs of the children could be more effectively met within this program. Additionally, two panel members attended the statewide GAL conference, "Through the Eyes of the Child," to learn more about the program structure and expectations. We will be continuing this task into 2011 and hope to make positive changes in this area.

We have also decided that starting a CASA program could have a positive affect on the children and the outcomes of the cases in our county. One panel member attended a workshop in Madison about what a CASA program does and how to start a new program in our area. We are working with state CASA representatives to actively pursue the initiation of this program in the coming year.

A need was also brought to our attention for signs at local playgrounds notifying parents that young children need to be supervised. Our group is investigating the possibility of working with a local Boy Scout to have the signs constructed and installed as his Eagle project.

Two panel members and the coordinator attended the National Citizen Review Panel conference in Lexington, KY in May and learned a lot about how other CRPs are structured and operated throughout the country as well as some of the initiatives that are being worked on nationwide. Two members and the coordinator also attended the statewide Citizen Review Panel meeting in the Wisconsin Dells in August to discuss and help to plan the statewide initiative regarding child fatality reviews.

**Describe any challenges or difficulties the panel encountered in 2010:**

Although our panel has grown to include eight members, we are still actively trying to recruit in order to meet our goal of 11-16 members. We held open informational meetings which were advertised and had each of our members outreach, but we have still had a difficult time increasing our numbers, getting more males on the panel, and recruiting law enforcement, teachers and other diverse members.

**Recommendations to improve child protection services at the local level:**

In order to improve child protective services at the local level we intend to initiate the start up of a CASA program which we feel would be beneficial to CPS workers, Guardians ad Litem, the judge, and families and children in the system. We would also like to see improvements made in the amount of time Guardians ad Litem spend with the children they are representing and how they are monitored. We would also recommend that the Pierce County Human Services Board allow the Citizen Review Panel coordinator to attend the National Conference in 2011, using funds provided from the state for the operation of the Citizen Review Panel, as a support and benefit to the other panel members who also attend the conference.

**Recommendations to improve child protection services at the State level:**

As a panel we would like to see the state initiate possible preventative action in response to trends that have appeared in the reports the panels are receiving about abused and neglected children. We also feel that the number of cases that have involved previous services to families should be noted and standards possibly tightened to prevent cases from being unsubstantiated and resulting in later child deaths.

**Recommendations to improve State support of local CRPs:**

Indicate if training and/or technical assistance is needed or desired in 2011. Specify the areas in which you would like to receive training or assistance.

We hope to continue to receive education and assistance, primarily from state CASA representatives, in our efforts to initiate a CASA program in our county.

**Citizen Review Panel Annual Report**  
For the Period **January 1 – December 31, 2010**

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Name of Panel:  | Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council |
| Contact Person: | Arlene Happach                              |

Briefly describe the number and type of meetings held in 2010:

1. There were eight (8) Executive Meetings held. The Executive Committee receives written and in-person monthly updates on BMCW initiatives and progress toward goals, as well as information regarding child fatalities and egregious incidents.
2. There were four (4) full Partnership Council meetings. The Council receives written and in-person quarterly updates on Bureau, Division and Department plans and initiatives.
3. There was one (1) special Council meeting called to receive community input on a plan to redesign the BMCW service delivery system.

Where applicable, please describe the panel's activities in regards to:

**Evaluating local child protection services** – The panel receives monthly reports from the Office of Performance and Quality Assurance (OPQA) of the Department of Children and Families (DCF). This office monitors and reports on multiple variables that impact safety, permanency and well-being.

**Evaluating local and State progress under the State CAPTA Plan** - The State DCF underwent its Child and Family Services Review during this year. The Partnership Council participated in the review itself and was kept fully informed regarding the Program Improvement Plan.

**Review of cases, child fatalities and near fatalities** - OPQA completes all child fatality and egregious incident reviews for BMCW. These are intense secondary reviews that examine all areas of practice. Review findings and recommendations are shared with the Council in closed session as needed.

**Review of the extent to which the child protective services system is coordinated with the foster care and adoption programs** - Foster care and adoption statistics, practice and initiatives are reviewed frequently in Council meetings. The Foster Care Recruitment and Support Plan, which was developed in October, 2009, was reviewed frequently throughout 2010. Foster parent satisfaction survey results were reviewed by the Council.

**Public outreach and comment** - The Council held two community meetings to review BMCW progress with the community at-large, and to receive public

comment from Children's Rights, Inc., counsel for the plaintiff in the Jeanine B. settlement agreement. The community attends both full Council and Executive Committee meetings and is offered the opportunity to speak publicly on all issues.

**Please describe other panel activities or issues addressed in 2010:**

- The Health Committee added education to its mission and the newly formed Health and Education Committee met once with representatives of Milwaukee Public Schools.
- The Health Committee reviewed and supported BMCW in its move to use of the CANS for mental health screening, supported and helped develop the Nurse Family Engagement Initiative, and reviewed progress toward health screening compliance.
- The Council supported the BMCW's service system redesign by reviewing and providing guiding principles for a newly designed system. The Council further met with the Bureau's consultants to hear and provide input to the proposed design.
- The Budget ad hoc committee provided budget recommendations to DCF for its budget submission.
- An ad hoc committee of the Council made recommendations to the Secretary of DCF regarding the replacement of the Ombudsman contract with an internal and external BMCW complaint resolution service.
- The Partnership Council supported in writing the DCF request to extend the IV-E demonstration waiver of Subsidized Guardianship in Milwaukee.
- The Out of Home Care and Adoption committee reviewed potential statute changes which would improve permanency and would bring potential cost savings. Recommendations for changes are being developed into a final report.

**Describe any challenges or difficulties the panel encountered in 2010 - None**

**Recommendations to improve child protection services at the local level:**

- a. Education collaboration
  - Nurse-Family Engagement Initiative
  - Mental Health screening
  - Service system redesign
  - Post-reunification (aftercare) services

**Recommendations to improve child protection services at the State level:**

- a. Subsidized Guardianship statewide implementation
- b. Items in the Program Improvement Plan (PIP)

**Recommendations to improve State support of local CRPs: - None**

**Indicate if training and/or technical assistance is needed or desired in 2011.  
Specify the areas in which you would like to receive training or assistance.**

None

**Citizen Review Panel Annual Report**  
**For the Period January 1 – December 31, 2010**

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Name of Panel:  | Child Abuse Review Team of Milwaukee County [CART] |
| Contact Person: | Christopher Logan                                  |

Briefly describe the number and type of meetings held in 2010:  
 CART is comprised of 13 organizations all of whom touch the issue of child abuse in some way. (See attached Roster of CART members). Each month, CART holds 4 regular recurring committee meetings. These committees are:

**CART Committee:** Comprised of decision makers from their respective organizations, CART meets monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month. In 2010, CART met 11 times. Each month, this group presents updates, and difficult systems issues are presented and a dialogue created. This is CART’s governing body.

**Protocol Development Subcommittee:** This group is comprised of members of relevant CART agencies and meets monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month. In 2010, the Subcommittee met 9 times. In 2010, work was continued on revising the Joint Protocol on a Collaborative Response to Child Abuse and Neglect. Great momentum was achieved in 2010 and carries into 2011, with a stated goal of completing the revised Protocol by the Summer of 2011.

**Mental Health Subcommittee:** Comprised of CART representatives and reps from Mental Health Service providers in Milwaukee, this group meets monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month. In 2010, this group met 10 times. This group meets to talk about the difficult issues around Mental Health for clients of the BMCW. In 2010, a new Database was created intended to help track what services and providers are available in the community. In addition, this group works with the District Attorney and Judiciary to help understand the complexities of placements for Mental Health services and the impact of those services on children and families.

**Multi-Disciplinary Team Staffing:** Meets monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday. This group meets monthly to discuss specific cases and works through difficult systems issues. There is a core group of CART members that attend regularly, and then representative from individual cases are also invited to talk about the case. In 2010 this group met 10 times. Each month, two specific cases are staffed. Many of the cases represent difficulties in the collaborative relationships, and much of what comes out of this committee feeds into the work on the Joint Protocol.

Where applicable, please describe the panel’s activities in regards to:

### **Evaluating local child protection services**

Each of the meetings described above in one way or another evaluates the systemic issues and collaborative response in child protection in Milwaukee County. CART's focus continues to be the collaborative response to abuse and neglect, and in 2010, work was completed on a number of items that will help in this monitoring process, including:

- Completion of the MDT Staffing Database. This tool helps to track issues brought up monthly for staffing in order to watch for trends or issues that recur regularly in the collaborative process.
- Setting of Goals for the Joint Protocol. In 2010, the Protocol Subcommittee created several goals and strategies for the Protocol Subcommittee to use as the basis for creating the Revised Protocol.
- Creation of an on-going "Issues List" for CART. This list uses many of the CART tools and data and has created a strong framework for what issues CART will tackle in 2011. The current list contains approximately 30 issues that continue to create difficulties for a collaborative approach. The list will change with time, but is part of efforts to create accurate and timely documentation around systems issues and their resolutions.

### **Evaluating local and State progress under the State CAPTA Plan**

Though CART is not directly involved in reviewing the progress under the CAPTA Plan, CART is directly involved in working together to help the BMCW meet a number of the Goals set forth by the Wisconsin DCF in their Child Welfare Objectives 2010-2015, including:

- Strengthen the capacity of the child welfare program to serve families and keep children safe
- Collaborate with other agencies and service systems to improve family access to services to promote health, safety and positive development
- Assure the quality and effectiveness of services for children and families by regularly reviewing child welfare programs and practices

These goals are supported throughout CART's work with the BMCW, Milwaukee Police, District Attorney, Child Protection Center and others. It is "best practice" in the Child Protection world to create a strong collaborative environment and ensure good communication to maximize the services to families and the prosecution of perpetrators.

### **Review of cases, child fatalities and near fatalities**

The monthly MDT Staffing reviews 2 cases brought forth by CART members. This monthly meeting reviews systems issues and breakdowns and forwards information to the issues tracking within CART.

In addition, CART has traditionally conducted in-depth Child Fatality Reviews at the request of the BMCW. In 2010, CART completed one child fatality review, and also completed a new framework and methodology for how CFR's will be

conducted. The CFR's conducted by CART in the future will be much more pragmatic, and help to feed into the issues tracking and resolutions processes within CART.

**Review of the extent to which the child protective services system is coordinated with the foster care and adoption programs**

Though CART does discuss and work on some of the issues around Foster Care and adoption, the primary emphasis is “front line” meaning most of CART activities involve the Initial Access group at the BMCW.

**Public outreach and comment**

CART's public face comes in the form of our new website, created in early 2010. The website is geared towards CART members, there is information on the website for the general public. CART has a goal of updating this website in mid-2011.

Please describe other panel activities or issues addressed in 2010:

**The following were successes in CART in 2010:**

- Completion and publishing of the CART Website
- Completion of the CART MDT Staffing Database including data back to 2003
- Creation and consensus reached for new Protocol Goals and Strategies
- Creation of the Mental Health Preferred Provider Database
- Finalization of the CART Issues list guiding our work for 2011

**Describe any challenges or difficulties the panel encountered in 2010:**

Sustainable funding for CART continues to be difficult. The state currently provides a bit more than half of the funding necessary for staffing. A request was made in 2010 to transfer the contract currently held by Sojourner Family Peace Center to Children's Hospital. Because of State rules regarding open bid process, this was not able to happen. Currently there are several efforts underway to identify funding. The current funding will run out in Summer of 2011.

**Recommendations to improve child protection services at the local level:**

Any CART recommendation for improvement continues to come through the normal CART processes. The Revised Protocol will likely be the vehicle for implementing some of those recommendations. Recommendations are handled at the agency level with each CART representative responsible for their agencies adherence to the Joint Protocol.

**Recommendations to improve child protection services at the State level:**

None at this time.

**Recommendations to improve State support of local CRPs:**

CART is extremely appreciative of the State's financial support for CART CRP activities and encourages the State to continue to fund and increase funding for these important activities.

**Indicate if training and/or technical assistance is needed or desired in 2011. Specify the areas in which you would like to receive training or assistance.**

None at this time.

## 2010 Annual Responses to the Citizen Review Panels

To: Milwaukee County Child Welfare Partnership Council

From: Arlene Happach  
Director, Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare

Date: February 11, 2011

Re: 2010 Citizen Review Panel Annual Report Recommendations/Response

### **Recommendations and response:**

- **Education collaboration** BMCW is appreciative of the Council's support around moving an educational agenda forward for children in the Bureau's care. The addition of Education to the Health Committee and the outreach to Milwaukee Public Schools is extremely helpful to BMCW. Future goals for this collaborative include data sharing agreements and working to bring the Casey Family Program "Endless Dreams" curriculum to MPS. BMCW is also working on utilizing the education screens in eWiSACWIS to obtain baseline educational information for the children in care, and on refining the position duties of the educational liaison.
- **Nurse-Family Engagement Initiative** The nursing initiative is well underway. Thanks to the Council and the Health Committee for its support of the creation of a health unit of nursing services in both Initial Assessment and Ongoing services. Future goals include tracking of health status scores and health needs in order to demonstrate outcomes for this initiative.
- **Mental Health screening** The Partnership Council recommended a more rigorous mental health screening process for children in care. BMCW implemented the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool in July, 2010. This is administered within 30 days and indicates whether the child/adolescent needs mental health services. BMCW is currently tracking needs and follow-up. Future goals include the development of treatment resources specific to identified needs.
- **Service system redesign** The Partnership Council was instrumental in supporting a redesigned service model for implementation in 2012. With the Council's help, BMCW engaged consultants to work with Bureau staff with community input via the Council. A special meeting was devoted to the development of guiding principles for the redesigned system. The Bureau is on track to issue RFPs in July, 2011.
- **Post-reunification (aftercare) services** Aftercare services for children reunifying with their families are part of the service system redesign.
- **Subsidized Guardianship** With the support of the Council, Wisconsin received a waiver extension for subsidized guardianship (SG) in Milwaukee through June, 2011. The Council further recommended that SG expand statewide for the next biennial budget.
- **Items in the Program Improvement Plan (PIP)** The Partnership Council participated in the Child and Family Service Review and contributed to the development of the PIP. BMCW will arrange for regular PIP updates to the Council over the period of implementation.

BMCW leadership values the input and recommendations provided by the Partnership Council. In addition to the formal recommendations and responses detailed above, there have been many informal Bureau-Council interactions that have informed systemic improvements. The Bureau would like to take this opportunity to express its gratitude to the members of the Milwaukee County Child Welfare Partnership Council for their work on behalf of children and families.

cc: Eloise Anderson, DCF Secretary

Please see additional attached signed annual responses for the CART and county agency panels in PDF format.