

Citizen Review Panel Annual Report

August 21, 2026



Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

What is a Citizen Review Panel?

- Citizen Review Panels are groups of volunteer citizens working with the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) and local child welfare agencies to improve child protective services.
- Each panel provides an annual report to DCF describing the panel's activities and includes recommendations to improve the child welfare system (due end of August to DCF)
- The panels are created under the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA).
- The Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council (MCWPC) has been designated the Citizen Review Panel for Milwaukee County under Chapter 48 (Section 562) Children's Code.



Citizen Review Panel Websites

- WI DCF: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/prevention/crp>
- DMCW: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/mcps/partnership-council>



Last year's recommendations

- Status on them?



Feedback from the Council



Sections

1. Partnership Council Activities July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026
 1. Dates of meetings, agenda items, etc.
2. State CPS System/Local CPS System CAPTA Responsibility Focus Area & Evaluation
 1. Recommend policies and plans for the improvement of the child welfare system in Milwaukee County
 2. Recommend measures for evaluating the effectiveness of the child welfare system in Milwaukee County
 3. Recommend funding priorities for the child welfare system in Milwaukee County
 4. Identify innovative public and private funding opportunities for the child welfare system in Milwaukee County
3. Partnership Council State and Local Recommendations – feedback needed
4. DCF Strategic Planning for July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026 – feedback needed



Question #1

- Any recommendations for policies and plans for the improvement of the child welfare system in
 - **Milwaukee County/DMCW**
 - **State Level**



Questions #2

- Any recommendations for evaluating the effectiveness of the child welfare system in
 - **Milwaukee County/DMCW**
 - **State Level**



Strategic Planning July 2026-June 2027

- DCF is working to align Citizen Review Panel activities and recommendations with the state's CAPTA plan and as part of Wisconsin's [Putting Families First](#) initiative. This initiative has three transformation priorities:
 1. Strengthen local communities and building services to support families in their homes
 2. Keep children in family settings whenever possible.
 3. Supporting the workforce with solutions and improvements.

Any recommendations for DMCW and/or DCF for the above three areas?



Next Steps

- Information to be incorporated in Citizen Review Panel Report
- Submitted to DCF by the week of August 24, 2026



Questions



Thank you

