

**Wisconsin Citizen Review Panel Annual Report**  
January 1-December 31, 2016

Name of Panel	Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council (MCWPC)
Contact Person & Title	Deanna Alexander, Chief – Ongoing Services Section
Panel Chairperson(s)	Mark Mertens, MCWPC Chairman

**Briefly describe the panel’s meeting schedule and number/types of meetings, including subcommittee and workgroup meetings, held in 2016.**

The full MCWPC met six times, two of which were community meetings at which progress on the Jeanine B. settlement agreement was reviewed. The Critical Incident committee met two times. The Health and Education committee met once. The MCWPC also created an Ad-Hoc Budget Committee that met several times in a short time frame to serve a temporary purpose of creating budget advice proposals for the Department of Children & Families.

**Please provide a summary of the panel’s activities in regards to:**

**1. Evaluating the extent to which the State and the local child protection agencies are fulfilling their child protection responsibilities.**

The MCWPC receives regular reports from the Bureau of Performance Management detailing the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services’ (DMCPS) performance on metrics for child safety, permanency and well-being. The Critical Incident Committee reviews recommendations resulting from child deaths and egregious incidents. The MCWPC also receives regular reports from the DMCPS Division Administrator, DMCPS agencies that contract for ongoing case management, the DSP Administrator, and the DCF Secretary. The MCWPC reviews the sum of this information as it seeks ways to support the mission of DMCPS in fulfilling its child protection responsibilities.

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

The MCWPC receives periodic statewide updates from the DMCPS Division Administrator, the DSP Division Administrator, and the Secretary regarding overall progress.

**3. Activities related to public outreach and comment to assess the impact of current child protection procedures and practices on children and families in the community.**

All MCWPC meetings and committees are open to the public, with the exception of closed session Critical Incident Committee meetings. Members of the public are encouraged to comment and question on all child welfare related topics. The MCWPC also receives reports detailing the administrative process for hearing out and taking action on any public complaints against DMCPs or its contracting agency.

**Did the panel conduct any reviews of CPS cases, child fatalities and near fatalities? If yes, please describe.**

The Critical Incident Committee reviews all recommendations for child welfare practice changes in relation to fatal and egregious cases. In 2016, the Critical Incident Committee reviewed multiple death and egregious incident cases and the corresponding agency recommendations. The full MCWPC reviews periodic progress and ensures completion of all recommendations.

**Please describe any other panel activities or issues addressed in 2016.**

- The MCWPC continued to monitor DMCPs progress on addressing overdue initial assessment reports.
- The MCWPC met with the new Division Administrator, who shared her vision and goals for the agency.
- The MCWPC received a presentation from both the administrative and judicial standpoints on Dual Status Youth; those who are over the age of ten, in the CPS system through a CHIPS order and in the Youth Justice system through a JIPS or delinquency order.
- The MCWPC received a presentation from the Bureau of Human Resources Director and the HR Program Officer explaining hiring practices in place to ensure diversity at DMCPs.
- The MCWPC convened an Ad-Hoc Budget Committee which served a temporary purpose of creating budget advice proposals for the Department of Children & Families.
- The MCWPC received a presentation from the Youth Service Division Director for Employ Milwaukee, and the CEO of Journey House regarding Youth in Transition and how the community can help to support the successes of children coming out of foster care.
- The MCWPC and the Health and Education Committee continued to review updates on the Care4Kids program.
- The DMCPs complaint resolution process and outcomes were reviewed.
- The MCWPC received periodic updates on DMCPs' Quality Parenting Milwaukee initiative and provided feedback to DMCPs on those updates.
- The Health and Education Committee heard updates from the DMCPs educational liaisons.
- The MCWPC requested and received presentations from DMCPs contractors on employee retention and efforts to work with teens who frequently run from placements.

**Please describe any potential activities being planned for CY 2017.**

The MCWPC has new members and a recent change in leadership. The Chairman intends to begin 2017 with an organizational meeting to reintroduce the members to the statutory directives and operational focus of the MCWPC, beginning with a consideration of a review of the DMCPS mission and vision, a review of the MCWPC mission and vision, a potential revision and updating of the MCWPC bylaws, and a new staffing of the MCWPC operational committees.

**Panel recommendations to improve child protection services at the local level:**

The MCWPC has heavily focused on understanding and brainstorming ways to help DMCPS meet two key goals directly affecting Milwaukee County youth: creating best practices and efficiencies to improve the performance of timely initial assessment completions, and affecting meaningful positive gains in placement stability for youth in out of home care. Because the DMCPS is a state agency serving a concentrated population at a local level, these recommendations reach across both the traditionally separate state and local levels of government.

**How did the local agency respond to your previous recommendations?**

The DMCPS has responded in cooperation with all actionable MCWPC recommendations for improvement.

**Panel recommendations to improve child protection services at the State level:  
Please provide a brief description and example of the issue that contributed to this recommendation:**

The MCWPC's Ad-Hoc Budget committee previously proposed content and consideration for the DCF's upcoming biennial budget and these recommendations are pending. The DCF Secretary acknowledged receipt of the committee's suggestions and plans to inform the MCWPC of the Governor's budget decisions in 2017 once the document becomes available. There are no new recommendations.

---

Please submit the **completed CRP Annual Report** and the **panel's current membership list** to Paula Brown at [PaulaL.Brown@wisconsin.gov](mailto:PaulaL.Brown@wisconsin.gov). The annual report and the DCF response to each report will be posted on the DCF Citizen Review Panel web page. Thank you!