

Citizen Review Panel Final Report

February 21, 2025



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.
- 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.



Report





Information gathered is broken out into four sections:

1. Partnership Council Activities July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025
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
4. DCF Strategic Planning for July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026





Strategic Planning July 2025-June 2026

- 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.



Timelines

- Report due to DMCPD by July 1, 2025
- Report due to DCF by July 18, 2025
 - Enter via webform by DMCPD
- One MCWPC meeting prior to due dates: May 16, 2025





Ask of Members

- Review emails which include a draft copy of the report.
- Provide feedback to Bridget Chybowski or DMCPs contact via email or telephone by due date (s) (in email).
- Any discussion occurring with more than two members must be done in the open meeting setting.
- Recommendation(s) for the report will be voted on by council members at the next meeting on May 16, 2025.





Citizen Review Panel Websites

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



Questions

