

Wisconsin Citizen Review Panel Annual Report
2013-2014

Name of Panel:	Pierce County Citizen Review Panel
Contact Person & Title:	Kristi Petersen-Children Youth and Families Program Manager/CPS Supervisor

Briefly describe the panel's meeting schedule and number/types of meetings, including subcommittee and workgroup meetings, held in 2013.

The Pierce County Citizen Review Panel held 12, two hour long meetings throughout the year. In addition, a regional summit was held that highlighted the work of the panel and local agencies in the area of Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention.

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 Pierce County CPS Department provided training to the panel regarding the access process used, screening and investigation procedures. The CRP also continues to review all public disclosure reports regarding child deaths, serious injuries and egregious incidents monthly as a group. Members have also participated on a statewide team researching possible trends present in the reports. This team will be gathering on January 7, 2014.

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

The Pierce County CRP is exploring the possibility of expanding the group to include a regional membership.

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.

The CRP has pursued many community outreach efforts this year.

1. Monthly radio ads were purchased and played highlighting the need and responsibility for child protective services as well as resources available to citizens.
2. Sleep sacks were purchased and provided to River Falls Area Hospital in an effort to support safe sleep education.
3. Blankets were made and stuffed animals were collected to be given to children as they enter the foster care system.
4. A Blue Ribbon Campaign was held to highlight child abuse prevention month and encourage the community to participate in ending child abuse.

5. A summit was held to celebrate the efforts of several local agencies/hospitals in the education and prevention of SBS. The summit was attended by local as well as state representatives.

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

The panel discussed all state public disclosures monthly. A request has been made to review one case that occurred in Pierce County.

Please describe any other panel activities or issues addressed in 2013.

The panel has considered and explored the idea of starting a CASA organization within the county or regionally for 2 years now. Those efforts have been temporarily set aside. A member of the CRP met with Pierce County CPS social workers to gather information regarding their needs and to identify how the panel can provide support. It was determined that a safe, neutral location for parents to transfer children for custody and placement was lacking and needed in the county. The panel is exploring whether or not there is an existing agency within the county that would consider such a venture.

There was also discussion of the need for children's mental health support in child protective services. This area needs further exploration.

Please describe activities planned or held to date in 2014.

Statewide team examining trends in child deaths and egregious incidents will meet on January 7th in Wausau. Panel members hope to learn from Outagamie County regarding their use of SBS dolls. One panel member will attend the state meeting on January 15th in Madison. The panel will move location from Pierce to St Croix County. New members will need to be recruited.

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

The panel sees the need to lobby for a position specializing in providing children's mental health services and/or expertise.

There is a need for increased life skills training for children in and aging out of foster care.

Panel recommendations to improve child protection services at the State level:

The panel recommends that certain information be added to the public disclosure reports in order provide more information for prevention efforts;

- a. Risk factors such as past/current AODA issues, age of parent, criminal history, housing situation, family history of domestic violence, etc.
- b. Clearer definition and explanation of the term, "services offered."

Optional/additional information or comments:

Please submit the completed CRP Annual Report and the panel's current membership list to the State of Wisconsin Department of Children and Families by e-mailing copies to Paula Brown at 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 at http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/children/citizen_review/default.htm. Thank you.