



201 East Washington Avenue, Room E200  
P.O. Box 8916  
Madison, WI 53708-8916  
Telephone: 608-266-8787  
Fax: 608-266-5547

Governor Scott Walker  
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Division of Safety and Permanence

March 24, 2014

Pierce County Citizen Review Panel  
Ronald Schmidt, Director  
Pierce County Human Services Department  
412 West Kinne Street  
P. O. Box 670  
Ellsworth, WI 54011

Dear Ron:

Thank you for your timely submission of the 2013 Pierce County Citizen Review Panel report. This letter responds to the citizen review panel annual report requirement in the Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA).

The Pierce County citizen review panel submitted one recommendation to improve child protection services at the State level. A brief summarized statement of the recommendation and the Department of Children and Families, Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) response follows:

*Recommendation: The panel recommends that certain information (e.g., risk factors such as past or current AODA, parent age, criminal history, history of domestic violence, housing, etc.) be added to the public disclosure reports in order to provide more information that will help prevention efforts.*

The Department continually reviews the disclosure process to improve the quality of reports while complying with statutory requirements, and agrees that the report contents should not only inform the general public about incidents of child maltreatment, but also inform Wisconsin child welfare practice and prevention efforts. In addition, we strive to balance the disclosure of information with the privacy of the involved family. In some communities, the identity of the family is known due to local media coverage of the incident.

We look forward to working with the citizen review panels to further discuss the public disclosure process as well as findings and additional recommendations from the panels' recent review of disclosure cases.

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In closing, I would like to thank you for your participation in the Pierce County Citizen Review Panel over the past several years. We are sorry to lose you as one of Wisconsin's panels and appreciate your assistance with transitioning this caring group of citizens to St. Croix County.

Sincerely,



Fredi-Ellen Bove  
Administrator