

Wisconsin Citizen Review Panel Annual Report
January 1-December 31, 2014

Name of Panel:	Marathon County
Contact Person & Title:	Vicki Tylka, Director

Briefly describe the panel's meeting schedule and number/types of meetings, including subcommittee and workgroup meetings, held in 2014.

The full committee met six times or bimonthly throughout 2014. The Executive Committee comprised of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Director of DSS and CRP coordinator also met bimonthly. Subcommittees met as needed throughout the year.

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 Marathon County CRP reviews the DSS Annual Scorecard which provides federally required outcome data for the county as compared to the state on the most essential elements in child protective services. Members of the CRP participated in data collection related to child deaths, and consulted regarding significant findings.

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

The Marathon County CRP is informed routinely during their business meetings of any significant changes and trends occurring locally or at a state level, and evaluates potential outcomes for the CPS system. The panel is kept apprised of budgetary parameters and county resources to provide services to children and families.

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 Marathon County CRP was very proud to have participated in a community event in September 2014, utilizing a message board sharing information about the CRP. Blue pinwheels were shared with participants to celebrate safety of children in the community. The CRP partnered with the Marathon County Early Years Coalition, which focuses on strengthening children's experience in early life (health, education, nutrition, safety, and nurturance) to bring a bigger impact to the event.

The CRP sponsored a four week event in April 2014 which educated the community on child abuse and neglect prevention; and resulted in collections that supported various agencies that provide basic needs to families in Marathon County. In April, blue ribbons with educational cards were also widely distributed in the county.

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

Not specifically, however, there is a formal connection between the Marathon County Child Death Review team and the CRP. The current chairs of the County Death Review team are Dawn Perez, Child Welfare Manager at DSS, and Eileen Eckhart, Health Department. Both women are members of the Marathon County CRP as well. There are previous and future efforts in place for joint projects to bring awareness on key issues to the community.

Please describe any other panel activities or issues addressed in 2014.

The Marathon County CRP showed appreciation to social workers through sponsorship of a cake and signed card in March 2014.

Two citizen members and two staff attended the National CRP conference in May 2014.

Coordination of the use of the Shaken Baby Simulator doll continues with a focus on training within the schools and the jail.

Members of our panel participated in the statewide Guardian Ad Litem work group.

Much progress has been made on the second phase of the Journey Bus Tour that will focus on the collaboration with schools and the child protective services system. A survey was sent out to school personnel to understand their requests for specific information to plan the event. This is scheduled for 2015 in Wausau, the largest community in Marathon County. Future plans are to schedule this event with other school districts as well.

Please reference the attached 2014 Work Plan for additional details on the CRP's activities and accomplishments.

Please describe activities planned or held to date in 2015.

- The Marathon County CRP will use its first meeting in 2015 to evaluate activities to support CPS at the local level. One program that will be evaluated for potential

support is the Parents Anonymous program, which nationally has significant positive outcomes for children and families.

- Additional recruitment of citizen members
- Attendance at the National Citizen Review Panel conference
- Completion of the follow up school Journey Bus Tour in Wausau and plan for other districts
- Continued implementation of community training for Shaken Baby Syndrome
- Organize events for April Child Abuse prevention month
- Recognize social workers in March
- Select a joint project with the Marathon County Child Death Review Team
- Presentations of CRP materials and messages on strengthening families at community events

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

The Marathon County CRP continues to support using data to enhance performance in child welfare and will remain active in reviewing key performance outcomes.

Look for additional opportunities for education with community partners on the scope of child protective services and the role that the entire community can play in keeping kids safe.

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

- Ensure that mandated programs are adequately funded
- Balance of prevention and early intervention in CPS
- Use of data for performance outcomes – areas that actually make a difference in the lives of children
- Public education efforts to focus on the positive accomplishments and importance of CPS and what the community can further do to support children

Optional/additional information or comments:

We are pleased with the support of the Department of Children and Families for our CRP and applaud the expansion of CRPs across the state.

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.

**Citizen Review Panel
2014 Work Plan
Year End Review –December 2015**

We work toward improvement of the quality of life for children and families in the community and to provide new opportunities for citizens to play an integral role in ensuring that Wisconsin is meeting its goal of protecting children.

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Cornerstone/Goal</i>	<i>Responsible Person/s</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Notes</i>
1. Continue efforts to maintain and stabilize membership. Maintain biographies list of current members.	CRP has fully participating individuals representing a balanced cross section of our community.	Membership Committee Chair: Dawn Perez	Intermittent or As Needed	Focus on increasing <i>citizen</i> membership in 2015
2. Continue subcommittee to look at usage of Shaken Baby Simulator	Increase public awareness of the detrimental long term effects of SBS. Increase public input and investment in the child welfare system.	SBS Committee Coordinator: Pam Cotton	Report as Needed	Targets for training/use of the SBS doll include hospitals, high school health classes and MC Jail. CommUnity Fest booth resulted in sign up for presentation to a Girl Scouts Troop. –continuing goal
3. Presentation on 2013 DSS Scorecard.	Increase public input, ownership and investment in the child welfare system. Enhance dialogue with state stakeholders. Improve communication and involve others in execution.	Vicki Tylka, Pam Cotton and Amber Myska	Bimonthly meeting - April	Completed April 2014 –repeat in 2015

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4. Creation of public presentation board (“table topper”) and materials for education of CRP supported programs.	Increase public input, ownership and investment in the child welfare system. Enhance dialogue with state stakeholders. Improve communication and involve others in execution.	Ad Hoc Committee Chair: Pam Cotton	Bimonthly Meeting -April	Table top presentation board purchased and contains pertinent info on CRP and MCDSS. Completed September 2014 – ongoing goal for 2015
5. Work on statewide goal related to reviewing child fatalities in WI and looking for trends to support improved practice and outcomes for children. Share statistics on statewide Public Notification data compiled by group.	CPR has a short and long range strategic plan with action steps & progress updates. This cornerstone is the group that sets direction and provides oversight for the larger group	Executive Committee – Pam Cotton & Cathy Teske	Bimonthly meeting - June	Data analysis was completed in July/August 2013. Review of compiled results set to occur in February of 2014. Results of analysis shared with CRP group in April 2014. Meeting with state took place on 9/30/14 and report out will occur in October meeting. Completed
6. Determine next steps following 2012’s Journey Bus Tour.	Maintain momentum of enthusiasm and interest in child welfare system generated by Journey Bus Tour. Target school personnel for audience.	Ad Hoc Committee Chairs: Greg Bean and Barb Berry	Schedule next bus tour by Fall 2014	Survey to school personnel and MCDSS social workers underway as of Sept. Results to be analyzed and shared at October meeting to determine next steps. Survey completed. Planning Wausau School District event in Fall 2015. Other districts to be determined.
7. Work with Marathon County Child Death	Increase public input, ownership and investment in the child welfare	Executive Committee and	Report in December what	Pam Cotton, Eileen Eckardt and Jessica Blahnik now

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Review team to identify a project that the two groups can work on together in 2015.	system. Enhance dialogue with state stakeholders. Improve communication and involve others in execution.	Jessica Blahnik, Medical Examiner	plan is for project in 2015.	leading the MC Child Death Review Team. Meeting to introduce restructure occurred October 7, 2013. Training for members of the Child Death Review Team completed on October 29, 2013. First meeting of newly restructured team occurred on December 17, 2013. Two 2014 meetings cancelled due to no cases to review. Next meeting set for Oct. 21, 2014 with five cases to review from last quarter. Goal for joint project set for 2015.
8. Work with Paula Brown on statewide CRP group focusing on role of Guardian Ad Litem in the child welfare system.	Goal of this statewide project are under development.	Ad Hoc Committee Chair: Pam Cotton	Bimonthly meeting – October	Pam Cotton and Cathy Teske attended statewide meeting in Madison on January 15, 2014. Information gathering is taking place as of October 2014 in the form of surveys to GALs and older youth. Barb Berry participated in reviewing a proposed survey. Completed
9. Completion of 2014 Annual CRP Report.	CRP has a short and long range Strategic Plan with action steps & progress updates. This cornerstone	Full Committee	Bimonthly Meeting -December	Components reviewed at December 2014 meeting – email draft to be shared with

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	is the group that sets direction and provides oversight for the group.			officers in January 2015
10. Review and Celebrate CRP work for 2014 and plan for 2015.	CRP has a short and long range Strategic Plan with action steps & progress updates. This cornerstone is the group that sets direction and provides oversight for the group.	Executive Committee	Bimonthly Meeting - December	Accomplished in December 2014, to be repeated for 2015

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