

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

Name of Panel:	Milwaukee County Partnership Council (PC)
Contact Person & Title:	Sarah Henery Attorney

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

The full PC met 6 times, 2 of which were community meetings at which progress on the Jeanine B. settlement agreement was reviewed. The Critical Incident Committee met 4 times. The Health and Education Committee met 2 times and the Out-of-Home Care Committee met 3 times. Additionally, the PC created two ad hoc committees: the Budget Committee and the Guardian ad Litem Committee. Both of those committees met once.

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 PC receives regular reports from the Bureau of Performance Management detailing BMCW performance on metrics for safety, permanency and well-being. The Critical Incident Committee reviews recommendations resulting from child deaths and egregious incidents. The PC also receives regular reports from the BMCW Director, BMCW's agencies who contract for ongoing case management, the DSP Administrator and the DCF Secretary.
2. Evaluating local and State progress under the State CAPTA Plan.
The PC receives periodic statewide updates from the 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 PC meetings and committees are open to the public, with the exception of closed session Critical Incident meetings. Members of the public are encouraged to comment and question.

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 in fatal and egregious cases. In 2014, the Critical Incident Committee reviewed 11 death and egregious incident cases and the corresponding agency

recommendations. The full PC reviews periodic progress and ensures completion of all recommendations. There are currently no outstanding recommendations.

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

- **The PC reviewed and made recommendations on a periodic basis regarding the BMCW plan for addressing a backlog of uncompleted initial assessments.**
- **In the months following the departure of the BMCW Director, the PC made recommendations to the Department on its future plans for BMCW structure and leadership and assisted the Department in holding community meetings on the same topic.**
- **The PC heard a presentation on the Milwaukee County Mental Health and AODA system.**
- **The PC and the Health and Education Committee continued to review updates on the Care4Kids program and the legislation on out of home care extension to age 21.**
- **The PC learned about and expressed support for a project designed to create a data hub to link data from different family-serving systems and organizations in and around Milwaukee.**
- **The PC learned about the state's process of rehabilitation review for persons identified by a child welfare agency as having abused or neglected a child.**
- **The BMCW complaint resolution process and outcomes were reviewed.**
- **The Out-of-Home Care Committee focused on placement stability for very young children in care and discussed and made recommendations regarding the new Quality Parenting Initiative being undertaken by University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and BMCW.**
- **The Health and Education Committee reviewed data provided by the Milwaukee Public Schools education liaison including data on foster children receiving special education evaluations.**
- **The Health and Education Committee met with a representative from the Center on Children and the Law and learned about and discussed federal and state legislation on educational stability in foster care and the new Legal Center for Foster Care and Education.**

Please describe activities planned or held to date in 2015.

Presentation to the full PC on Milwaukee's progress in implementing the Quality Parenting Initiative; Presentation on and discussion around problem solving courts; Discussion about legislative study committees on adoption and rehoming and early brain development; Discussion on national project for redesigning residential care.

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

Allow PC to participate in the hiring decisions of future BMCW leaders. Implementation of all critical incident recommendations. Expansion of services to sex trafficked youth. Expansion of services for older youth. Continued monitoring of timeliness of BMCW initial assessments. Continued monitoring of progress in BMCW and contract agency staffing and retention rates.

Panel recommendations to improve child protection services at the State level:
Amend the PC membership law to include the presiding judge at Milwaukee County Children's Court and the District Attorney as permanent and fully participatory members of the PC (accomplished via legislation in 2014). Support the Department's budget request with some additional changes designed to increase benefits for a certain class of BMCW employee. Continue monitoring the Care4Kids foster care medical program outcomes and the outcomes for children extending out of home care until age 21.

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.