

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

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| Name of Panel: | Polk County Citizen Review Panel |
| Contact Person & Title: | Ashley Fagnan, Coordinator |

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

Polk County's CRP was newly formed in 2014. The first meeting was held in May and every month there-after for an hour each month. The panel meets the first Thursday of the month from 8-9am at Polk County's Government Center. The coordinator of the panel has participated in conference calls with the other CRP coordinators around the state and one of Polk County's members participates in the GAL workgroup.

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 panel has a representative participating in a state CRP task force regarding the role of GALs in our court system. Surveys have been sent and received from local and state GALs, as well as to youth that have been or are currently appointed a GAL. Next, survey results will be analyzed and recommendations will be made.

The panel has chosen to address the issue of children affected by the drug use in their homes. A multi-disciplinary group from Polk County was given scholarships to attend a DEC conference. Meetings are ongoing locally to continue to address the procedures of both CPS and law enforcement when children and drugs are present. As of January, 2015 there is now DEC protocol in place

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

The Polk County CRP was formed as a subcommittee of the CARING committee, a local professional networking group gathering for the purpose of child abuse prevention. CRP group meets monthly for about 1 hour and communicate regularly by email.

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.

Early Childhood Polk County resources brochures were created and funded by CRP and dispersed to all county agencies (health dept, human services department, public health), 3 local hospitals and surrounding clinics, all of our school districts, libraries, community

agencies (head start, homeless shelter, domestic violence shelter,) and all local police departments.

The panel chose to purchase copies of “The Purple Cry.”, the state endorsed, evidence based SBS prevention materials provided to all parents after the birth of their child. DVDs will be distributed by local parent educators from the Family Resource Center St Croix Valley while making initial contact with new parents. Parents will be able to take the materials home. Follow up calls will be made by the parent educators at 2-4 weeks post delivery to address issues of newborn care, crying etc.

The Polk County CRP will sponsor a daylong conference for Child Abuse Prevention in February, 2015.

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

No we have not, but there is a Polk County case that we do plan to review.

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

CRP had helped facilitate birth to three and child protection working together to collaborate that all children who are reported to CPS receive an Ages and Stages questionnaire, to help screen their child’s development and ensure that their child doesn’t have any developmental delays.

CRP provided scholarships to many area professionals (DA, GALs, social workers, other local private agency staff) to attend a 2 day DEC conference. There has then been several follow up meetings with these individuals to work towards getting a DEC protocol in place.

CRP has developed a liaison type of position, who will take an active part in participating on the newly formed county DEC committee. The liaison will also attend ongoing meetings and inform the CRP group of ongoing activities and changes in CPS and law enforcement procedures.

Please describe activities planned or held to date in 2014.

The panel chose to purchase a doll simulator to demonstrate the effects of drug use prenatally. Plans to educate child welfare workers were discussed. The doll will be housed with the PH department and available to professionals in the area.

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

The panel has recommended that CPS continue to participate in discussions with law enforcement regarding DEC procedures.

The CRP will meet with the DA's office and child protection to review the neglect standards, which can lead to improve reporting procedures.

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

The panel recommends that the issue of the use of cameras by CPS workers be examined for possible change. (Ex: when CPS workers go into a "dirty home" it would be beneficial to have pictures to look back on later in the case.)

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.