

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

Name of Panel:	St. Croix County Citizen Review Panel
Contact Person & Title:	James Allison & Sheryl Herberg, Co-coordinators

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

We meet monthly for one and one half hours and typically take a month off in the summer. We are a new panel and have met eight times this year beginning in March. We did not have any subcommittee or workgroup meetings this year. We currently have eight panel members and intend to continue recruitment.

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.

Our panel is still in formation as we are a new panel. Topic of interest that we have discussed are mandated reporting and egregious incidents.

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

Report was received, but not reviewed.

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.

**Home Alone Guidelines brochures** – These brochures were developed by CPS social workers with St. Croix County. The panel purchased 500 for St. Croix County residents. The social workers distributed them to all of the St. Croix County Elementary schools and hospitals. The brochures are intended to help parents/guardians determine when to allow children to be home alone and/or to care for other children.

We recently purchased another 500 of these brochures with our new address and name. These will be distributed in early 2015 to all the St. Croix County Elementary schools and hospitals again.

**Prevention DVD's & Crying Baby brochures** – We purchased DVD's and brochures to help prevent child abuse for new parents. Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley staff will be distributing them to local hospitals for new parents.

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

Some panel members are receiving 90-day Summary Reports for Child Death, Serious Injury or Egregious Incidents and are reviewing them. We discussed the number of previously screened out reports in a County and what the protocol is in St. Croix County.

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

Please describe activities planned or held to date in 2014.

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

**Abusive Head Trauma Conference** – Scheduled for 2/26/2015. We are coordinating with Paula Brown, DCF, Prevention Initiatives Coordinator with the State and Polk Co. Citizen Review Panel to put on a conference for “Preventing Abuse of Infants & Young Children”. We have speakers presenting about abusive head trauma, sentinel injuries, and a personal story. The speakers are Dr. Lynn Sheets from Children's Hospital of WI, Betsy Byker, a Parent educator, and Susan Kainz, the President with the Shaken Baby Assn. The training is designed for medical personnel, child welfare agencies, parent support and education program staff, child care providers, other professionals and community members. Continuing education credit certificates will be given to attendees. The purpose is to educate people about child abuse, and abusive head trauma, share about existing programs, and to encourage attendees to prevent abuse of infants and young children.

**Realityworks Simulator Dolls** – We are purchasing four simulator dolls; fetal alcohol syndrome, drug affected, shaken baby, and a normal baby doll. We are planning a presentation of the dolls for professionals in Public Health, Birth to 3, social workers, and therapists sometime in April of 2015. We intend to demonstrate the dolls and how to use them, followed by lunch and an open house. The dolls will be stored in Public Health with professionals being able to sign them out. We have not yet decided how to handle the sign out process.

**Prevention DVD's & Crying Baby brochures** – We purchased DVD's and brochures to help prevent child abuse for new parents. Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley staff will be distributing them to local hospitals for new parents.

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

Panel members have been involved in a work group in order to improve/set Standards for State Guardian Ad Litem. Surveys have been sent and collected from State GAL's and from youth who have had experience with a GAL. The next steps will be to review the GAL's responses and then the responses of the youth.

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](mailto: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](http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/children/citizen_review/default.htm). Thank you.