

**Wisconsin Citizen Review Panel Annual Report**  
January 1-December 31, 2015

Name of Panel:	Jefferson County
Contact Person & Title:	Laura Wagner, IA Supervisor Brent Ruehlow, Child and Family Division Manager

**Briefly describe the panel’s meeting schedule and number/types of meetings, including subcommittee and workgroup meetings, held in 2015.**

Jefferson County met as a full panel in January, March, July, September and November in 2015. Our CRP was also represented at the Statewide CRP meeting in July and at the National conference in May.

The chairs of the committee met additionally as a sub-committee to create brochures, write articles for the paper and work with the Child Abuse Prevention committee. Additionally, panel members took on tasks outside the meeting structure in the form of brochure delivery, the creation of our CRP logo and connections with media outlets.

Please provide a summary of the panel’s activities in regard to:

**1. Evaluating the extent to which the State and the local child protection agencies are fulfilling their child protection responsibilities.**

The panel has representation on the Statewide GAL work group and is active locally on the newly designed contracted GAL system for the Jefferson County Court system. Panel members have met with County Administration and the District Attorney office on the new contracted GAL system that will serve as a great alternative to the current process. The selected and contracted GAL’s have the track record and knowledge needed to serve the wards of Jefferson County appropriately.

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

The Jefferson County CRP has coordinated with the local Child Abuse Prevention Committee (CAP) to fund awareness activities locally such as CAP T-shirts, signs for business fronts and attending local resource fairs, to name a few.

**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 panel produced and distributed a number of brochures designed to reach the community and provide information around Child Abuse and Neglect. These brochures as listed below were translated into Spanish as well to reach a growing population in

Jefferson County. Furthermore, an article was written and published in the local newspapers describing the mission of the CRP and the role of CRP as it relates to the needed feedback to the state and Federal government on Child Abuse and Neglect issues.

**Did the panel conduct any reviews of CPS cases, child fatalities and near fatalities? If yes, please describe.** As a CRP panel we did not review any cases in this manner in 2015, however a separate committee completes these functions in the form of the Death Review Team.

**Please describe any other panel activities or issues addressed in 2015.**

In 2015 the Jefferson County panel continued to develop our identity as we raised awareness, added another CRP member and produced a number of resources for the community.

- Completed English and Spanish versions of a “Home Alone” pamphlet.
- Completed English and Spanish versions of “When Does Discipline Become Abuse?” pamphlets.
- A newspaper article was written and published in the local papers raising awareness about our CRP while actively recruiting members.
- Several members attended the state wide and national CRP conference.
- We developed a local CRP logo to assist with our brand.
- Completed a “What is a Dirty House?” and “What is Emotional Abuse?” pamphlet.
- A local CRP mission statement was created.
- Our committee sponsored the local Child Abuse Prevention month in April and the logo was added to the CAP T-Shirts sold and distributed in April.
- Completed a local CRP mission statement.

Please describe activities planned or held to date in 2016.

- Radio interviews to be held periodically to continue to raise awareness of the CRP mission and goals.
- Child Abuse Prevention month activities.
- Community wide showing of “The Raising of America” documentary with facilitated discussions.

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

- Additional preventative services for pregnant mothers.
- Education to the community on the CPS system.
- Additional outreach to the Latino community.
- Outreach to community groups.
- Additional parenting services.

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

- Continue to work with the GAL work group.
- More funding for preventative services such as screen outs or early intervention.
- A one stop place on-line that captures state standards and statutes with embedded links to memos, related policy, documents, etc.
- More prevention funding specifically “earmarked” for counties.
- Statewide services aimed at Domestic Violence.
- State led targeted recruitment for specialized foster homes.
- Pro-active parenting services.

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.