



201 East Washington Avenue, Room E200
P.O. Box 8916
Madison, WI 53708-8916
Telephone: 608-266-8787
Fax: 608-266-5547

Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Division of Safety and Permanence

April 19, 2016

Brent Ruehlow, CRP Coordinator
Laura Wagner, CRP Coordinator
Jefferson County Citizen Review Panel
Jefferson County Human Services Department
1541 Annex Road
Jefferson, WI 53549

Dear Mr. Ruehlow and Ms. Wagner:

Thank you for your timely submission of the 2015 Jefferson County Citizen Review Panel report. This letter responds to the citizen review panel annual report requirement in the Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA).

The Citizen Review Panel submitted seven recommendations to improve child protection services at the state level. A brief summarized statement of each recommendation and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) response follows:

1. Continue to work with the Guardian ad Litem (GAL) workgroup.

The Citizen Review Panel GAL Workgroup recently completed its statewide project of studying the existing GAL system and producing an informative report with recommendations. The DCF has received a copy of the report and appreciates the time and thought that went into surveying and compiling this report. The DCF CRP Coordinator will continue to work with the panels to further efforts in this area, if the panels deem this a continuing area of interest and activity. She also will continue to connect the panels with each other, as other panels have also initiated efforts to work with their GALs to enhance services for children.

2. A one-stop place online that captures state Standards and statutes with embedded links to memos, related policy, documents, etc.

The DCF is actively working on a website redesign. The objectives of the redesign are to:

- a) Reduce and update web site content

- b) Identify our user base and provide the information each type requires – Parents and Families, Agency Partners, Providers, Teens and Young Adults
- c) Provide a better experience for our users finding the information they need on our site
- d) Improve browser search capabilities.

The redesign will result in the organization of relevant information into policy manuals. Some DCF program areas (e.g., W2 and Child Care) in DCF have already converted to user/policy manuals that can be electronically searched. DCF intends to develop an electronic index by subject matter for the CPS Standards which links to the full standards related to that subject. When the website redesign is completed, notification will be sent to all of our partners.

The items in your recommendation are currently available on the DCF web site. The Division of Safety and Permanence continues to update and notify partners via numbered and information memos at the following links:

Numbered Memos - http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/memos/num_memos/index.htm
Info Memos - <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/memos/infomemos/index.htm>
Licensing Memos (Group Homes, Residential Care Centers, Shelters) -
http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/memos/cw_licensing/default.htm

The CPS Standards (Access and Initial Assessment, Safety Intervention, and Ongoing Services) are currently on our website as follows:
<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/children/CPS/progserv/progINDX.htm>.

The statutes are referenced throughout the DCF website but can be accessed directly on the legislative website at: <http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/>.

3. *Statewide services aimed at Domestic Violence.*

The Department of Children and Families issues grants that provide \$14.6 million/year to fund domestic abuse services in every county and tribe in Wisconsin, including \$5 million of new state funding beginning in state fiscal year 2017. DCF is using the \$5 million of new funding to:

- increase the annual core service allocation for all domestic abuse programs in the state;
- allocate additional funds for children's programming and for services to traditionally underrepresented populations;
- begin a new grant program for enhanced services to tribal communities; and
- for the first time, provide a funding stream specifically dedicated to the prevention of domestic and dating violence.

4. *State led targeted recruitment for specialized foster homes.*

The DSP is currently working with the Department of Health Services, county and private agencies to improve the pool of resources for children who need crisis stabilization services and counties seeking to open Level 5 Exceptional Treatment Foster Homes. The Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center (FCARC), under contract with

DSP, can provide technical assistance to a county by evaluating a county's foster care program and then in collaboration with the county creating a target foster home recruitment plan that addresses the needs of the county. The assistance provided by this service is available to any county upon request. The DSP is open and willing to work creatively with agencies to develop needed foster care capacity.

5. *More funding for preventative services, such as screen outs or early intervention, and*
6. *More prevention funding specifically "earmarked" for counties.*
7. *Proactive parenting services*

The DCF agrees that prevention, early intervention and proactive parenting services are important for promoting the safety and well-being of children and families and recognizes that prevention is a community-wide responsibility. A CPS agency may choose to offer early intervention services at its own discretion. For example, some agencies provide a community response or a referral to services for a family in a report that is screened out because there is no alleged maltreatment. Another option is to screen in a report with no alleged maltreatment for child welfare services (Services Intake) rather than CPS. Many CPS agencies collaborate with local stakeholders who offer prevention services and supports.

We also encourage you to apply for or continue to participate in grants opportunities, such as the following, that support the types of services listed in these recommendations:

- In 2015, the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board released a grant proposal to expand its Community Response Program beginning in 2016.
- In March 2016, the DCF issued a statewide grant proposal for Family Foundations Comprehensive Home Visiting Program, which is due April 28, 2016. This proposal directs home visiting funds to at-risk communities to serve high risk/multiple risk families through the implementation of evidence-based home visiting services.
- DCF released a Request for Applications in October of 2015 for counties and tribes to participate in a statewide expansion of the WI Trauma Project, which included training and technical assistance provided by the National Council on Behavioral Health to assist state, county and tribal child welfare agencies to become trauma-informed organizations; training for caregiver parents and agency child welfare workforce staff in the National Traumatic stress Network (NCTSN) Trauma-Informed Parenting Training, which includes development of local trainings for NCTSN Parenting Training; and also offered an opportunity for counties and tribes to expand their service array through two 18-month learning collaboratives for clinicians who treat children in the child welfare system or are at risk of entering the child welfare system in Trauma-Informed Child parent Psychotherapy (TI-CPP) and training for Masters Level Clinicians that treat children in the child welfare system in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in a 12 month learning collaborative that provides eligibility for TF-CBT certification. DCF expects to issue a similar Request for Application in the fall of 2016.

I hope you find this information is helpful in response to your recommendations. Thank you for your ongoing dedication and efforts on behalf of Wisconsin children and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fredi-Ellen Bove". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fredi-Ellen Bove
Division Administrator

CC: Kathi Cauley, Director
Jefferson County Human Services Department