

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

Name of Panel:	Langlade County Child Welfare Citizen Review Panel
Contact Person & Title:	Ron Barger, Director of Langlade County Social Services

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

The group met monthly from January –June, 2015. Our meetings focused on learning about the processes and procedures of local child welfare practices. We also planned activities to recognize April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Over the summer months, we did not meet as a panel due to summer schedules; however, several members participated in a county board-ordered out of home study that ended in September. The panel then resumed meetings in September and October. In September, the panel hosted an ACE's training for panel members and their agency staff, since not all members had participated in this training. By the end of the year, we heard from panel members that they felt the panel was moving away from our original purpose. We ended the year by conducting a survey to receive feedback on the panel and to see if and how members wanted to move forward as a panel.

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.

Members were actively engaged in the learning of local child welfare practices. Participation waned following the summer when we didn't meet. We also experienced a transition in directorship for social services. The combination of these factors had an impact on members feeling disconnected from the panel's purpose. Panel members also questioned the transparency of our local child protection services.

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

As the panel was in the educational phase over the majority of 2015, we focused on and will continue to focus on the following:

- a. Integrate safety intervention throughout the CPS case process
- b. Prevent maltreatment of children and the recurrence of maltreatment
- c. Promote cross system collaboration in order to enhance services to children and families.

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.

We hosted an ACE's workshop in September where 29 panel members and their agency staff attended. For many participants, this was their first exposure to ACE's information. This workshop provided a platform to start community conversations on adverse childhood experiences. Two of our panel members became certified ACE Interface Trainers to continue community education in this area.

In April, the panel provided information and resources at the Antigo Public Library as a way to recognize April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. The panel also hosted an Ice Cream Social at the library for residents to learn about our panel and community resources for children and families in our community. About 100 people attended this event.

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

The panel did not conduct any reviews in 2015. However, through the survey conducted at the end of the year, panel members strongly indicated their desire to review cases to dig deeper into the decision-making processes and procedures in CPS cases. They felt this was critical to the panel's purpose in making recommendations for improvements in the local and state child protection system.

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

Please describe activities planned or held to date in 2016.

We are in the process of establishing a meeting schedule. Meetings have been held between panel facilitators and the new director of social services to develop plans for case reviews involving more social worker input and trauma-informed practices.

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

- Improve understanding of and transparency within the decision-making processes of CPS cases.
- Provide more opportunities for social workers to share their successes and challenges within the CPS process.
- Explore the out of home options available in Langlade County, and how foster parents, relatives and other guardians receive support when children are placed in their care.
- Determine gaps in services to support youth and families that are engaged in the child welfare system.

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

As the panel develops an understanding of the local CPS system, this will uncover how local processes are impacted by state policies and procedures for future recommendations.

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.