

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

Name of Panel:	Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council
Contact Person & Title:	Sarah Henery, Attorney

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

The full PC met 6 times, 2 of which were community meetings at which progress on the Jeanine B. settlement agreement was reviewed. The Critical Incident committee met 3 times. The Health and Education and the Adoption and Out-of-Home Care committees met 2 times each.

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 PC receives regular reports from the Bureau of Performance Management detailing Milwaukee Child Protective Services' (MCPS) performance on metrics for safety, permanency and well-being. The Critical Incident Committee reviews recommendations resulting from child deaths and egregious incidents. The PC also receives regular reports from the MCPS Division Administrator, MCPS' agencies who contract for ongoing case management, the DSP Administrator, and the DCF Secretary.

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

The PC receives periodic statewide updates from the MCPS Division Administrator, the DSP Division Administrator, and the Secretary regarding overall progress.

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.

All PC meetings and committees are open to the public, with the exception of closed session Critical Incident meetings. Members of the public are encouraged to comment and question.

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

The Critical Incident Committee reviews all recommendations for child welfare practice in fatal and egregious cases. In 2015, the Critical Incident Committee reviewed 7 death and egregious incident cases and the corresponding agency recommendations. The full PC reviews periodic progress and ensures completion of all recommendations.

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

- **The PC continued to monitor MCPS progress on addressing a backlog of initial assessments not closed in a timely manner.**
- **The PC reviewed the Department's plan for restructuring MCPS and assisted with interviews during the search for a Division Administrator.**
- **The PC and the Health and Education Committee continued to review updates on the Care4Kids program.**
- **The MCPS complaint resolution process and outcomes were reviewed.**
- **The PC heard a presentation on Project Gain.**
- **The PC received periodic updates on MCPS' Quality Parenting Milwaukee initiative and provided feedback to MCPS on those updates.**
- **The Health and Education Committee heard updates from the MCPS educational liaisons.**
- **The Health and Education Committee heard updates on the Child Welfare Education Collaboration Grant and reviewed data on early childhood education for children in out of home care.**
- **The PC requested and received presentations from MCPS contractors on employee retention and efforts to work with teens who frequently run from placements.**
- **The PC heard a presentation on progress from the first Residential Care Center in Wisconsin focused on exclusively servicing victims of sex trafficking.**
- **The PC provided training on citizen review panels and child welfare practice to new and sitting members.**

Please describe activities planned or held to date in 2016.

Presentation on diversity hiring at MCPS as well as its contracted agencies; security training including training on handling situations with an active shooter; continued monitoring of the progress in converting to a Division; continued work to expand enrollment of children in out-of-home care into Head Start/Early Head Start programs.

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

Implementation of all critical incident recommendations. Expansion of services to sex trafficking victims and youth who run from placement. Continued monitoring of MCPS and contracted agency staffing and retention rates.

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

Continue monitoring the Care4Kids foster care medical program outcomes and the outcomes for children extending out of home care until age 21.

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.