

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

Name of Panel:	Polk County
Contact Person & Title:	Curtis Emerson, Polk County Citizen Review Panel (PCCRP) Coordinator

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

**PCCRP**

- Polk County Citizen Review Panel (PCCRP) had 10 scheduled meetings in 2015. PCCRP meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays of every month (except July and September) from 8:00 am - 9:00 am at the Polk County Government Center in Balsam Lake. In addition to the meetings the group communicates monthly via emails about PCCRP agenda items.

**Workgroups**

- GAL - continuation of the statewide workgroup.
- Community Support – in partnership with Polk County CARING & Polk County Mental Health Task Force. Meetings are held as needed with many meetings via phone or email.
- Child Abuse Education – in partnership with Polk County CARING & Polk County Mental Health Task Force, Million March, Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA) and Drug Endangered Children (DEC). Meetings are held as needed with many meetings via phone or email.

**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.**  
Polk County worked with the state to provide at countywide 3 tier training on Trauma Focused – Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. The goal being that all public and private agencies in Polk County receive the Trauma Informed Care so that we can all use the same approach and language when working with our residents.
- 2. Evaluating local and State progress under the Stata CAPTA Plan.**  
Polk County appears to be working well with the state CAPTA plan and seems to be interested in being innovative in its approach. Throughout the year, Polk County has been very active with the community through education and training opportunities in hopes to help community members and professionals better understand the barriers and processes that are involved in CPS cases.
- 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.**

Polk County continues to include the public in variety of ways to help better understand the CPS system and continue to provide feedback to those who inquire. They have accomplished this by various committee meetings: CARING, Mental Health Task Force, and participating in community based trainings to educate the public.

**Did the panel conduct any reviews of CPS cases, child fatalities and near fatalities?**

**If yes, please describe.**

PCCRP received 1 90 day report for a Polk County child. The 90 day report was distributed to all team members to review and be prepared to discuss at the next PCCRP meeting. The case was staffed and took up the entire meeting time. The lead CPS investigator for the case was asked to meet with the team to gather more information. Our goal was to support our local agencies that had worked with the case by reviewing it to discuss any trends, ways to support child, family and resources within our county. However, due to the lack for information from the incident and from family members, we were not able to truly staff the case.

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

Polk County Citizen Review Panel (PCCRP)

- Created work plan, budget, and work plan calendar
- Obtained a new fiscal agent and appointed a paid treasurer
- Sent 1 representative to the National CRP Conference
- Sent 4 representative to the WI CRP Conference
- Sent 2 representatives to the Inter Tribal Conference
- Reviewed 1 90 day report from Polk County

Child Abuse Education

- Published a month long series of articles in 4 local newspapers about child abuse
- Assisted in providing Amery High School And Middle School a presentation from Rise Together
- Purchased educational materials for Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA) to be distributed in Polk County
- Distributed “Purple Cry” DVD to the parents of all babies born in Polk County
- Provided a demonstration of the drug effected doll at a CARING meeting
- Assessed Polk County providers to determine the needs for possible additional trainings
- Continued to have a representative of Polk County on the GAL work group
- Assisted in sponsoring Blue Ribbon Events
  - Million March  
(200 participated)
  - Blue Ribbon Community Safety Nights at local schools  
(Unity School 450 participated and St Croix Falls 200 participated)
  - Rise Together Presentation held for Amery High School and Middle School  
(500 participated)
  - Polk County Fair Booth

Drug Endangered Children (DEC)

- Continued to have a representative on the DEC taskforce

- Sent 9 Polk County DEC members to the DEC conference
- Published 2 articles about DEC in 4 local newspapers

**Please describe activities planned or held to date in 2016.**

- Distributed “Purple Cry” DVD to the parents of all babies born in Polk County
- Assist in sponsoring Blue Ribbon Events
  - Million March
  - Blue Ribbon Community Safety Nights at local schools
  - Polk County Fair Booth
- Determine if PCCRP will hold a Hands Around the Courthouse or wait until 2017
- Hire a speaker for the Million March
- Hold a Compassion Fatigue and ACES training for local providers

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

- Continue to educate the providers, as well as the public, on the changes and or processes needed to make reports to CPS.
- Follow up with each referral and possibly explain why it was “screened out” to avoid frustration on those who are mandated reporters.

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

- Allow early intervention within the CPS system. It seems that we have to “wait until something bad happens” before CPS has any jurisdiction.

**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.