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Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Division of Safety and Permanence

April 25, 2016

Curtis Emerson, Program Coordinator
Polk County Citizen Review Panel
Northwest Journey-Siren
P O Box 388
Siren, WI 54872

Dear Mr. Emerson:

Thank you for your submission of the 2015 Polk 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 one recommendation to improve child protection services at the state level. A brief summarized statement of this recommendation and the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) response follows:

- *Allow early intervention within the CPS system, rather than having to "wait until something bad happens" before CPS has any jurisdiction.*

A CPS agency may choose to offer early intervention services, and there are a few ways that this can occur. 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 or threat of maltreatment. Another option may be to screen in a report with no alleged maltreatment for child welfare services (i.e. a Services Intake) rather than as a CPS report that is screened in.

It is important to note that CPS agencies are required by statute {Ch. 48.981(3c) (1) (a)} to respond to reports of alleged child maltreatment having occurred or where circumstances indicate there is a threat of child maltreatment to occur, i.e. a belief that abuse or neglect will occur. The CPS Access and Initial Assessment Standards include instruction and guidance regarding screening decision-making under "Chapter 6: The Screening Decision," that addresses substantial risk of abuse and provides an example of this type of situation.

Thank you for your dedication and efforts on behalf of Wisconsin children and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fredi-Ellen Bove".

Fredi-Ellen Bove
Division Administrator