

Wisconsin Citizen Review Panel Annual Report
January 1-December 31, 2016

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| Name of Panel | Jefferson County |
| Contact Person & Title | Brent Ruehlow-Deputy Director, JCHSD Laura Wagner-IA and Juvenile Court Intake Supervisor |
| Panel Chairperson(s) | Brent Ruehlow Laura Wagner |

Briefly describe the panel’s meeting schedule and number/types of meetings, including subcommittee and workgroup meetings, held in 2016.

Our Panel meet 5 times in 2016 at JCHSD. We do not explicitly have sub committees, but often assign tasks and report out via email in between meetings to keep projects moving along.

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.
 - CRP Panel members sit on Jefferson Counties six month alternate care review panel as a trained panel member per Wisconsin State Statue ch. 48/938 to give feedback on child welfare practice.

2. Evaluating local and State progress under the State CAPTA Plan.
 - The panel continued its involvement on the statewide GAL work group and successfully recruited a local GAL to join our CRP to raise awareness. The panel worked with our juvenile judge on contracting with high quality GALs in 2016.

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.
 - The panel converted a number of 2015 brochures into Spanish and distributed those in an effort to reach the community and provide information around Child Abuse and Neglect. These brochures as listed below were translated into Spanish as well to reach a growing population in Jefferson County.

 - The panel set up information about panel recruitment at local fairs and provided resources to families in Spanish and English.

Did the panel conduct any reviews of CPS cases, child fatalities and near fatalities? If yes, please describe. As a CRP panel we did not review any cases in this manner in 2016, however a separate committee completes these functions in the form of the Death Review Team.

Please describe any other panel activities or issues addressed in 2016.

- We purchased I-Pads that utilized an application called “Three Houses” that has been used to gather additional and richer information when out on initial assessments in the community. This was a suggestion from our on-site technical assistance via Alternative Response. Additionally, these I-Pads will allow staff to take pictures of youth placed in care for easy upload into EWISACWIS per state standard.
- The panel purchased portable printers to assist with completing Protective Plans in the community per Wisconsin State standards.
- We purchased 50 copies of the DVD documentary called “The Raising of America.” This DVD focuses on early intervention and highlights various longitudinal studies. We have given a number of DVD’s to community stakeholders and held a variety of showings followed by facilitated discussions to school boards, committees and our Human Services board to leverage additional funding.
- We were able to send one member of the panel to the national conference in 2016.
- We sent a number of members to trainings aimed at early interventions and joining with local health care providers.
- The panel converted all of our 2015 brochures into Spanish for distribution.
- The panel was instrumental in becoming trained “panel members” for our six month alternate care reviews.
- After a presentation by the Juvenile Justice team the panel funded local pro-social activities and outings for youth with their families to build family cohesiveness.

Please describe any potential activities being planned for CY 2017.

- The panel has expressed interest in a “bus tour” that takes citizens and stake holders through the day in a life of a child in our CPS system.
- Two chair persons attend the national conference.
- We will have a presentation on ACEs for community members.
- We will work on a local CRP Facebook page

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

- Additional financial allocation toward heroin and the drug epidemic.
- Additional attention and resources aimed at early intervention
- Additional parenting resources

How did the local agency respond to your previous recommendations?

2015 recommendations:

- Additional preventative services for pregnant mothers.
- Education to the community on the CPS system. (complete)
- Additional outreach to the Latino community. (complete)
- Outreach to community groups. (complete)

- Additional parenting services. (complete)

In 2016 JCHSD completed additional outreach activities with schools, law enforcement, local community groups and clinics on the CPS screening process per recommendation of the panel. Additionally, recruitment was completed with local Latino stakeholders and Maria Dable joined the CRP as a bilingual outreach worker with the Work Force Development Center, as well as our Birth to Three program conducted additional family find efforts at a multi-cultural expo. Also, an additional Incredible Years (IY) parenting class was held in 2016.

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

Please provide a brief description and example of the issue that contributed to this recommendation:

- CPS appeals to be handled by DCF even at the first stage.
 - Due to the workload issues around the appeal process and the attorney who JCHSD contracts with to review the appeals is on our CRP committee.
- More statewide funding for the drug epidemic.
 - Jefferson County has seen a number of overdoses, as well as held a number of town hall meetings that led to this recommendation.
- Additional funding for local parent coaching in-home.
 - Due to the increased contracts JCHSD has established with providers as a proven way to build diminished protective capacities, the committee has felt that this should be an area receiving funding to assist in reunification efforts.

Optional/additional information or comments:

Please submit the **completed CRP Annual Report** and the **panel's current membership list** 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. Thank you!