

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

Name of Panel	Langlade County Citizens Review Panel
Contact Person & Title	Debi McGregor, chairperson
Panel Chairperson(s)	Debi McGregor

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

After a brief break in our meeting schedule, the Langlade County Citizens Review Panel held six monthly meetings from April through November 2016. We had a subgroup focusing on ACE/TIC education that met twice to plan a presentation on the effects of trauma on 9/9/16. This presentation was attended by approximately 40 people and was facilitated by Scott Webb.

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.** Our panel continues to learn how the local child protection services department carries out their work. In 2016, our meetings included presentations by our Foster Care Coordinator and began to explore how the foster care system functions in Langlade County. The Langlade County DSS Director and Supervisor attend our Citizens Review Panel meetings, and they have shared information about ongoing reorganizational plans. They have been accessible to the panel to provide information as requested. Members of the Citizens Review Panel have noted that reorganization within DSS has resulted in improved relationships with the community.
- 2. Evaluating local and State progress under the State CAPTA Plan.** Our panel did not examine or evaluate local and state progress under the State CAPTA Plan during 2016, due to turnover in membership and leadership of the Social Services department and leadership of the Citizens Review Panel. We plan to re-visit the data to explore trends in 2017.
- 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 explored the foster care system of care, with reports by our Foster Care Coordinator, Tammy Schreiber at two meetings. A foster parent attended one of our meetings, providing her perspective and asking questions of Child Protective Services. Our panel continued to explore ways to promote understanding of Adverse Childhood Experiences and Trauma Informed Care, planning to provide additional training sessions on an ongoing basis.

Did the panel conduct any reviews of CPS cases, child fatalities and near fatalities? If yes, please describe. Our panel has not yet begun to review CPS cases, child fatalities or near fatalities. The Child Death Review Team functions independently of the Citizens Review Panel and we have not yet determined if this type of review is necessary or would be beneficial to our work at this time.

Please describe any other panel activities or issues addressed in 2016. This year our panel went through a transition in leadership when Kari Lazars left her position with UW-Extension and resigned from the panel. Prior to her departure, we were working to re-establish a meeting schedule and exploring ways to re-engage panel members. Debi McGregor continued to facilitate meetings throughout the year, with the administrative assistance of Stephanie Fassbender.

Please describe any potential activities being planned for CY 2017.

- Review and evaluate data relating to progress under the CAPTA plan.
- Participate in Child Abuse Prevention month activities in April 2017

- Explore and provide continued ACE/ TIC training, including Paper Tigers, ACE Interface and Resilience training throughout the community.
- Send panel representatives to the National Citizens Review Panel conference and state CRP meeting in 2017.
- Identify and engage new members, including citizens and adults formerly in foster care.
- Consider funding requests from the Department of Social Services that align with Citizens Review Panel projects or plans. To date, this includes funding for redecorating the CFS space, purchasing 7 MyFi units for staff to improve efficiency, purchasing a laptop and upgrading building security.
- Participate in budgetary discussion to support the foster care position in the next budget.

Panel recommendations to improve child protection services at the local level: Following education and discussions relating to foster care placement and reunification practices, the panel recommended that CPS require the same level of oversight for family placement as for foster care placement. The panel also recommended additional funding for CPS to maintain the foster care position at a full-time FTE.

How did the local agency respond to your previous recommendations? The DSS supervisor informed the panel that there are statutes currently defining requirements for foster care providers and for parents, which are very different, and DSS follows those statutes during the reunification process. DSS staff are open to continuing to explore panel member concerns regarding expectations of parents when children are being returned to their care.

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. Our panel did not make any recommendations to improve child protection services at the State level.

Optional/additional information or comments: None

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!