

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

Name of Panel	Marathon County Citizen Review Panel
Contact Person & Title	Dawn Perez, Child Welfare Manager
Panel Chairperson(s)	Mary Schultz

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

The full committee met six times or bimonthly throughout 2016. The Executive Committee comprised of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Director of DSS and CRP coordinator (Child Welfare Manager) also met bimonthly. Subcommittees met as needed throughout the year.

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 Marathon County CRP reviews the DSS Annual Scorecard which provides federally required outcome data for the county as compared to the state on the most essential elements in child protective services. Members of the CRP participated in data collection related to child deaths, and consult regarding significant findings.

The CRP also monitors the case load trends, maltreatment reports, and resources available to DSS to try to ensure adequate capacity to respond to CPS needs.

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

The Marathon County CRP is informed routinely during their business meetings of any significant changes and trends occurring locally or at a state level, and evaluates potential outcomes for the CPS system. The panel is kept apprised of budgetary parameters and county resources to provide services to children and families, including mandatory and discretionary services.

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 Marathon County CRP participated in three community events in 2016: the Children’s Fest, CommUnity Fest and Early Years Coalition Health Fair. The panel displayed a message board providing information about the CRP. Pinwheels were shared

with children, and CRP approved written materials about keeping kids safe were shared with families. The CRP partnered with the Marathon County Early Years Coalition, which focuses on strengthening children's experience in early life (health, education, nutrition, safety, and nurturance) to bring a bigger impact to the events. In addition, this opportunity was used to recruit new members to the CRP and provide information about foster parenting opportunities.

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

Members of the CRP collaborated with DSS CPS staff to formally evaluate egregious incidents which occurred in 2015. A template was developed for evaluation of system wide issues. The review continued into 2016 and the findings were shared with the CRP. Several internal or cross system issues were identified to improve coordinated dissemination of information to clients, and to improve upon multi discipline consultation. In addition, several system wide issues were identified, including continued expansion on Safe Sleep education and abusive head trauma prevention. These focuses are supported by both the CRP and the Early Years Coalition.

In addition, there is a formal connection between the CRP and our Marathon County Child Death Review team for collaboration and evaluation on project partnerships.

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

- Attendance of one citizen and one staff member at the National CRP conference
- Participation in the Statewide CRP meeting
- Expansion of the education program of the Shaken Baby Simulator doll in the community and at the jail
- Inquiries to local school districts about the participation in a school based focus Journey Bus tour
- Support of the creation of short online videos, with the Early Years Coalition, on the topic of child safety
- Completion and distribution of "A Guideline for Discipline of Children" brochure
- Update of Marathon County Citizen Review Panel Brochure
- Recognition of Marathon County DSS employees for exhibiting core values of service and integrity, through their commitment and hard work responding to the large volume of CPS cases in 2016 – through providing a pizza lunch and thank you card
- Assessed membership requirements according to the by-laws and membership diversity, and recruited accordingly

Please describe any potential activities being planned for CY 2017.

- Participation in Hands around the Courthouse in April
- Continued inquiries to schools for participation in Journey Bus Tour
- Evaluation of available funding for Prudent Parenting support for foster parents

- Assist in foster care recruitment by receiving a brief presentation on what is required of foster parents to engage others in the community
- Updates on Marathon County's work on Trauma Informed practices
- Educational updates on statutory changes and substance abuse issues, as requested
- Present on Radio show

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

Continuing goal:

- The Marathon County CRP continues to support using data to enhance performance in child welfare and will remain active in reviewing key performance outcomes

New Goal:

- Continued efforts to recruit new foster parents to address the growing need for placements primarily due to the increase in heroin and meth in the community

How did the local agency respond to your previous recommendations?

The local agency provides staff support to the Citizen Review Panel and is collaborative about recommendations to improve CPS at the local level.

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:

Continuing recommendation:

- Ensure that mandated programs are adequately funded.

Example: Child in Need of Protective Services (CHIPS) petitions have doubled in Marathon County from 2015 to 2016. State and federal resources do not address the growth in the cost of services from out of home placement to in home services, and case management. Marathon County Board supported CPS by authorizing three new social work positions in late 2016 and 2017. This came at a cost to other mandated and important services. Additional funding of Child Protective Services by the state is required for effectively addressing the growing need.

- New recommendations:

1. DCF assist CRPs in defining their role in relation to oversight and support of the Juvenile Justice Community services, as this is under DCF's authority now.

Example: Juvenile Justice Services often overlap with CPS, yet TANF funds appear to be intended for CPS. Does the panel have a role or obligation to address JJ services in addition to CPS? Will there be direction provided?

2. The Marathon County CRP commends DCF and its partners for the creation of the 2016 CAN Prevention Month Toolkit, and requests to have additional efforts continue with even more advanced notice for effective implementation by the CRP, counties and the community.

Example: It takes many months of planning for effective community involvement. Receiving the toolkit in March does not provide adequate time for implementation of some activities by April.

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!