

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

Name of Panel	Wisconsin Youth Advisory Council
Contact Person & Title	Jameelah A. Love (President) Tina Czappa (Secretary)
Panel Chairperson(s)	Jameelah A. Love (President) Cameron Hunter (Vice President)

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

During 2016, the Wisconsin Youth Advisory Council (YAC) has had meetings at least once a month with their local regions or counties. Meetings occur quarterly with the statewide council. YAC had the honor of participating in the National Citizen Review Panel Conference in Phoenix, AZ and the Daniel Memorial ‘Growing Pains’ Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. In addition, the local YACs have worked on their own initiatives. Jefferson County, which is now part of region 5, has continued their work with the Jefferson County Big Brothers Big Sisters agency where they created a mentoring program that would match younger foster youth with older mentors who were once foster youth as well. Milwaukee County worked on sibling visitations and housing as their initiatives. Milwaukee County has been a part of panel presentations put on by UW-Milwaukee to speak on the importance of sibling visitations. Milwaukee has also presented to treatment foster parents, children's court judges and public defenders.

**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.
  - YAC participated in the 2016 statewide Citizen Review Panel conference
  - YAC conducted and participated in multiple meetings and discussions with child protection agencies pertaining to their responsibilities such as sibling visitations.
2. Evaluating local and State progress under the State CAPTA Plan.
  - Members Ashley Stokes and Desiree Parker continue to participate in State GAL workgroup.
  - Agrees to bring any information that was shared in the national conference back to our state YAC meetings
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.

- Members from Wisconsin Youth Advisory Council participated in the National Citizen Review Panel Conference in Phoenix, AZ
- Members attended the Daniel Memorial Youth Conference in Kansas City, MO
- YAC members spoke with Secretary Eloise Anderson committee regarding the importance of sibling visitation and increasing access to education.
- Members from the Wisconsin Youth Advisory Council participated in the State Citizen Review Panel meeting in the Wisconsin Dells

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

- YAC did not conduct any reviews of CPS cases, child fatalities or near fatalities.

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

- YAC members evaluated and provided feedback on a tool being developed by the DCF Screening and Identification Workgroup to identify victims of sex trafficking.
- YAC members participated on the evaluation committee regarding the regional Independent Living Services proposals
- YAC members presented at the Adoptions Conference and IL Regency Training regarding permanency, family connections, and youth voice.

**Please describe any potential activities being planned for CY 2017.**

- Statewide Citizen Review Panel Conference
- National Citizen Review Panel Conference
- Daniel Memorial Conference
- Adoption Conference
- Hands Around The Capitol Event
- Bureau of Youth Services Conference

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

- The YAC recommends local agencies advocate for transitional housing to assist youth with reaching independence.

**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:

- The YAC recommends for the state to decrease barriers for youth reaching independence such as increasing amounts of tuition waivers to make post secondary education more attainable and affordable.

- The YAC recommends the state to increase minimum monthly requirement of siblings visits to 1 visit a week with at least 2 visits in the month being a face to face interaction.

**Optional/additional information or comments:**

- Wisconsin Youth Advisory Council would like to express gratitude for the opportunities to have a voice for those who are currently in care and who are afraid to speak out. We are thankful for the opportunity to be a part of the CRP.
- YAC is looking forward to taking part in the 2016 National CRP conference and other opportunities to continue advocating for improvements in child welfare.

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