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Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Division of Safety and Permanence

June 27, 2018

Brent Ruehlow, Child and Family Division Manager
Laura Wagner, Initial Assessment/Access Supervisor
Jefferson County Citizen Review Panel
Jefferson County Human Services Department
1541 Annex Road
Jefferson, WI53549

Dear Mr. Ruehlow and Ms. Wagner:

Thank you for your timely submission of the 2017 Jefferson County Citizen Review Panel (CRP) 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 six recommendations to improve child protection services at the state level. A brief summarized statement of each recommendation and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) response follows:

1. More funding and training for prevention strategies.

This is a continued recommendation from Jefferson County CRP and the DCF continues to agree that prevention and early intervention are important for promoting the safety and well-being of children and families, recognizing that prevention is a community-wide responsibility. In-Home Safety Services (IHSS), of which Jefferson County is participating, offers funds to be used in providing in-home support related to child safety, and provides collaborative learning opportunities facilitated through the DCF. We are pleased that recent state legislation initiated by the Assembly Speaker's Task Force on Foster Care, 2017 Act 254, provides \$500,000 annually in new funding for child abuse and neglect prevention grants to counties tribes, and non-profit agencies. DCF will be providing information in the near future regarding the application process for the grants. We encourage Jefferson County to consider applying for the funding.

2. Additional funding or allocation for resources for trauma-informed care (TIC) training for law enforcement, schools, conferences, etc.

Beginning in 2016 and continuing through 2018, DCF has invested in a three-year expansion of the Wisconsin Trauma Project, which includes training for mental health clinicians, foster and biological parents, as well as kinship resources, social workers, guardian ad litem, and school principals, counselors and teachers. The project will continue in 2019 with a focus on sustainability of the investments made and continued needs for trauma-informed services and treatment throughout the state.

- 3. Increased communication and information sharing across departments and bureaus for counties.*

The DCF has instituted enhanced collaborative learning and information sharing among counties via webinars, group phone calls, cross-representation on DCF-led committees, and multi-program summits. The Bureau of Regional Operations also continues to support cross department and bureau communication providing comprehensive communications to counties when appropriate.

- 4. A requirement for all certified daycares to receive TIC training as part of the YoungStar rating.*

This recommendation was forwarded to the Division of Early Care and Education within DCF for further consideration.

- 5. More flexibility and ease in Ch. 54 guardianships for relatives.*

We invite the CRP to provide further detail regarding the type(s) of ease and flexibility that are of interest regarding probate guardianships related to relative placement so that we can determine how best to provide further consideration to these issues.

- 6. Add educational neglect into Ch. 48.*

The DCF is currently participating in a cross-agency work group facilitated by the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board that is reviewing the Chapter 48 provisions regarding child safety. We will bring your comments to the attention of this workgroup.

Thank you for your panel's continued dedication and efforts on behalf of Wisconsin children and their families.

Sincerely,



Fredi-Ellen Bove
Division Administrator