

Wisconsin Citizen Review Panel Annual Report
January 1-December 31, 2017

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

Briefly describe the panel’s meeting schedule – including number/types of meetings, and schedule of any subcommittee and workgroup meetings held in 2017.

The full committee met six times or bimonthly throughout 2017. 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.

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 2017: the Children’s Fest, CommUnity Fest and Hands Around the Courthouse. 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.

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 2017.

- Attendance of two citizens and one staff member at the National CRP conference
- Participation in ACES training
- Participation in the Statewide CRP meeting
- Expansion of the education program of the Shaken Baby Simulator doll in the community and at the jail
- Promotion of short interactive online videos from the Early Years Coalition, on topics of child safety: Safe Sleep, Car Seat Safety, and Shaken Baby prevention.
- 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 2017 – through providing a pizza lunch and thank you card
- Recognition of social workers during Social Worker Appreciation month- through providing cake and a thank you card to social workers
- Assessed membership requirements according to the bi-laws and membership diversity, and recruited accordingly
- Promotion and education of CRP on local radio show
- Support Trauma Informed Care enhancements to areas of MCDSS frequently utilized by children and families

Please describe activities being planned for 2018.

- Participation in the second annual Hands around the Courthouse in April for Child Abuse Awareness Month
- 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
- Assistance in Trauma Informed parent training in the community
- Updates on Marathon County's work on Trauma Informed practices
- Present on Radio show
- Create Marathon County CRP logo

- Evaluation of the creation of Marathon County CRP Face Book page
- Develop elevator speech to educate community about the purpose of CRP

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

Continuing 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

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 and reflective of increasing caseloads and workload demands.

Even though we are appreciative of the increase in base child welfare funding that was included in the last budget, state and federal resources do not address the growth in the cost of services from out of home placement to in home services, foster parent support, and case management. Additional funding of Child Protective Services by the state is required for effectively addressing the growing need.

Optional/additional information or comments:

Please submit the **completed CRP Annual Report** and the **panel's current membership list** to Paula Brown at Jamie.Gennrich@wisconsin.gov. The annual report and the DCF response to each report will be posted on the DCF Citizen Review Panel web page at <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/prevention/crp>. Thank you.