



201 East Washington Avenue, Room E200
P.O. Box 8916
Madison, WI 53708-8916
Telephone: 608-266-8787
Fax: 608-422-7158

Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Division of Safety and Permanence

June 27, 2018

Vicki Tylka
Marathon County Citizen Review Panel
Marathon County Dept. of Social Services
400 East Thomas Street
Wausau, WI 54403

Dear Ms. ^{Jicki}Tylka:

Thank you for your timely submission of the 2017 Marathon 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 two recommendations to improve child protection services at the state level. A brief summarized statement of each recommendation and the Department of Children and Families Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) response follows:

1. *Ensure that mandated programs are adequately funded and reflective of increasing caseloads and workload demands.*
2. *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.*

The Department continues to agree that supporting the county child welfare agencies that are serving families and protecting children is critical to achieving successful outcomes. We are aware of and share county concerns regarding the significant increase in child welfare cases since 2012. In recognition of the increased volume, workload, and cost of child welfare cases, the 2017-19 biennial budget bill provided \$5 million of additional funding annually to counties for child welfare services through the Children and Families Allocation (CFA) to help address these needs. As you know, the Wisconsin County Human Services Association has established a workgroup to examine trends in out-of-home cases and possible caseload standards. The DCF has been and will continue to participate in and support this WCHSA workgroup. The Department will take into consideration the views of the Marathon CRP and WCHSA regarding additional CFA funding as we develop the Department's biennial budget request.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fredi".

Fredi-Ellen Bove
Division Administrator