

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

Name of Panel:	Wisconsin State Youth Advisory Council
Contact Person & Title:	Tina Czappa (President)
Panel Chairperson(s):	Tina Czappa (President) ShawnaRae (Vice President)

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

During 2017, the Wisconsin State Youth Advisory Council (YAC) has had meetings at least once a month with their local regions. Meetings occur quarterly at the statewide council. YAC has had the honor of participating in the Daniel Memorial Conference as well as the National Citizen Review Panel Conference in Anchorage, Alaska. In addition, the local YACs have worked on their own initiatives. Region 5 has continued their work with Big Brothers Big Sisters where they partnered to create a mentoring program for foster youth called Foster Match. This program matches younger foster youth with older mentors who were once in foster youth as well. Milwaukee YAC worked on sibling visitations as well as a social media platform designed solely for foster youth. The platform is called Foster Faces and was created by a member on the Milwaukee YAC. Other initiatives that were worked on throughout the local councils included tuition waivers, obtaining driver licenses and education for youth in care as well as alternative options for housing programs to aid in reducing homelessness amongst foster youth.

Please provide a summary of the panel’s activities related to:

- **Evaluating the extent to which the State and the local child protection agencies are fulfilling their child protection responsibilities.**
 - YAC participated in the 2017 statewide Citizen Review Panel conference
 - YAC conducted and participated in multiple meetings and discussions with child protection agencies pertaining to their responsibilities in regards to sibling visitations

- **Evaluating local and State progress under the State CAPTA Plan.**
 - Agrees to bring any information that was gathered from the national conference back to our state YAC meetings.

- **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 the Wisconsin Youth Advisory Council participated in the National Citizen Review Panel Conference in Anchorage, Alaska
- Members attended the Daniel Memorial Youth Conference in Orlando, Florida
- Members from the Wisconsin Youth Advisory Council participated in the Wisconsin State Citizen Review Panel meeting in the Wisconsin Dells
- YAC members testified to the Task Force on Foster Care regarding the importance of sibling visitations, increased access to education, and the impact of large caseloads that case managers have which prevents quality management of foster youth

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 death fatalities

Please describe any other panel activities or issues addressed in 2017.

- YAC members presented on a panel at the BYS Conference
- YAC members provided feedback and insight on credit checks and credit fraud as experienced as a foster youth
- YAC members provided feedback on the Brochure for Foster Youth to College
- YAC members reviewed the Child Adolescent Needs and Strengths Tool and provided feedback on personal experience with case planning as a foster youth
- YAC members testified on various bills being proposed to the Governor's budget including tuition waivers for University and Technical Colleges
- YAC members presented at the 2017 Conference on Child Welfare and the Courts addressing a variety of barriers experienced by foster youth
- YAC members presented at the Bureau of Youth Services Conference as Ambassadors
- YAC members created an annual event called Hands Around the Capitol addressing difficulties experienced by foster youth as well as bringing awareness to foster care

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 transportation services for foster youth including but not limited to drivers education and licenses, opportunity for behind the wheel time in order to obtain a driver's license, as well as alternative programs that can assist with the financial costs of owning a vehicle or obtaining a bicycle.
- The YAC recommends local agencies advocate for transitional housing to assist youth with reaching independence as well as yearlong housing options for youth attending college.

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

- The YAC recommends for the state to increase the minimum monthly requirement of siblings visits to have a minimum of 2 visits a month being a face to face interaction as well as unlimited contact through other formats such as phone calls or social media. These should be conducted in a natural setting to nourish a healthy sibling relationship.
- The YAC recommends for the state to decrease barriers for youth reaching independence such as increasing the amounts of tuition waivers to make post-secondary education more attainable and affordable.

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 as well.
- YAC is looking forward to taking part in the 2018 National Citizen Review Panel 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 the State of Wisconsin Department of Children and Families by e-mailing to Jamie Gennrich 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.