

Wisconsin Citizen Review Panel Annual Report Information

January 1, 2018-December 31, 2018

Name of Panel:	Jefferson County Human Services
Contact Person and Title:	Laura Wagner-IA/Juvenile Court Intake Supervisor Brent Ruehlow-Deputy Director

I. REPORT OF 2018 ACTIVITIES:

1. Please describe the panel's 2018 meeting schedule. Please include the following specific information:

Our panel met every other month (6 times) in 2018 to approve activities, vote on topics and conduct working meetings. We did not have any formal subcommittees in 2018, but we did communicate via email in between meetings to conduct business. The co-facilitators did meet regularly to complete intersession work and report back to the group.

- a. The frequency and type of panel meetings;
 - b. The frequency and type of any subcommittee and workgroup meetings.
2. Please describe how the panel provided for public outreach and comment in order to assess the impact of current procedures and practices upon children and families in the community.

As a panel we have written articles for the newspaper describing our mission and goals while seeking feedback and recruiting panel members. We have also appeared on local radio in much of the same efforts. Additionally, we have an on-line anonymous portal to capture feedback from the public. Finally, we have representatives at two local Children's Fairs promoting Child Abuse Prevention month and soliciting feedback twice a year.

3. Please describe any case reviews conducted by the panel in 2018.
 - a. Our panel does not conduct case reviews, however we do have a CRP panel member whom leads the review team.
4. Please summarize any other panel activities or panel events that took place in 2018.
 - a. We took part in a Foster Care Back To School Drive where we purchased back packs and filled them with school supplies for our youth in care.
 - b. We continued our theme of Trauma Informed Care (TIC) and conducted a retention study with Human Resources as we examined the turnover in Child Welfare. From this data a survey was developed

exploring ways to support staff on the job. The results will follow in 2019. This initiative was a result of attending the National Conference.

- i. We sponsored a division wide event where peers recognized one another with a token and the winning team earned a sponsored lunch together. Teams were stratified across the entire division to encourage teams to spend time with new staff and others they may not work with as much.
- ii. We continued our lobby updates to build a more trauma informed entrance with updated color, pictures and a child's play area.
- c. Our panel collaborated with our local TIC trainer to develop a presentation for the legal community. We provided lunch and held it at the court house for our Judges, DA's office, Corporation Council, public bar, family court, clerk of courts and local GAL's. We had about 30 legal professional in attendance. This too will have additional follow up in 2019.
- d. We sponsored pro-social summer activities for at risk youth whom are currently Youth Justice and Child Welfare consumers (Dual Status).
- e. We participated in Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) month activities and sponsored signs, T-shirts and publications for the CPS team.

II. EVALUATION: In completing the evaluation portion of this report, please examine, to the best of your ability, the policies, procedures, and practices of State and local agencies, and where appropriate, specific cases.

1. Please provide an evaluation of the following:

STATE

- a. The extent to which the Department of Children and Families (DCF) is effectively carrying out the child protection responsibilities assigned to it under the State CAPTA Plan, and the Wisconsin Child Welfare Standards, which include the Child Protective Services Safety Intervention Standards, Access and Initial Assessment Standards, and Ongoing Services Standards.
 - a. Our committee noted that in terms of the ongoing standards and the family interaction policy, that electronic interaction should be sufficient in lieu of face to face in the winter or with out-of-state travel and placements now occurring.
 - b. The panel liked the changes associated with mandatory reporting of drug affected infants.
 - c. The panel commended Wisconsin for its membership in WIDEC, but paused with frustration that our panel was not able to get assistance from DCF to get our DEC panel up and going.
 - d. Our Panel appreciated the CAPTA requirement regarding CRP's and thought that the support they receive for that is tremendous.

Special Note :

If you wish to review any portion of the State CAPTA Plan in formulating your response, a copy of the Plan, and its most recent update dated June 30, 2018, are attached to this form.

If you wish to access any of the Wisconsin Child Welfare Standards in formulating your response, they are available through the following link:
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy?accactive=0>.

- b. The extent to which the DCF is effectively complying with any other criteria that the panel considers important to ensure the protection of children (e.g., the extent to which the State child protective services system is coordinated with foster care and adoption programs; a review of child fatalities and near fatalities).

LOCAL

- a. The extent to which local child protection agencies are effectively carrying out the child protection responsibilities assigned to them under the State CAPTA Plan, and the Wisconsin Child Welfare Standards, referenced above.
- b. The extent to which local child protection agencies are effectively complying with any other criteria that the panel considers important to ensure the protection of children (e.g., the extent to which the State child protective services system is coordinated with foster care and adoption programs; a review of child fatalities and near fatalities).
 - a. Jefferson County is an Alternative Response county and for engagement purposes that addition to CAPTA has been well received locally.
 - b. McKinney Vento Act and in any way CAPTA played a role in Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) has been a purposeful discussion with all school districts and JCHSD has agreed to pay 50% for all transports.
 - c. Jefferson County Human Services is a leader in most compliance tracked items such as OHC, IA completion and Face to Face contacts.
 - d. A number of panel members and Human Services staff have attended the Together for Children conference, in addition to having presented at a number of recent conferences.
 - e. Our co-chair is on the mapping team for the WI Act 78 Systems Change review.
 - f. Jefferson County has embraced the Wisconsin model for practice at division meetings and posters are placed throughout the conference rooms.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Please list any panel recommendations to improve child protection services at the State level.
 - a. Additional funding for prevention programming to avoid CPS involvement as outlined in The Raising of America.
 - b. More statutory flexibility to allow for the sharing of information between agencies and organizations.
 - c. More Trauma Informed Parenting support and resources.

- d. Support evidenced based programming for parents such as the Incredible Years (IY).
 - e. Add educational neglect to Ch. 48.
 - f. Add Medicaid allowable services to expand to offer additional preventative services.
 - g. Consider re-writing Ch. 54 to allow for easier navigation of Ch. 54 for minor guardianship.
 - h. Expand the definition of relative again and allow more benefits to “Like Kin” to promote more placements with family connections.
2. Please list any panel recommendations to improve child protection services at the local level.
- a. Additional services for fathers support.
 - b. Encourage municipal court and family court participants to receive services prior to CPS involvement.
 - c. More Trauma Informed Parenting opportunities for the public.
 - d. Build a Family Center for county wide utilization of services.
3. Please list any additional information or comments that the panel wishes to share.

Our panel is very appreciative of the opportunity to perform these types of proactive functions for our local community!

Please submit the **completed Citizen Review Panel Annual Report** and the **panel’s current membership list** to the State of Wisconsin Department of Children and Families by e-mailing to Alicia Breininger at alicia.breininger@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.