

Wisconsin Citizen Review Panel Annual Report Information
January 1, 2018-December 31, 2018

Name of Panel:	<i>Langlade County Citizen Review Panel</i>
Contact Person and Title:	<i>Stephanie Fassbender Coordinator</i>

I. REPORT OF 2018 ACTIVITIES:

1. Please describe the panel's 2018 meeting schedule. Please include the following specific information:
 - a. The frequency and type of panel meetings;
All member meetings occurred monthly throughout 2018.
 - b. The frequency and type of any subcommittee and workgroup meetings.
Our panel did not have any subcommittees or work groups that met separately from full member meetings throughout 2018.
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.

Our panel provided opportunities for public outreach and comment by participating in community events throughout the year. The panel's main public outreach campaign was aligned with National Child Abuse Prevention month. To celebrate and bring awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention our panel created a pinwheel and banner display, an informational display at our public library, had an article published in local newspapers, and distributed coloring pages and informational table tents to local restaurants. In written communication, whether in the article or on the table tents, we invited community members to contact our panel with questions or comments related to the panel or child welfare. We also collaborated with local school districts and art teachers to make pinwheels and pinwheel displays in their schools. Another event we participated in that generated conversation with community members is an event known as the Halloween Bash. The Halloween Bash is an event coordinated by our local Optimist Club at which community partners provide candy alternatives and health and safety information to families. Our focus at this event was bringing awareness to the need for foster care providers within our communities.

3. Please describe any case reviews conducted by the panel in 2018.

Our panel did not conduct any case reviews in 2018. However our panel has been discussing the implementation of case reviews, rationale for conducting case reviews, as well as how case reviews should be conducted. Our panel plans to begin conducting case

reviews after our members have a better understanding of the child welfare system and process.

4. Please summarize any other panel activities or panel events that took place in 2018.

In addition to our National Child Abuse Prevention Month activities and community collaboration our panel also thought it was important to recognize and support the child welfare workers in our community as well as foster parents. Our panel sponsored a professional development day for child welfare staff that started with a training on Secondary Traumatic Stress and concluded with a team building activity and meal. We also presented each staff member with a signed card and small gift to recognize their commitment to improving the lives of the children and families in our community. Our panel also wanted to recognize and show appreciation for foster parents so the panel provided each foster family with a signed card from the panel as well as a small gift to recognize the important role they play in child welfare. We also had two members attend the National Citizen Review Panel Conference and two members attend the State Citizen Review Panel Gathering.

- 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.

Our panel experienced a significant change in membership in the second half of 2017 and as a result planned to spend 2018 restructuring to establish a foundation and consistent membership. While our panel started 2018 with a solid membership and work plan we unfortunately again experienced a significant and unpredicted change in membership. While creating our 2018 work plan the panel had arranged for our CPS Liaison to provide our revised and committed membership with some education and training on the CPS process to include information on the Wisconsin Child Welfare Standards. Due to the significant change in membership and new members planning to join our panel in January 2019; our panel decided to postpone this education and training until January 2019. As a result we did not believe we had a great enough understanding of the child welfare system and standards to formally examine the extent to which the DCF effectively carried out the child protection responsibilities assigned to it under the State CAPTA Plan and the Wisconsin Child Welfare Standards. Our panel plans to spend time at upcoming meetings continuing the child welfare education and

creating a strategic plan and resource map so we are better able to fulfill our responsibilities as a Citizen Review Panel and abide by the responsibilities of the State CAPTA Plan.

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).

Our panel did not examine the extent to which the DCF was in compliance with other criteria that the panel considers important to ensuring the protection of children.

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.
- Reporting of child abuse and neglect including a state law for mandatory reporting on child abuse and neglect by certain individuals required to report such instances:
 - *Langlade County Department of Social Services, Social Work Supervisor, has been providing community education regarding the mandated reporting law to professionals and other community members who have regular interaction with children in the community.*
 - *The department accepts referrals of child abuse and neglect during office hours and at all other times through afterhours on call procedure.*
- Addressing the needs of infants born with and identified as being affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (including appropriate referrals to child protection service systems and for other appropriate services):
 - *If the Langlade County Department of Social Services receives a referral suspecting FASD it would be screened at access and then potentially opened for an assessment.*

- Including differential response in triage procedures for appropriate referral of a child not at risk of imminent harm to a community organization or voluntary preventive service:
- The Langlade County Department of Social Services has implemented alternative response procedures as an option for initial assessment.
 - Training in early childhood, child, and adolescent development for GALs appointed to victims of child abuse or neglect in cases which result in a judicial proceeding: appointed to victims of child abuse or neglect in cases which result in a judicial proceeding:
- Langlade County Department of Social Services does not provide any type of training to GALs.
 - Assuring that the state does not require reunification of a child with a parent who has been found by a court to have committed sexual abuse against a child of the parent or who the court has required to be registered in a sex offender registry under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006:
- Langlade County Department of Social Services follows state law in assuring that the reunification of a child with a parent who has been found by a court to have committed sexual abuse against a child of the parent or who the court has required to be registered in a sex offender registry.
 - Requiring criminal background checks that meet the requirements of section 471(a)(20) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 671(a)(20)) for prospective foster and adoptive parents and other adult relatives and non-relatives residing in the household:
- Langlade County Department of Social Services follows the state law that requires criminal background checks for perspective foster and adoptive parents and other adult relatives and nonrelatives residing in the household.
 - Technology system that support the child protective service system and track reports of child abuse and neglect from intake through final disposition:
- Langlade County Department of Social Services utilizes the eWisacwis system for all child abuse and neglect case reporting.
- 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).

Our Panel did not examine the extent to which the local child protection agency is effectively complying with any other criteria that the panel considered important to ensuring the protection of children.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Please list any panel recommendations to improve child protection services at the State level.

Our panel does not have any recommendations to improve child protection services at the state level

2. Please list any panel recommendations to improve child protection services at the local level.
 - *Implement CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for Children in Langlade County.*
 - *Allocate funds to provide all appropriate staff with individual cell phones to improve services by better supporting communication between clients and collateral service providers.*
 - *Allocate additional funds to be used to purchase appropriate and/or necessary items for children when initially placed in out of home care.*
 - *Create a position for/hire a lead worker to assist CPS supervisor with screening of reports and other supervisor responsibilities as well as to support staff in the event the supervisor is unavailable or out of the office.*

3. Please list any additional information or comments that the panel wishes to share.

As noted above our panel put significant effort into restructuring and strategic planning in 2018. While many of the projects we hoped to accomplish were not feasible due to logistics or membership we hope to use the information from lessons learned in 2018 as we prepare and plan for 2019. As we consider a strategic plan for 2019 we are focusing on educating members on CAPTA and child welfare, implementing case reviews after members have a better understanding of the child welfare process, and examining policies and procedures at both the state and local levels.

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.