

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

Name of Panel	Marathon County Citizen Review Panel
Contact Person & Title	Stacia Burrows, Child Welfare Manager
Panel Chairperson(s)	Alison Ritchie & Patrick Schmidt

I. REPORT OF 2018 ACTIVITIES:

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

*The full committee met six times or bimonthly throughout 2018. 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.*

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.

*The Marathon County CRP participated in several community events in 2018: Hand's Around the Courthouse (Child Abuse Awareness), Children's Fest, CommUnity Fest. 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 continues to partner 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.*

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

*Members of the CRP collaborated with DSS CPS staff to formally evaluate egregious incidents which occurred in 2017. A template was developed for evaluation of system wide issues. The review continued into 2018 and the findings were shared with the CRP. Several internal or cross system issues were identified to improve coordinated dissemination of information to clients, and to improve upon multi discipline consultation. In addition, there is a formal connection between the CRP and our Marathon County Child Death Review team for collaboration and evaluation on project partnerships.*

4. Please summarize any other panel activities or panel events that took place in 2018.
  - *Attendance of two citizen and two staff members at the National CRP conference*
  - *Participation in the Statewide CRP meeting*
  - *Member recruitment; assessed membership requirements according to the bi-laws and membership diversity, and recruited accordingly*
  - *Evaluation of available funding for Prudent Parenting support for foster parents*
  - *Expansion of the education program of the Shaken Baby Simulator doll in the community and at the jail*
  - *Financial support of the creation of short online videos, with the Early Years Coalition, on the topic of child safety i.e.: Be A Child SuperHero ([www.BeAChildSuperHero.com](http://www.BeAChildSuperHero.com)) on car seat safety, Safe Sleep education and abusive head trauma prevention*
  - *Update of Marathon County Citizen Review Panel website and online application*
  - *Recognition of Marathon County DSS child welfare social workers during Social Work appreciation month with a cake and thank you card*

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.

*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.*

- 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).

*The Marathon County CRP recognizes efforts put forth by DCF for recruitment of foster parent champions and providing trauma informed parenting education and resources.*

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.

*The Marathon County CRP identifies a strong technology system in eWiSACWIS to support the child protective service system and track reports of child abuse and neglect reviews. The CRP reviews DSS Annual Scorecard data which provides federally required outcome data for the County as compared to the State on the most essential elements in child protective services. Members of the CRP participated in data collection related to child deaths, and consult regarding significant findings.*

*CRP members are unaware of a current early childhood training for GAL's. In order to provide feedback, CRP's would need to be provided with DCF's training expectations for GAL's.*

- 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).

*The Marathon County 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.*

### III. RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

*Accessible access via DCF website, currently there is no link on the state website that allows individuals interested in becoming a foster parent to provide their contact information. Other states have a link to submit an individual's contact information in order to have follow up about becoming a foster parent. Barriers need to be removed that currently hinder potential foster parents from exploring and engaging in the licensing process for foster care. Examples of barriers include, DCF website is difficult to navigate to find information on foster care and is challenging to secure contact information on who local contacts are to inquire about foster care and how to get started.*

2. Please list any panel recommendations to improve child protection services at the local level.

*The Marathon County CRP supports the philosophy submitted by the State for the Performance Improvement Plan to mainstream child welfare duties.*

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

*What is the State's expectation for CRP's to evaluate child protective services as described in II. Question 1. State? Currently this is unclear and could be a topic for discussion at the State CRP Meeting.*

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](mailto: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.