

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

Name of Panel:	Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council (MCWPC)
Contact Person and Title:	Bridget Chybowski, Ongoing Services Section Chief
Panel Chairperson:	Dr. Michele Bria

**Please describe the panel’s meeting schedule – including numbers/types of meetings, and schedule of any subcommittee and workgroup meeting held in 2018. Please include the following specific information:**

The full MCWPC was scheduled to meet four times in 2018 on January 26, April 13, September 28 and November 30; two of the four times were community meetings at which the progress on *Jeanine B.*<sup>1</sup> Settlement Agreement was reviewed. The meetings on September 28 and November 30 were not formally convened due to lack of a quorum; however, information presentations were offered. The Health and Education Committee (HEC) scheduled meetings on January 26, March 14, and July 18; some of those meetings were not able to be held due to a lack of quorum but informational presentations were offered. The Critical Incident Committee (CIC) met on April 17 and reviewed seven cases.

**Please provide a summary of the panel’s activities in regards to:**

**1. Evaluating the extent to which the State and the local child protection agencies are fulfilling their child protection responsibilities.**

The MCWPC received regular reports from the Bureau of Performance Management detailing the Division of Milwaukee Child Protection Services’ (DMCPS) performance on metrics for child safety, permanency and well-being and *Jeanine B.* settlement progress. The MCWPC also received presentations from counsel for the *Jeanine B.* class and representatives of the ongoing case management agencies about settlement progress. The MCWPC reviewed those reports and presentations, and asked questions to learn more about child welfare practice in Milwaukee County.

**2. Evaluating local and State programs under the state CAPTA Plan.**

The MCWPC receives periodic statewide updates from the DMCPS Administrator, the Division of Safety and Permanence Administrator and Department of Children and Families Secretary regarding overall progress.

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<sup>1</sup> *Jeanine B. v. Walker*, Case No. 93-C-0547 (E.D. Wis.), a broad-based class action lawsuit alleging system-wide deficiencies in the Milwaukee child welfare system. The case was settled in 2002 and one required benchmark remains unmet and therefore subject to monitoring and enforcement. The lawsuit now is captioned *Jeanine B. v. Evers*.

**3. Activities relate to public outreach and comment to assess the impact of the current child protection procedures and practices on children and families in the community.**

All MCWPC meetings are open to the public with the exception of the closed sessions of the CIC. Members of the public are encouraged to comment and question on all child welfare related topics. There is time set assigned for public comments and questions.

**Did the panel conduct any reviews of CPS cases, child fatalities and near fatalities, if yes, please describe.**

The CIC met on April 17 and reviewed seven cases. The full MCWPC periodically reviews progress and recommendations of cases that child deaths, and serious and egregious incidents to ensure completion of all recommendations. The panel received an informational presentation on the new case review process for child deaths and egregious incidents, which has been implemented by DCF. In 2016, DSP implemented a new case review process for child deaths, and serious and egregious incidents, System Change Review for all counties with the exception of Milwaukee County. The System Change Review process was implemented with DMCPS in mid-2018 with the case reviews occurring in March 2019. The MCWPC identified as an area for further consideration the impact of the new process on the CIC case review process.

**Please describe any other panel activities or issues addressed in 2018.**

- Appointment of Dr. Michele Bria as Chairperson of MCWPC.
- The MCWPC was introduced to new leadership at DMCPS.
- Representatives from Collaborative Safety, LLC provided an informational briefing on best practices for the state's case review process – System Change Review to the MCWPC. DMCPS had several staff participate in the System Change Review training in 2018.
- The MCWPC continued to monitor DMCPS progress on addressing a backlog of initial assessments not closed in a timely manner.
- The MCWPC complaint resolution process and outcomes were reviewed.
- The MCWPC received periodic updates on DMCPS's Quality Parenting Milwaukee initiative and provided feedback to DMCPS.
- The HEC heard updates from DMCPS educational liaisons.
- The HEC discussed concerns regarding behavioral health services for children; understanding what is available, what populations are being served and the community access to services. The HEC identified there needs to be more consistent coordination between the systems regarding behavioral health of children served by DMCPS.
- The MCWPC learned about an evidence-based program that will assist children with self-regulation at Milwaukee County Children's Detention Center and funding by the Milwaukee County Youth Aids Division.

- DMCPS is participating in a four-year study regarding recruitment and retention with Quality Improvement Center Workforce Development. Make this relevant to MCWPC—was a presentation provided to MCWCP?
- MCWPC member, Assembly Representative Jessi Rodriguez outlined an overview of the Legislature’s Statewide Task Force on Foster Care that was charged with identifying strategies to improve the state’s foster care programs.
- DMCPS presented information regarding the Milwaukee County Circuit Court’s Family Drug Treatment Court.

I. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Please list any panel recommendations to improve child protection services at the state and local level.

The MCWPC did not make any recommendations to DCF in 2018. The MCWPC is working on identifying areas of interest to address in 2019 to give more opportunity for making systems recommendations.

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

None at this time.