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Governor Tony Evers  
Secretary Emilie Amundson

Division of Safety and Permanence

August 19, 2019

Betsy Byker, Coordinator  
Polk County Citizen Review Panel  
Essential Connections for Families  
2198 84<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Osceola, WI 54020

Dear Ms. Byker:

Thank you for your timely submission of Polk County Citizen Review Panel's annual report. This letter responds to the citizen review panel annual report response requirements set forth in the Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA).

The Citizen Review Panel submitted three recommendations to improve child protection services at the state level. A brief summarized statement of each recommendation and the Department of Children and Families Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) response follows:

1. *The panel continues to advocate for the state to consider revising the follow-up letter sent to mandated reporters following a report that is subsequently screened-out. The panel asks that wording be added that encourages reporters to continue reporting and that indicates that "information will be kept on-file should subsequent information arise."*

The current mandated reporter letter states: "Thank you again for your concern. If you have additional concerns, now or in the future, regarding maltreatment of this child/these children, please contact Child Protective Services at LOCAL NUMBER." The DCF supports revision of this letter to state "Thank you again for your concern. The report has been documented in an electronic record. If you have additional concerns, now or in the future, regarding maltreatment of this child/these children, please contact Child Protective Services at LOCAL NUMBER." The DCF will update the eWiSACWIS information system to incorporate this revision.

2. *That the DCF provide compensation for organizational costs and external stakeholder time to participate in inter-disciplinary collaborative meetings for initiatives such as DEC.\**

The DCF supports community wide inter-disciplinary collaboration and appreciates the panel's recommendation. We are continuously examining how best to apply funding streams to meet needs at the local level, and will continue to evaluate this with your recommendation in mind. However, our understanding with regard to compensation for external stakeholder time is that most employers are receptive to the idea of compensating their employees for time spent in inter-disciplinary collaboration.

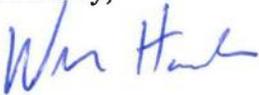
\* Based on verbal and written discussion with the Polk County Citizen Review Panel after the panel's submission of the 2018 CRP Annual Report this recommendation was modified to ensure accuracy to the DCF Response provided above.

3. *The panel suggests that the CRP state meeting be used to review the CAPTA plan with panel members to promote evaluation and support in their local communities.*

While the topics and speakers for the 2019 annual state meeting have already been selected and confirmed, we think the Panel's suggestion has merit and will take it into consideration when selecting future meeting topics and agenda items.

Thank you for your panel's continued dedication and efforts on behalf of Wisconsin children and their families.

Sincerely,



Wendy Henderson  
Division Administrator