



August 12, 2020

Emma Field, Coordinator  
St. Croix County Citizen Review Panel  
St. Croix County Department of Health & Human Services  
1752 Dorset Lane  
New Richmond, WI 54017

Dear Ms. Field:

Thank you for your timely submission of St. Croix 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).

- 1. The CRP would like to recommend that the State implement guidelines for Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) and that the receiving state would handle the transitions, approvals, background checks and housing visits rather than the state sending.***

The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) is a compact between states that was codified into Wisconsin state law. The compact provides guidelines for the responsibilities of both the sending and receiving states. Ongoing Services Standards includes specific guidance on the responsibilities of each state. The receiving state is responsible for completing home studies (including background checks and approvals), as well as supervision. The guidance can be found starting on page 242 of Ongoing Services

Standards: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/policy/pdf/ongoing-services-standards.pdf>. Additionally, the DCF has many resources to aid local child welfare agencies understand the ICPC process and what their responsibilities are under this compact. Recorded webinars, quick reference guides, and contact information can be found on our website: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/icpc>.

- 2. The CRP would like to recommend that the State require all CPS supervisors and caseworkers to be required to attend trainings on the topic of Domestic Violence within the Foundations Training. Topics should include how secondary trauma of domestic violence affects children, dynamics of domestic violence within the family system, how to write victim-centered recommendations in CPS reports, trauma-informed training on interacting with victims (body language, demeanor, voice).***

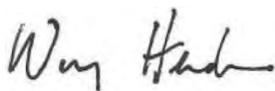
Domestic violence is prevalent both nationally and locally. Its impact on children is pervasive and profound, and additional attention to this problem is warranted. All child welfare professionals in Wisconsin are required to participate in pre-service and foundation trainings. Current pre-service modules include Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment and Trauma, and additional education is offered in the Trauma Informed Practice foundation training, which was revised and updated as recently as February 2020. The totality of these trainings address many components outlined in your recommendation including the effects of secondary trauma on children, dynamics of domestic violence within family systems, and trauma-informed approaches in interacting with individuals. The particular consideration regarding writing victim-centered recommendations in CPS reports is not explicitly covered in our current training array, and the DCF would welcome further discussion and additional consideration of this.

**3. *The CRP recommends to the State that there be a State Task Force to improve Guardian Ad Litem requirements and increase the required legal continuing education.***

The DCF appreciates the critical role Guardian Ad Litem play in our state's child welfare system, particularly in representing the specific interests and needs of the children they represent in the court process. DCF will advance this request to the state's Children's Court Improvement Program for consideration.

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

Sincerely,



Wendy Henderson  
Division Administrator