



**2020**

**Wisconsin Citizen Review Panel  
Annual Report**

January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020

**Name of Panel: Marathon County Citizen Review Council  
Panel Contacts: Christa Jensen, Panel Coordinator**

## Table of Contents

Submission Information/Notes	Page
2	
Section 1: Report of 2020 Activities	Page
3	
Section 2: State Evaluation	Page 4
Section 3: Local Evaluation	Page 5-6
Section 4: Recommendations	Page
7	
Section 5: Panel Membership List	Page 8-9

---

### Submission Information

Please submit the completed report and a current panel membership list to the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families by emailing both documents to Sarah Hanson at [sarah.hanson1@wisconsin.gov](mailto:sarah.hanson1@wisconsin.gov) by **February 1, 2021**.

---

#### Notes:

If you wish to review any portion of the State CAPTA Plan and its most recent updates in formulating your response, a copy of the Plan is attached to this report, and the 2020 updates are available through the following link: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cqi-cfsr/pdf/report/apsr.pdf> (see page 14). 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>.

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> no later than six months after receipt of each report.

## **Section 1: Report of 2020 Activities:**

1. Please describe the panel's 2020 meeting schedule, including the frequency and type of panel meetings; and the frequency and type of any subcommittee and workgroup meeting.

*The full CRP committee meetings were held every 2 months on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday starting in February for an hour and a half. The CRP Executive Committee comprised of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Director of DSS and CRP Coordinator (Child Welfare Manager) also met bimonthly. Subcommittees did not meet in 2020 due to COVID-19.*

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.

*Due to COVID19, the typical outreach events such as Hand's Around the Courthouse (Child Abuse Awareness), Children's Fest, and CommUnity Fest were cancelled in 2020.*

3. Please describe any case reviews conducted by the panel in 2020.

*No case reviews were held in 2020. Planning for case reviews in 2021 is in process.*

4. Please summarize any other panel activities or panel events that took place in 2020.

*Due to COVID-19, many of the planned events were cancelled.*

*A community event to support RISEUP in Marathon County was held wherein foster parents and social workers worked together to paint a portion of a community mural, supporting victims. A description of the mural is described as "Whenever someone loses their life to domestic violence, a lantern is lit in their memory. The lanterns floating in the dark serve as a reminder of those who have been lost. The central, unlit lantern represents a survivor of domestic violence being supported by the hands of the community. Glowing with colorful light, the survivor faces a future with their eyes raised. They have emerged from the darkness and are looking toward the future. The profile on the left is of a child to represent the innumerable children affected by domestic violence. There are shadows that represent both the community at large that supports survivors and/or the larger community of survivors that have found their way out of abuse. Two aspects of the mural are made to be interactive. People can either 'step into the shadows' and take a picture of themselves as a part of the group of shadows, or pose their hands under the lantern to be additional hands of support*

*Member recruitment was a focus in 2020; assessed membership requirements according to the bi-laws and membership diversity, and recruited accordingly.*

*Recognition of Marathon County DSS child welfare social workers during Social Work appreciation month with a cake and thank you card.*

**Section 2: State 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:
  - a. The extent to which the Department of Children and Families (DCF) is effectively carrying out the **two below listed** child protection responsibilities assigned to it under the State CAPTA Plan, and the Wisconsin Child Welfare Standards (Child Protective Services Safety Intervention Standards, Access and Initial Assessment Standards, and Ongoing Services Standards).

**Integration of Family Participation in Case Planning into the Ongoing Services Standards and Integrated Case Planning:**

*The expansion of IHSS into TSSF has allowed for utilization of this funding with a wider demographic of families and therefore the ability to provide services in a more creative manner. These funds directly support serving children in their custodial homes and thus engaging families further in their case planning.*

*Strategic planning that is underway for implementation of FFPSA.*

*DCF has provided several foster home/parent related grants in 2020: Foster Home Recruitment Grant, Act 260 Foster Parent Grant, Foster Home Licensing Subcontract Grant, and Foster Parent Champion Grant (addressing normalcy activities and retention).*

**Cross System Collaboration Between CPS and Domestic Abuse Programs:**

*DCF has encouraged cross system collaboration as evidenced by continued support for facilitation of MOU's between domestic violence and County agencies.*

- 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):

*Funding that has been provided to serve families in home and to support recruitment and retention of foster parents has been very beneficial. The Safety Action Workgroup, FFPSA workgroup, and Permanency Plan review are a few of the positive developments over the last year by DCF.*

### **Section 3: Local 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:

- a. The extent to which local child protection agencies are effectively carrying out the **two below listed** child protection responsibilities assigned to them under the State CAPTA Plan, and the Wisconsin Child Welfare Standards, referenced above.

#### **Integration of Family Participation in Case Planning into the Ongoing Services Standards and Integrated Case Planning:**

*MCDSS has participated in IHSS since its inception and has continued to participate through TSSF funding in 2020. TSSF has aided in familial engagement as it has allowed for creative case planning to allow for children to not be formally removed from the home. Additionally, the expansion of the program allowed for additional families to be served and to utilize the program to aid in reunification.*

*MCDSS has participated in many workgroups developed in 2020 throughout the state, such as the safety Action Workgroup, FFPSA workgroup, and the Permanency Plan review. Marathon County also has a Judicial Engagement Team which has focused on discussion around ensuring trauma informed and behaviorally based conditions are established and ensuring families and attorneys understand the role and goal of CPS.*

#### **Cross System Collaboration Between CPS and Domestic Abuse Programs:**

*In 2016, MCDSS and The Women's Community completed a joint application to participate in a grant funded technical assistance program to develop Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). As a direct outcome to the facilitation that we received, our agencies co-facilitate trainings that all staff are invited to attend and have responded to opportunities to learn with and from each other to address pertinent topics to Marathon County and the State.*

*MCDSS wrote a letter of support for The Woman's Community in the Fall of 2020 to advocate for the continuation of Domestic Abuse Children's Programming in our community.*

*MCDSS is a participating member of the Marathon County Domestic Awareness intervention Team.*

*The Women's Community is invited to attend all forensic interviews of children to offer support to the family as well as are a member of our multi-disciplinary team meetings. In addition, our Child Welfare Manager and The Women's Community's Executive Director meet on a quarterly basis to ensure a strong collaborative working relationship.*

- 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).

*Marathon County is a regular participant in systems change review mappings, has a Child Death Review Team, and participates on a number of committees and workgroups which are centered on discussions of how to move our system forward to better serve families in their home communities as we move to implement the FFPSA.*

*Marathon County has a Community Response Program and partners with programs such as Start Right to aid in the prevention of child abuse. Virtual Mandated Reporter trainings were completed in 2020.*

*To aid in the retention and recruitment of foster parents, Marathon County continues to partner with Welcomed to provide presentations and the development of care communities to area churches. Additionally, a Marathon County foster care Facebook page was created as well as a virtual foster parent support group; the website is undergoing enhancements. The foster parent inquiry packet was updated and foster care presentations were completed virtually. Although many of the in person retention activities planned were cancelled due to COVID 19, foster families were supported through gift baskets, meals, and opportunities for individual family outdoor events.*

**Section 4: Recommendations**

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

*Continued funding and expansion of funding of programs similar to TSSF, so that creative preventive services can be implemented with families to return children to their parental home or help children remain in their parental home*

*Support to counties and community agencies to implement Evidence Based Practices supported by the IV-E Evidence based prevention clearinghouse and which are contained within WI 5 year plan.*

*Continued funding and expansion of funding of programs to aid in the retention and recruitment of Foster Parents.*

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

*Marathon County's CRP plans to conduct case reviews in 2020*

*Marathon County will continue to participate in DCF workgroups which support the implementation of the FFPSA.*

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

[Empty box for additional information or comments]