



2020

**Wisconsin Citizen Review Panel
Annual Report**

January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020

Name of Panel: Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council

Panel Contacts: Bridget Chybowski, Panel Coordinator

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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 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 Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council (MCWPC) conducted three public meetings in 2020. The dates of the meetings were 7/24/2020, 9/25/2020, and 11/20/2020. A meeting was originally to occur on 3/27/2020 but was rescheduled to 6/19/2020 due to Governor Evers' Emergency Order #5. The meeting was then rescheduled to 7/24/2020 in observance of Juneteenth. All meetings were conducted over Zoom due to the COVID-19 public health crisis. The MCWPC has three subcommittees: the Critical Incident Committee, the Health and Education Committee, and the Out-of-Home Care Committee. The Critical Incident Committee met on 11/23/2020 and the Health and Education Committee met on 12/17/2020 in public meetings over Zoom. The Out-of-Home Care Committee did not meet in 2020.

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 MCWPC conducted all its 2020 meetings in a public forum to allow for community participation. The MCWPC did not have any closed session meetings in 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meetings were adapted to a digital platform to ensure continued accessibility to members and community partners. The meeting notices were published in accordance with public meeting practices. Members of the public were encouraged to comment and ask questions on all child welfare related topics. Each meeting included time on the agenda for community input and questions.

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

The MCWPC did not conduct any case reviews in 2020. On 11/23/2020, the Critical Incident Committee received education from the DCF Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) on the state's critical and egregious incident review: System Change Review process in 2020. The Critical Incident Committee started the work to determine how the state case review process would impact the panel's case review process.

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

The MCWPC continued to monitor DMCPs' progress on the Jeanine B. Settlement Agreement. The progress was reviewed at the July 24, 2020 and September 25, 2020 meetings. The MCWPC received presentations on DMCPs' response to COVID-19 and its impact on agency operations. The MCWPC received a presentation on the Family First Prevention Services Act and Child Welfare Transformation by DSP. The MCWPC nominated members to all standing committees in Fall 2020; two of standing committees conducted meetings in Winter 2020. The MCWPC had two members leave the Committee. Dr. James Topitzes requested to leave the MCWPC. Rep. Jocasta Zamarripa did not run for re-election to the State Assembly, her appointment to the MCWPC ended. All new and current members listed in section 5.

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 the Child Welfare Practice Model into the Ongoing Services Standards and Integrated Case Planning:

The Child Welfare Model for Practice principles are incorporated in Child Protective State Standards, policies, and procedures. DCF continued to partner with Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System to implement the Child Welfare Model for Practice within the trainings provided to private and public child welfare staff.

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

DCF recognizes the importance of family connections and participation in case planning. DCF and its Milwaukee County ongoing case management contractor agencies continued to implement strategies to promote family participation in the case plan. Formal training related to case planning was provided by the state's Child Welfare Professional Development System to enhance child welfare staffs' skills in engaging families in the case planning process. The Ongoing Standards provide guidance related to engagement of families including but not limited to family teaming.

- 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 MCWPC does not have input on the extent to which DCF is complying with other criteria that impacts the protection of children at the state level.

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 the Child Welfare Practice Model into the Ongoing Services Standards and Integrated Case Planning:

Under the supervision of DCF, DMCPs has implemented the Wisconsin Model for Practice and continues to follow all CPS State Standards which direct and guide DMCPs' work and the work of its contractor agencies with children and families.

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

DMCPs works with families to ensure the safety and well-being of children. DMCPs recognizes the importance of the family voice and familial connections and requires family teaming for all DMCPs families. Each ongoing case management agency has developed and implemented strategies to promote family participation in the case plan.

- 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 MCWPC has not identified any other criteria of importance for DMCPs at this time.

Section 4: Recommendations

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

The MCWPC did not make any recommendations at the state level in 2020. The MCWPC is working on identifying areas of interest to address in 2021-2022 regarding systems recommendations.

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

The MCWPC did not make any recommendations at the local level in 2020. The MCWPC is working on identifying areas of interest to address in 2021-2022 regarding systems recommendations.

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

None at this time.