



July 26, 2021

Betsy Byker, Interim Co-Coordinator
Marla Butler, Interim Co-Coordinator
St. Croix County Citizen Review Panel
St. Croix County Department of Health & Human Services
1752 Dorset Lane
New Richmond, WI 54017

Dear Ms. Byker and Ms. Butler:

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).

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

- 1. The CRP would like to recommend that the state require all Child Protective Services (CPS) supervisors and caseworkers 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).**

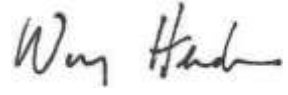
DCF recognizes that this is a continued recommendation from last year. Wis. Stat. § 43.04(1) requires that all child protective services professionals complete pre-service training before providing primary case management functions. Additionally, Wis. Stat. § 43.04(2) directs that child protective services professionals' complete foundation training within two years of the effective date of their employment. Both the pre-service and foundation trainings include a section on Domestic Violence. The topics of trauma and trauma-informed practices are covered in pre-service training as a stand-alone, web-based module. The totality of the pre-service and foundation trainings addresses 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 consideration regarding writing victim-centered recommendations in CPS reports is not explicitly covered in the current training array, and DCF would welcome further discussion and additional consideration of this area as part of future training enhancements.

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

Betsy Byker
Marla Butler
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Henderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W" and a long, sweeping underline.

Wendy Henderson
Division Administrator