



July 26, 2021

Faith Price, Coordinator
Wisconsin Youth Advisory Council
Department of Children and Families
Division of Safety and Permanence
Bureau of Youth Services
201 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8916
Madison, WI 53708-8916

Dear Ms. Price,

Thank you for your timely submission of the Youth Advisory Council Citizen Review Panel's 2020 annual report in compliance with the Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). This letter responds to 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 YAC recommends for the state to implement Independent Living Services through the age of 23. This would guarantee continued care for the young adults who receive an Independent Living Worker before and after the age of 21.

DCF supports the extension of Independent Living (IL) services through the age of 23 and the benefits these services would provide for youth. To service more youth for a longer period and provide IL services across the state, DCF needs an increase in dedicated funding to ensure services are meaningful and sustainable.

As a part of the Federal Stimulus Bill signed in December 2020, states' Independent Living Programs received additional funding to support their programs. While proposals included in the 2021-2023 Executive Budget were not advanced by the legislature, DCF remains committed to exploring ways to ensure funding is available to expand eligibility and services to Wisconsin youth longer-term.

The Division continues to acknowledge and appreciate the continued efforts put forth by the Youth Advisory Council for their continued advocacy on behalf of youth.

Sincerely,

Wendy Henderson
Division Administrator