



2021 Wisconsin Citizen Review Panel Annual Report

Due By:
March 1, 2022

Submission Information

Please submit the completed report to the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families by emailing the completed document to Sarah Hanson at sarah.hanson1@wisconsin.gov by March 1, 2022.

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 was included in the email along with this report and the 2021 updates are available through the following link:

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cqi-cfsr/pdf/report/apsr21.pdf>

The 2021 CAPTA Requirements and updates can be found in Section D (pg. 3) of the Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR).

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>

| Citizen Review Panel Information | |
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| Citizen Review Panel Name | |
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| Coordinator 1 Name | Email Address |
| Brent Ruehlow | BrentR@Jeffersoncountywi.gov |
| Coordinator 2 Name (if applicable) | Email Address |
| Laura Wagner | LauraW@Jeffersoncountywi.gov |

Section 1: Report of 2021 Activities

1. Please describe the panel's 2021 meeting schedule, including the frequency and type of panel meetings, and the frequency and type of any subcommittee and workgroup meetings.

Our CRP met four times in 2021, all virtually due to the pandemic. As indicated in years' past, we do not have formal sub-committees per se, but we do conduct inter-meeting work via email, sharing updates and work product to seek feedback and approval.

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.

Our panel reports out our mission and duties to the community through several mechanisms that allow for feedback. For example, we give presentations to local service groups, Human Services Board, law enforcement meetings, and pupil services staffings to raise awareness of our CRP and its mission, as well as to solicit feedback. In past years we were able to have community wide meetings, inviting stakeholders to the table; however, the pandemic did not allow for that in 2021.

3. Please describe any case reviews conducted by the panel in 2021.

Our panel has not traditionally conducted case reviews.

4. Please summarize any other panel activities or panel events that took place in 2021.

Our panel prioritized assisting the Drug Endangered Children/Children in Crisis (DEC) committee to continue evolving by supporting attendance and participation in the National DEC Conference for local law enforcement, as well as Human Services staff. Our panel also purchased two curriculums for use with our local municipal judges and school districts titled "Drugs, Alcohol and Vaping" and "Sexting and Social Media." These are being used proactively with various districts to raise awareness and deter future child welfare involvement. We also purchased copies of Dr. Bruce Perry's book titled "What happened to you?" for use with foster parents in order to increase their understanding of trauma in hopes of reducing turnover in placements. Our panel also felt strongly that we need to continue to support parents during the pandemic so we purchased gas and grocery gift cards for families in need. Finally, we kept the tradition of recognizing staff and all that they do with employee appreciation mugs.

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 **at least one and up to three of the 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).

***Choose at least one and up to three of the following CPS Responsibilities:**

- CPS & Law Enforcement Agencies
- CPS & Domestic Abuse Programs
- CPS & Health Care Professionals
- CPS & Tribal CW Agencies
- CPS & the Judicial System
- CRP Support
- Integration of the CW Practice Model into the Ongoing Services Standards and Integrated Case Planning; Training
- Integration of Family Participation in Case Planning into the Ongoing Services Standards & Integrated Case Planning
- Safety & Stability of Children Placed in Relative or Foster Care
- Predictive Risk Model
- WI Act 78 & Systems Change Review
- CPS & Child Abuse Prevention

| Chosen CPS Responsibility #1 | |
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| | CPS and Judicial System: Our panel believes that DCF is doing a tremendous job in this area, given the outreach and education provided to the court system on current topics, laws, initiatives, best practice and Family Find in particular. Additionally, the CW and the Courts Conference is a prime example of this outstanding work. |

b) The extent to which 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 CPS system is coordinated with foster care and adoption programs; a review of child fatalities and near fatalities):

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 **at least one, and up to three of the below listed*** child protection responsibilities assigned to them under the State CAPTA Plan and the Wisconsin Child Welfare Standards, referenced above.

***Choose at least one and up to three of the following CPS Responsibilities:**

- CPS & Law Enforcement Agencies
- CPS & Domestic Abuse Programs
- CPS & Health Care Professionals
- CPS & Tribal CW Agencies
- CPS & the Judicial System
- CRP Support
- Integration of the CW Practice Model into the Ongoing Services Standards and Integrated Case Planning; Training
- Integration of Family Participation in Case Planning into the Ongoing Services Standards & Integrated Case Planning
- Safety & Stability of Children Placed in Relative or Foster Care
- CPS & Child Abuse Prevention

| Chosen CPS Responsibility #1 | |
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| | <p>Locally, the panel has witnessed the coordination with law enforcement overall and specifically as it relates to the Drug Endangered Children (DEC) initiative that was sponsored by the CRP. We have added members of law enforcement to the panel throughout the years and the panel has heard details of the collaboration and execution of the standards as it relates to our law enforcement partners. One final example worthy of note is the case reviews conducted between law enforcement and JCHSD as they debrief DEC cases around what worked well, along with areas of growth for future partnerships.</p> |

- 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).

Section 4: Recommendations

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

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| Recommendation 1 | The panel would like to see more support for "like kin" providers in an effort to keep children with familiar faces. Specifically, funding and support as we see with traditional foster parents. |
| Recommendation 2 | The panel asked about additional support for local group homes as to avoid residential placements and the use of out of state providers. |

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

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| Recommendation 1 | The panel is interested in hearing more about what the community can do locally to help with the emerging mental health crises and access to treatment for our children in the system. |
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3. Please list any additional information or comments that the panel wishes to share.

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| The panel once again wants to share its appreciation to DCF for the opportunity to be a site for CRP activities. Additionally, the panel pointed out their delight with the subsidized guardianship funding for counties and how that impacts CW. |
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Section 5: Planning for 2022

In this section, please outline between one and three of the above mentioned CPS Responsibilities to focus the panel's efforts on for the year of 2022. This does not mean the panel cannot change their focus and/or activities throughout the year. The purpose of this section is simply to plan ahead for the panel's efforts and activities in the coming year.

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| Anticipated CPS Responsibility #1 | Child Welfare and DV |
| Anticipated CPS Responsibility #2 | CPS and Child Abuse Prevention |

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| Anticipated Efforts and Activities Related to CPS Responsibilities in 2022: |
| The development of local resources for schools and families related to anxiety from the pandemic. Other plans include the contribution to the local Talk Read Play Center for children, focusing on early reading and the lifelong benefits that has on development. |



Other Anticipated Efforts and Activities in 2022 (Not related to chosen CPS Responsibilities):

Our panel plans on holding a community wide CPS awareness meeting in 2022, inviting stakeholders and the community at large to walk through mandated reporting, reporting CPS issues, screening a call and decision making that the department goes through. This has been successful in the past and eye opening for many, while making our work transparent.