



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	
Citizen Review Panel Name	
Coordinator 1 Name	Email Address
Stephanie Fassbender	sfassbender@co.langlade.wi.us
Coordinator 2 Name (if applicable)	Email Address

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.

The panel met monthly except during the months of July, October, and November. All of our meetings were whole group meetings. Our panel did not have any subcommittee or workgroup meetings.

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.

In 2021 we used our pinwheel display as an opportunity for public outreach and in doing so opened the door for public comment. We construct our pinwheel display along our County Fairground fence which spans an entire block on the main road through Antigo. We received many comments from community partners and citizens as well as attention from local media. These conversations and publications gave panel members opportunities to discuss the reason behind the display and the important message it holds. Many people expressed that they were happy to see the display again after we did not construct the display in 2020, due to COVID-19. All other community events that we have participated in in the past were

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

The panel revised our Case Study Protocol in the beginning of 2021 and then conducted a mock case review during the month of April, using the revised protocol. The panel planned another case review for October but this was not completed due to only 3 panel members being in attendance. Members present at that meeting thought it was important to have representation from other sectors present in order for the case review to be purposeful and a fair use of the presenting worker's time. Our intention was, and is moving forward, to complete two Case Studies per year, during the months of February and October. Our panel contemplated conducting more case studies but decided we did not want to do more than what

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

The panel constructed our annual pinwheel display in honor of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The panel did not coordinate any additional activities for National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Only panel members and CPS staff were invited to help construct the display this year due to pandemic social gathering guidelines. Historically we've invited community partners and elected officials to the event. In recognition of National Foster Care month the panel provided gifts to all foster homes as a token of appreciation and gratitude. Additionally, the panel purchased gifts of appreciation for CPS staff during National Social Worker month. The panel also sponsored a staff development day for CPS staff.

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	WI ACT 78
	<p>Langlade County CPS staff report the WI ACT 78 & Systems Change Review being a very positive and valuable collaboration for the department. Specifically, staff noted the following about their experience regarding the WI ACT 78 & Systems Change Review process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it feels like a safe, non-blaming, and non-judgmental environment which is essential for learning to be possible. - it is helpful to have the opportunity to learn from the experiences of other departments and to be able to proactively apply that learning to our own policies and procedures - it is motivating that we can see the improvements that are being made and implemented across the system, as a result of this process - overall the process feels to have a very strengths based approach

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):

The panel does not have any input on the extent to which DCF is effectively complying with any other criteria the panel considers important to ensuring the protection of children.

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	
	Langlade County CPS reports having a positive working relationship with local law enforcement. The department and law enforcement currently have two MOUs. The first of which is a general MOU for conducting child abuse and neglect investigations. The other MOU was created specifically for child abuse and neglect investigations that involve drug endangered children. These MOUs really impresses upon those involved how to appropriately carry out investigations regardless of the case type. Outside of the MOUs there is positive interaction in day to day work, with law enforcement and social workers collaborating regularly.

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 panel does not have any input on the extent to which local child protection agencies are effectively complying with any other criteria the panel considers important to ensuring the protection of children.

Section 4: Recommendations

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

Recommendation 1	As it relates to the standards of work flow for Child Protective Services workers; the efforts of the state are appreciated however there's concern that even at the conclusion of this work the information and suggested workloads will not be feasible due to funding limitations. Effective changes will likely not be able to be implemented at the county level without additional funding from the state.
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2. Please list any panel recommendations to improve child protection services at the **local level**.

Recommendation 1	Our recommendation at the local level would be for decision makers to strongly consider investing in additional resources and CPS staff. This would allow for more appropriate caseloads and social workers to be able to dedicate more time to direct service.
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3. Please list any additional information or comments that the panel wishes to share.

The panel does not have any additional information or comments we wish to share at this time.

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.

Anticipated CPS Responsibility #1	Safety and Stability of Children placed in Relative or
Anticipated CPS Responsibility #2	CPS and Child Abuse Prevention
Anticipated CPS Responsibility #3	



Anticipated Efforts and Activities Related to CPS Responsibilities in 2022:

Examine current supports for Relative and Foster Care providers; coordinate/sponsor needed training/education for relative and foster providers. Support and promote the work of the Foster Care Support group. National Child Abuse Prevention Month Pinwheel Display. Community education and awareness relating to Trauma Informed Care, needed resources, and other identified topics.

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

Support involvement in Healthy Ways Community Walk. Support Family Support Program. Sponsor Foster Parent appreciation, CPS staff development day, staff appreciation and recognition.