



August 19, 2022

Stephanie Fassbender, Agency Liaison
Langlade County Citizen Review Panel
Langlade County Department of Social Services
1225 Langlade Road
Antigo, WI 54409

Dear Ms. Fassbender:

Thank you for your timely submission of the Langlade County Citizen Review Panel's report in compliance with the Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). This letter fulfills the citizen review panel annual report response requirements set forth in CAPTA.

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

- 1. As it relates to the standards of workflow 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.**

Experienced and passionate child welfare professionals are key to efforts to put families first. DCF acknowledges and appreciates the panel's recommendation regarding increased funding to ensure adequate staffing for child welfare agencies.

Part of DCF's [Putting Families First](#) initiative is "to support the workforce with solutions and improvements." DCF continues to consider efforts to streamline workload and child welfare practice expectations, while also modifying training to better meet the needs of all child welfare professionals in the state.

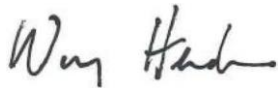
In the 2021-23 biennial budget, the Governor included an increase in the annual Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) allocation for safety services, including TSSF, by \$1,000,000 annually. As a result, in Fall 2021, DCF supplemented 2021 contracts for those agencies and tribes using TSSF with

a one-time funding increase from part of the funds allocated in the 2021-2023 biennial budget.

In addition, DCF will be distributing a total of \$10 million of excess earned federal Title IV-E foster care reimbursement funds from non-Milwaukee County child welfare administrative and out-of-home care expenses to all balance of state county and tribal child welfare agencies as part of the current TSSF program to help support families in-home. DCF anticipates being able to sustain annual allocation of at least \$5 million for future periods, but the exact amount of any additional funds to support the base TSSF awards will vary depending on excess IV-E generated in the previous state fiscal year.

DCF continues to acknowledge and appreciate the continued efforts put forth by the Langlade County Citizen Review Panel for their continued advocacy. Thank you for the time, energy, and commitment you have made to improve services for Wisconsin children and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wendy Henderson".

Wendy Henderson
Division Administrator