



## 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](mailto: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>

<b>Citizen Review Panel Information</b>	
<b>Citizen Review Panel Name</b>	
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### **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 full CRP committee met six times or bimonthly throughout 2021. The CRP Executive Committee comprised of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Director of DSS and CRP Coordinator (Child Welfare Manager) also met bimonthly. Subcommittees met as needed throughout the year. In addition, individual education sessions were provided to CRP members regarding Child Protective Services standards to prepare for CPS case reviews.

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.

Marathon County's CRP participated in several community events in 2021. We partnered with The Womans Community and the Child Advocacy Center for Child Abuse Awareness month, providing materials and a coloring contest for 3rd grade students. Additionally, the Marathon County CRP participated in Children's Fest in which the panel displayed a message board providing information about the CRP. Pinwheels were shared with children, and CRP approved written materials about keeping kids safe were shared with families.

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

In 2021, Marathon County Department of Social Services provided two education sessions to the citizen review panel, focusing on the roles and standards of Child Protective Services, access, initial assessment, and ongoing services. In December 2021 our first case review was held. A summary of the reason for ongoing CPS involvement was provided as well as the out of home placement information (including location of placement, length of placement and permanency outcome) and services provided to the family were reviewed. Additionally, strengths and complicating factors as identified by MCDSS were reviewed with the panel members. Following the case review, the panel had an opportunity to have a discussion surrounding the purpose of the review, which is to discover systemic issues within the scope of the CRP's mission and mandates.

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

Recognition of Marathon County DSS child welfare social workers during Social Work appreciation month with a cookie and thank you card. Participation in the Statewide CRP meeting. Appreciation to kinship providers with gift cards for family time out and a thank you card for what they do. Participation in early planning of RISE UP community painting murals for the new location of the DSS building - emphasis on family friendly.

**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	CPS and Tribal CW Agencies
<p>DCF exhibited strong leadership in their coordination and support of an Organizational Effectiveness (OE) initiative that sought to improve the relationships and connections between them, county child welfare agencies and tribes in 2021. The initiative resulted in several action items to improve the collaboration and coordination of ICWA cases in Wisconsin. Examples range from refreshing ICWA resources for county child welfare staff to a more involved action plan to develop structured ways to have formal collaboration on systems issues at a leadership level. DCF continues to express support for the work that resulted from the OE initiative.</p>	

Chosen CPS Responsibility #2	WI Act 78 and Systems Change Review
<p>DCF has continued to focus on ensuring our case review process aids us in learning about elements that could be improved upon within our practice and has rolled out workgroups to focus on identified areas. The Safety Action Workgroup has provided recommendations to the Continuous Quality Improvement committee (CQI) with recommendations at system level as this drives local level work. Significant focus has been placed on making improvements to Wisconsin's safety planning process, which will impact all areas of CPS.</p>	

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



<b>Chosen CPS Responsibility #1</b>	
<p>Marathon County's Multidisciplinary teams are generally comprised of individuals from Law Enforcement, Domestic Abuse programming, and Health Care professionals. MOU's are regularly updated with these partners to ensure positive working relationships and collaboration for the families we serve. Specific cases are reviewed on a consistent basis to ensure a seamless coordinated care effort and policies and procedures are updated as needed.</p>	
<b>Chosen CPS Responsibility #2</b>	
<p>With the rollout of FFPSA in October 2021 many local efforts have addressed the philosophical change that will need to occur with community partners to move this initiative forward. The Child Welfare agency has participated in the Judicial Engagement Team (JET) which brings partners on board and have engaged in multiple agency discussions around how to successfully accomplish this. Staff have also held retreats to talk specifically about further integrating family participation in case planning and also about how to recognize our own bias'. High level overviews of these initiatives supporting Family First Prevention Services Act have been shared with the CRP.</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**.

<b>Recommendation 1</b>	We are aware of the significant need for services for children and families whose children have complex care needs. Often, these children end up in very high level (often out of state) placements.
<b>Recommendation 2</b>	As we seek least restrictive placements, we recommend flexible alternatives for licensing of foster parents and kinship homes. The definition of kinship in support of family first is not the same definition wherein formal financial support can be offered to assist natural supports in maintaining these children.

<b>Recommendation 3</b>	Continued funding and flexibility around programs like TSSF are important to continue. These funding sources aid in maintaining families together and have helped to maintain children upon being reunified. Additionally, we advocate for the state to supply direct funding to counties for preventative programming, such as intensive in home services. Often, these programs are extremely costly to get started and counties do not have the funds alone to get these programs started.
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2. Please list any panel recommendations to improve child protection services at the **local level**.

<b>Recommendation 1</b>	With our initiation of our CRP case review, one early lesson was the importance of staff retention and avoiding reassignment of social workers as this contributed to a delay in perm and our CRP is committed to supporting the workforce to the degree they are able.
<b>Recommendation 2</b>	We will continue to seek support from our community in the philosophical shift regarding maintaining children in their homes and identification of supports and resources to make that aim possible.

3. Please list any additional information or comments that the panel wishes to share.

**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.

<b>Anticipated CPS Responsibility #1</b>	CPS and child abuse prevention
<b>Anticipated CPS Responsibility #2</b>	Safety & Stability of Children Placed in Relative or
<b>Anticipated CPS Responsibility #3</b>	

<b>Anticipated Efforts and Activities Related to CPS Responsibilities in 2022:</b>
Marathon County's CRP's 2022 work plan is as follows: 1) Assist in the creation of age-specific goals for foster home recruitment by completing church and community presentations and focus on targeted recruitment for homes willing to foster teens and those with complex care needs. 2) The CRP will be educated on FFPSA and explain community role. The CRP will assist in providing education to the community on the Family First philosophy and assist in identifying in home service resources. 3) CRP will complete systems case reviews twice per year. They will assist in identification of service gaps and/or supports needed to ensure timely permanency is achieved for families engaged in the CHIPS system. 4) CRP will participate in community events such as Children's Fest & CommUnity Fest. This will provide an opportunity for community support of children and families. 5) CRP will

8)

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

CRP continues to focus on Membership Recruitment, Retention, and Support with the intention that the CRP has fully-participating individuals representing a balanced cross-section of our community.