



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
Amy Elmer	amye@nwgcg.com
Coordinator 2 Name (if applicable)	Email Address
Robbyn Bowman	robbyn@frcscv.org

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 on a monthly basis with meetings occurring the 1st Thursday of the month from 8:00am to 9:00am. There were 10 meetings in 2021, as the committee did not meet in March or July. Due to COVID-19 and agency policies, these meetings have occurred over Zoom with each panel member in their own home/office. There were no subcommittee or workgroup meetings that occurred this year.

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.

Public outreach was difficult due to COVID-19 restrictions and limitations. However, the CRP was able to complete public outreach through multiple projects that benefited the foster care families throughout the county, as well as local nonprofits and school districts. Additionally, the CRP was able to assess current procedures through the case reviews that occurred.

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

Polk County completed two case reviews. The first case reviewed occurred on 3/11/21 and was related to a successful Child Protective Services (CPS) case. The second case reviewed was related to intergenerational involvement within the county system and occurred on 10/20/21. Polk County did not have a child death, serious injury, or egregious incident.

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

- ~ Provided funds to purchase Prevent Child Abuse month masks to be distributed at county wide events.
- ~ Purchased Fawn-Doe-Rosa tickets for foster families, respite providers, and staff at Polk County to attend an annual foster care event.
- ~ Purchased smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, diapers/wipes, and outlet protectors for the foster care program to distribute as needed to families
- ~ Purchased door prizes and rewards for attendees to a "Parent University/Family Day Out" event sponsored by the Polk County Mental Health Task Force and Unity School district.
- ~ Sponsored Drug Endangered Children (DEC) committee members to attend the National DEC conference.
- ~ Financially supported a local community service project to make fleece blankets for the foster care program.
- ~ Provided funds for Polk County Department of Children and Families to utilize in emergency situations to support children wellbeing.
- ~ Provided funds to purchase Prevent Child Abuse month (April) masks to be distributed at county wide events.
- ~ Purchased Fawn-Doe-Rosa tickets for foster families, respite providers, and staff at Polk County to attend an annual foster care event.
- ~ Purchased smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, diapers/wipes, and outlet protectors for the foster care program to distribute as needed to families
- ~ Purchased door prizes and rewards for attendees to a "Parent University/Family Day Out" event sponsored by the Polk County Mental Health Task Force and Unity School district.
- ~ Sponsored Drug Endangered Children (DEC) committee participants to attend the National DEC conference.
- ~ Financially supported a local day treatment program's community service project for their clients to make fleece blankets for the foster care program.
- ~ Provided funds for Polk County Department of Children and Families to utilize in emergency situations to support children wellbeing.
- ~ Provided funds to purchase Prevent Child Abuse month (April) masks to be distributed at county wide events.
- ~ Purchased Fawn-Doe-Rosa tickets for foster families, respite providers, and staff at Polk County to attend an annual foster care event.
- ~ Purchased smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, diapers/wipes, and outlet protectors for the foster care program to distribute as needed to families
- ~ Purchased door prizes and rewards for attendees to a "Parent University/Family Day Out" event sponsored by the Polk County Mental Health Task Force and Unity School district.
- ~ Sponsored Drug Endangered Children (DEC) committee participants to attend the National DEC conference.

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	Act 78 and Systems Chang
Act 78 requires the state to notify the public of child death, serious injury, and egregious or critical incidents due to maltreatment or suspected maltreatment. This appears to be effectively done through the email notifications of incidents. From that information the county is able to complete a case review with all participants. Polk County has used this information to guide their CRP case reviews	

Chosen CPS Responsibility #2	CPS and Child Abuse Prevention
Targeted safety support funds (TSSF) contracts to utilize funds from the state to try and keep children in their home. Polk County has been able to utilize these funds to assist a variety of services/supports for families. Funds increased last year and Polk County consistently exceeds the allotted amount on children’s protective plans and safety needs. Some examples of how Polk County has used the funds include hiring a cleaning company to clean the home of a family, paying rent for a month, assisting with heating and electrical bills, AODA testing/treatment for parents, and repairing cars so parents can attend scheduled appointments.	

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	CPS and Law Enforcement
Polk County currently rejuvenated DEC (Drug Endangered Children) procedures. During the past year, local agencies have held monthly meetings to discuss procedures and staff cases regarding child abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect cases. Local Child Protective Services (CPS) agency works collaboratively with members of the Drug Endangered Children (DEC) team (i.e., sheriff’s office, municipalities, detectives, DA office, etc.) to staff cases pertaining to search warrants and drug endangered children to ensure coordination and collaboration. Additionally, a Handle with Care initiative has been started with two school districts.	
Chosen CPS Responsibility #2	CPS and Tribal CW Agencies
Local Department of Children and Families (DCF) workers meet quarterly with local tribal departments and discuss and provide updates on cases that are in common and discuss ways to improve communication between agencies/programs. This has been a successful collaboration as local tribes have taken full jurisdiction of some cases.	

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**.

Recommendation 1	The current rule on relative placement through ICPC be changed to allow county workers to place with fit and willing relatives in other states prior to the completion of the ICPC process. This would especially be helpful as we are a boarding county with Minnesota and many of our family relatives live near the Twin Cities (which is less than an hour away).
Recommendation 2	Allow tribes to have full access to eWISACWIS so they can complete needed case notes and case work. Through the above noted collaboration with tribal leaders and Polk County Department of Children and Families, this has become evident as a needed change in order to improve collaboration.

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

Recommendation 1	Allow tribes to have full access to eWISACWIS so they can complete needed case notes and case work. Through the above noted collaboration with tribal leaders and Polk County Department of Children and Families, this has become evident as a needed change in order to improve collaboration.
Recommendation 2	Polk County CRP recommends that Handle with Care be implemented throughout the county with all 8 school districts, Head Start, and Northwest Journey (day treatment program). To provide a trauma informed approach to communication regarding the wellbeing of children.

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

Regarding the Annual Report: It would be extremely helpful if the annual reports and the fiscal year could coincide to be reporting on the same activities, rather than reporting on two different fiscal year events in the calendar year annual report. Additionally, the excel format is not conducive to ease of report completion

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	CPS and Health Care Professionals
Anticipated CPS Responsibility #2	Safety and Stability of Children Placed in Relative or
Anticipated CPS Responsibility #3	

Anticipated Efforts and Activities Related to CPS Responsibilities in 2022:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Financially supporting a training for county staff and provider related to technology, drug use, and prevention. 2. Supporting foster care parent/family events throughout the year including their annual summer family event and their Christmas event.

Other Anticipated Efforts and Activities in 2022 (Not related to chosen CPS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Providing funds to collaborate with other programs throughout the county to provide resource bags to all participants during the school districts early childhood screening days for Pre-K students.