



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 |
| Marla Butler | marla@frcscv.org |
| Coordinator 2 Name (if applicable) | Email Address |
| Betsy Byker | betsy.byker@unitedwaystcroix.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 St Coix County CRP scheduled 12 monthly meetings during 2021. Due to the pandemic we have had all meetings via ZOOM. Nine of twelve meetings were actually held, the others cancelled due to lack of attendance and not reaching a quorum.

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.

The panel has grown in the past 18 months from 4 to now 9 members. The panel has been intentional in recruitment of new members, being mindful of having all sectors of the community represented. The panel also collaborated with 7 school districts in our county in distributing masks with a child abuse prevention message to both students and staff.

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

June, 2021: Panel conducted a case review with local CPS staff. Case involved a child with disabilities and the use of community resources to support the family.
A second case review was planned for 2021 and rescheduled repeatedly due to CPS staff shortage and turn-over

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

The panel provided appreciation to CPS Staff by way of gift cards to a local coffee shop for all employees. Gift cards were also provided for CPS on-call staff to use to support children in transitioning from one home to another. Staff report using gift cards primarily for food and clothing. Several car seats were also purchased for staff to use and provide to families in need.

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 | Safety & Stability of Children Placed in Relative or Foster Care |
| If children are unsafe in their home the department makes a diligent effort for least restrictive placement of children with a relative placement. Department attempts to maintain some sort of normalcy for children that are placed out of home. This can include continued participation extra curricular activities. An example is if a child is age to get a drivers license the county may assist in supplementing that cost. | |

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):

| |
|--|
| Anytime there is an egregious incident or child death, in addition to DCF conducting a review the CRP is also doing case review studies. |
|--|

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: CPS and Law Enforcement attended the National DEC Conference in April 2021. This opportunity was supported by both the CRP and Local DCF. | |
| Chosen CPS Responsibility #2 | |
| St Croix County supports and coordinates a monthly committee meeting for the purpose of recruitment and retainment of foster parents. The meeting agenda include both providing of community events for foster families to attend as well as mentoring of new foster parents. An outcome of this is a mentoring for new foster families. | |

- 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).

| |
|---|
| Outcomes of this include: community events for foster families and the department, collaborative approach for a review with the department coming to the panel prepared and the panel listening and providing feedback. |
|---|

Section 4: Recommendations

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

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Recommendation 1 | Provide webinar training and clear expectations to new and existing Citizen Review Panel Members including exposure to the annual report changes as soon as they are available. |
| Recommendation 2 | |
| Recommendation 3 | |

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

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Recommendation 1 | In an efforts to provide the most useful informtion to both staff and panel regarding case reviews, we ask that SCC CPS work with local Citizen review panel to develop protocol to participate in case reviews and provide feedback following case reviews. |
| Recommendation 2 | |
| Recommendation 3 | |

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

| |
|---|
| Word document or fillable PDF for future reports. |
|---|

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 | 1. CPS and Law Enforcement: Research to examine |
| Anticipated CPS Responsibility #2 | |
| Anticipated CPS Responsibility #3 | |

| |
|--|
| Anticipated Efforts and Activities Related to CPS Responsibilities in 2022: |
| Continue to explore a DEC relationship between law enforcement and CPS. Continue to work on formalizing this relationship. |

| |
|--|
| Other Anticipated Efforts and Activities in 2022 (Not related to chosen CPS |
| Appreciaton meal/event for CPS in spring. |