



## 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>	
Wisconsin State Youth Advisory Council	
<b>Coordinator 1 Name</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Faith Price	<a href="mailto:faith.price@wisconsin.gov">faith.price@wisconsin.gov</a>
<b>Coordinator 2 Name (if applicable)</b>	<b>Email Address</b>

### **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.

During the year of 2021, the Wisconsin State Youth Advisory Council (YAC) has worked hard to maintain regular meetings throughout the entire year amongst the local YAC regions as well as state meetings. This was a challenge due to the pandemic impacting the ability to meet in person for the majority of the year. During the summer months some local YACs and a state YAC meeting found the ability to have in-person meetings during the summer when the weather was nice which was a big step toward getting back into in-person in general. State YAC members hold the goal of meeting on a quarterly basis at the statewide council. YAC was unable to attend the Daniel Memorial Conference as well as the National Citizen Review Panel Conference due to the pandemic.

In absence of these annual conferences; we started the conversation about doing a main initiative for the following year 2022. The State Youth Advisory Council's past main initiative was to work on extending Independent Living services to the age of 23. This initiative was deemed fit for discussion once again since it is a top priority for many young adults in care. Of course other initiatives were spoken of; since attendance was a hit and miss discussion on one initiative seemed at that time; a good use of resources that we had.

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.

State YAC was periodically active on their facebook page sharing and educating the public about foster youth and the system they live in. The State YAC struggled last year with public outreach due to being only able to meet over zoom for so long. There are many plans for change in 2022!

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

The State and Local YAC Councils do not conduct case reviews.

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

YAC members participated in their Annual Hands Around the Capitol event. This event focuses on the difficulties experienced by foster youth. This event also brings overall awareness to foster care and the youth. The event was still all virtual this year which allowed for a month-long event to take place.

**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

<b>Chosen CPS Responsibility #1</b>	Safety and Stability of Children Placed in Relative or Foster Care
The State Youth Advisory Councils has worked on implementing ways to improve the safety and stability of youth placed into Relative or Foster Care. Due to low attendance and less discussion the plan for 2022 is to do more outreach in regards to safety in the foster care system.	

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):

DCF has continued to work with the state YAC on their initiative of extending independent living services to 23. This goal will still be worked on in 2022 with the hopes of it being implemented in the next report.
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**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>	Safety and Stability of Children Placed in Relative or Foster Care
<p>Like stated previously in the 2020 CRP report many social workers and Independent Living Coordinators are knowledgeable in safety and stability of children placed in relative or foster care. Many IL workers are experiencing a housing issue when safety and stability is not met in homes. This is discussed in the State YAC meetings frequently in hope to continue in sharing local resources.</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).

<p>One of our local YACs participated in a Anti-Human Trafficking event that included a guest speaker who shared her experience, as well as resources and what to do when you are or suspect another individual is involved in human trafficking.</p>
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**Section 4: Recommendations**

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

<p><b>Recommendation 1</b></p>	<p>The YAC recommends for the state to implement Independent Living Services through the age of 23. This would guarantee continued care for the young adults who receive an Independent Living Worker before and after the age of 21. State YAC has been informed by other Independent Coordinator workers that many of their youth don't go to them until they have reached the age of 18-21 so services for many of them have stopped or have been shown to be "too late" due to a certain age.</p>
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2. Please list any panel recommendations to improve child protection services at the **local level**.

<p><b>Recommendation 1</b></p>	<p>The YAC recommends local agencies to continue to advocate for Independent Living Resources to be increased from the age of 21 to the age of 23. This would help with college expenses, housing, food security and more.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 2</b></p>	<p>Increased education to potential foster parents to help find better homes for youth who end up in care.</p>

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Wisconsin Youth Advisory Council would like to express gratitude for the opportunities to have a voice for those who are currently in care and who are afraid to speak out. We are thankful for the opportunity to be a part of the CRP and are eager to get back into in-person meetings.</li> <li>● YAC plans on sending youth to the conferences in the year of 2022 to continue educating the state YAC on what is occurring in other states and to hopefully bring back much needed information to help build DCF and the state and local YACs into a bigger and better resource.</li> <li>● YAC is planning to get things back on track for the 2022 year and start looking towards the future to help youth in and out of home care all around Wisconsin.</li> </ul>
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**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 Efforts and Activities Related to CPS Responsibilities in 2022:**

Previously the YAC has worked on safety and stability. This will be continued to be worked on but going further the State YAC is interested in the Child Abuse Prevention given in the options. The thought behind is making sure parents know their resources for free or affordable clothes and food. Along with affordable housing and sustainable jobs. This responsibility would be beneficial in creating a resource guide for the DCF page for parents but also a good handout for IL workers to give back to their regions social workers to hand out to parents that are in need of such items.

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