

Who We Are

The Citizen Review Panel embraces the expertise of people from all areas of the community. We are a way for the public to improve the well being of Outagamie County and Wisconsin's children and families. Whether you have professional qualifications, personal experiences with the child protective services (CPS) system, or the natural interest of a concerned citizen, you have something to offer. Federal law required Citizen Review Panels in each state to monitor whether the child protection system is meeting federal expectations.

What We Do

Panels develop their own independent approaches to examining CPS policies, practices, service coordination, and community impact. Panel members may interview workers, review case records, conduct surveys, critique manuals, and talk with Health and Human Services customers and other community members.

Panels then make specific recommendations to the Department of Health and Human Services and to the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services.

Recommendations may include policy revisions, changes in procedure, and methods to insure that practices are in the best interest of children. Panel members are always concerned and looking at safety, permanency, and well being of children that are in compliance with the Child and Family Services Review.

Panel Organization

To support the work of the Citizen Review Panels, the Outagamie County Department of Health and Human Services and the Wisconsin Department of Family Services provides coordination, training, and technical assistance for panel members. Outagamie County provides helpful information, interpretation, and other advisory support to assist the panel.

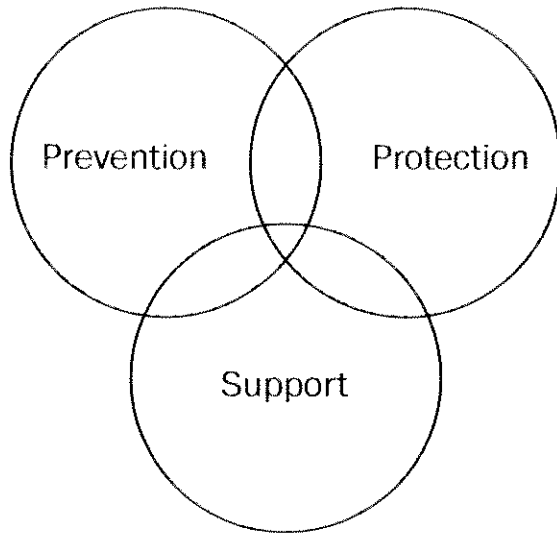
Panel Responsibilities

As Citizen Review Panels do their work, they seek to answer questions, such as:

- Do Wisconsin's laws and policies meet child protection requirements?
- Are services being offered in respectful, family friendly ways?
- Are children moving among child protective services, foster care, and adoption systems in a way that gives them stability?
- When a child is seriously injured or killed as a result of abuse, is the public given enough information that changes can be made to prevent future fatalities?
- What is the public perception of CPS?
- When families are involved in CPS, what is the greater impact on the community?

The Citizen Review Panel chooses its own focus and approach to carrying out these responsibilities.

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How You Can Help

Because Citizen Review Panel participation is voluntary and should represent the entire community, we need your help. There are many ways that you can be a valuable resource to a Citizen Review Panel. Possibilities include:

- Sharing personal experience that involves CPS
- Offering professional expertise
- Strengthening panel connections in the community
- Volunteering for specific tasks, such as data entry, forms design, or online research
- Working on a single project team
- Contributing ideas about priorities
- Coordinating feedback about community impact

Contact Information

To communicate with the Citizen Review Panel, please phone:

1-920-832-5161 or 1-888-277-9795

You can also send mail to:

Citizen Review Panel
Outagamie County
Dept of Health and Human Services
Children, Youth & Families Division
401 S. Elm Street
Appleton, WI 54911



OUTAGAMIE COUNTY

Outagamie County Department of Health and Human Services

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