

Maine Child Welfare Advisory Panel Quarterly Report

Report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

September 19, 2022

Resolved: That the child welfare advisory panel...shall submit reports to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters at least every 3 months beginning in June 2022 and until June 30, 2024. Any presentations of the reports to the committee must be presented by the citizen members of the panels to the extent possible. Each quarterly report must contain, at minimum, the following:

1. A summary of generalized and anonymized observations in the prior 3-month period regarding efforts by the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services to improve the child welfare system
2. A summary of the collaboration between the advisory panel and the review panel as well as the Justice for Children Task Force established in 2006 that reports to the Supreme Judicial Court; and
3. Any recommendations on how to further protect the State's children through Department of Health and Human Services policy and rulemaking and through legislation.

Summary of the
collaboration
between MCWAP,
the Child Death and
Serious Injury
Review Panel, and
the Justice for
Children Task Force

- MCWAP meetings on break July and August; Panel subcommittees continued to meet
- Joint CRP Chair meeting 8/29/2022
- MCWAP reported on panel activities at Justice for Children Task Force meeting on 9/13/2022

Summary of observations in the prior 3-month period regarding efforts by DHHS-OCFS to improve the child welfare system

Panel Observations: OCFS participated in MCWAP Executive Committee meetings in July, August, and September. OCFS also participated in several meetings to plan the September annual panel retreat, and joined meetings of subcommittees when requested to inform draft recommendations for the panel's annual report.

OCFS Efforts: Provided practice and policy information for subcommittees upon request; provided logistical support for panel retreat.

Recommendations on how to further protect the State's children through DHHS policy and rulemaking and through legislation.

2022 Draft System Recommendation Topics

- Parent and child representation
- Data collection and reporting
- Pilot project funding
- Best practice guidance
- Peer support

Recommendations on how to further protect the State's children through DHHS policy and rulemaking and through legislation.

2022 Draft Panel Topics

- Contingency fund
- Best practice training
- Family Team Meetings