



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
BUREAU FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

Alex J. Mayer, PhD, MS, PMP
Cabinet Secretary

Lorie Bragg
Commissioner

February 10, 2025

To the Members of the West Virginia Citizen Review Panel:

Thank you for sending the West Virginia Citizen Review Panel Annual Report for 2025 and the recommendations for improvement to our state's child welfare system. The West Virginia Department of Human Services (DoHS) also thanks each of you for the time you take in providing these recommendations to improve the lives of the children and families we serve. In response to your recommendations:

- The CRP would like to continue to support the efforts, but not duplicate existing efforts, of DoHS. The CRP recommends inviting the commissioner or deputy commissioner to attend a yearly meeting.

DoHS' Bureau for Social Services (BSS) continues to agree that yearly contact with leadership and the panel is important. The BSS commissioner or a deputy commissioner would agree to an invitation to meet with the panel and discuss initiatives and answer questions.

- The CRP recommends that, if funding is available, the WVDoHS consider tracking uploaded copies of paper safety plans through the CCWIS by adding a button noting it has been uploaded and adding the date for reporting purposes. This would give more accuracy regarding the safety plan report and help staff ensure safety plans are completed and updated as necessary.

This recommendation will be taken into consideration.

- The CRP recommends that the DoHS track data on the Child Welfare Dashboard regarding the percentages of reunifications each year as well as the percentage of children coming back into foster care.



Members of the Citizen Review Panel

January 5, 2026

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This recommendation will be taken into consideration as this request would require system change requests.

Our agency looks forward to working with the panel this year and again, thank you for your recommendations to improve West Virginia's child welfare system.

Sincerely,



Lorie Bragg , Commissioner
Bureau for Social Services

