

# Maine Child Welfare Advisory Panel Quarterly Report

Report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

March 27, 2024

# Panel Overview



CITIZEN REVIEW PANELS



MEMBERS



SCHEDULE

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

- Participated in all MCWAP meetings in January, February and March. This included full Panel meetings and Executive Committee as well as subcommittee meetings.
- MCWAP Co-Chairs met with the new Director, Bobbi Johnson, and Acting Associate Director, Gina Googins, in March to discuss the transition of leadership, both for MCWAP and within OCFS. We shared our perspectives on what was going well in terms of MCWAP's work and process and what we might look to work on together to improve over the coming year.

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

- Citizen Review Panels Chairs meet quarterly (last meeting March '24).
- MCWAP & CDSIRP provided updates to the Justice for Children Task Force (March '24).
- All panels have some degree of overlapping membership.

# Continuing MCWAP Subcommittees

Citizen Engagement

Family Team Meetings

Family Centered Policy and Practice

# Monthly Meetings

Jan – March

January

February

- Presentation from Kaela Scott, GAL Program Coordinator.
- Presentation of the Justice for Children Task Force's Annual Report

March

- Conversation with the Child Welfare Ombudsman around her annual report.