



Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families

Family First Prevention Services Act and the WI Child Welfare Strategic Transformation

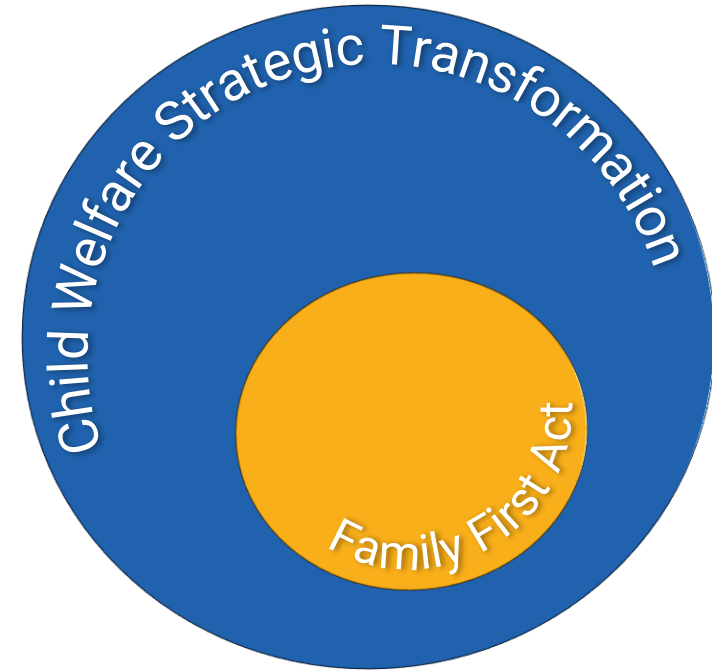
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What is the strategic transformation?

- Data shows children do better when connected with their families.
- ***Transforming our approach by keeping more families and children together.***
- Federal government passing Family First boosted our efforts.



Wisconsin Future Framework

Vision:

- All Wisconsin Children are safe and loved members of thriving families and communities.

The Wisconsin Child Welfare system will:

- Strengthen all Wisconsin families to support their children.

Because:

- Children belong with their families.



Key Priorities

- To strengthen local communities + build services to support families in their homes.
- To keep children in family settings whenever possible.
- To improve our group care system.
- To support our workforce with solutions and improvements.



Need for Change



Impact of Childhood Trauma

- Attachment and Separation
 - Separation from primary caregiver can have long-term, negative impacts.
 - 80% of removals are for neglect.
- Evolving Research
 - We have more research now than ever before.
 - We have the power to positively change the way in which we help.



Data Driven Decisions: A Case for Change

CPS Front Door

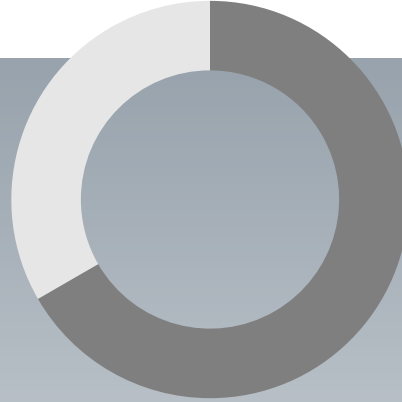


Neglect is the primary type of screened-in maltreatment, followed by physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse.

61%

(proportion of screened-in cases for neglect, 2019)

Out-of-Home Care



Neglect is the primary type of maltreatment identified as the reason for removal.

81%

(neglect removal reasons in 2019)

Reunification



Of the children removed during an IA who were subsequently reunified, **30%** went back home within 30 days of placement

30%

(of placements during IA who reunify do so within 30 days, 2019)



Race and Child Welfare Involvement

- Nationally, 53% of African American children will experience an initial assessment in their lifetime.
- In Wisconsin:
 1. In balance of state, African American children were referred for suspected maltreatment at almost 3 times their proportion in the population.
 2. African American children are more likely than white children to age out of out-of-home care without permanency, higher risk of adverse outcomes.



Milwaukee Child Welfare 2021 at a glance (Jan-June)

6036 children with screened in reports requiring a CPS response

1284 victims identified as white

808 allegations of neglect

292 allegations of physical abuse

3188 victims identified as black/African American

2185 allegations of neglect

647 allegations of physical abuse

364 children taken into DMCPs temporary physical custody

97 children have white as a primary race

237 children have black/African American as primary race

1895 Children being served in out-of-home care

488 children identified as white

1283 children identified as black/African American



Prevention



Family First Act

- Changes how states are reimbursed Title IV-E funds.
- States submit a 5-Year Title IV- E Prevention Plan.
- FFPSA has a new emphasis on home settings.



Programs in our Prevention Plan

- Well-Supported Parenting Interventions:
 - Homebuilders
 - Healthy Families America
 - Parents as Teachers
 - Nurse-Family Partnership
- Well-Supported Case Management Intervention:
 - Motivational Interviewing



In-Home Service Model

Wisconsin's holistic in-home service model aims to keep children safely at home with their families in a manner that promotes equity and reduces disproportionality.

Integrated Service Models

Integration of services allows for stronger cross-agency collaboration. For children, youth, and families, this means easier access to equitable and responsive services, regardless of where or how they enter the system.



CPS Professional

Integrated service models allows the CPS professional to better focus on safety, engagement, and assessing change, while also reducing multiple case managers for children, youth, and their families.



All Wisconsin children are safe and loved members of thriving families and communities.



All families are unique and may include parents, children, extended family or like-kin family members.



Supportive Infrastructure, represented by the blue icons surrounding *all families*, includes, but is not limited to:

- Early Care and Education
- Health, Behavioral Health, and Substance Abuse Service
- Housing and Economic Support
- Caregiver Services and Parent Coaching
- Legal Services
- Relatives, Like-Kin, and Caregiver Support.



Identify | Recruit | Support

- Increase support for relatives and like-kin providers.
- Decrease barriers to relative/like-kin placements.
- Address areas of racial disparity in placements.



Higher Level of Care



FFPSA Requirements on Group Care

- Creates a new Qualified Residential Treatment Program designation (QRTP).
 - Access to nursing care 24/7.
 - Trauma informed treatment model.
 - Accreditation.
 - DCF is currently working on developing the certification process for QRTPs- do not anticipate changes on 10/1
 - Will require more judicial and agency oversight of group care placements
 - Milwaukee youth make up about 1/2 of statewide group care placements



Beyond QRTP: Improving Group Care

- Goal
 - Meet the physical and mental health needs of all youth.
 - Short bursts of therapeutic treatment, with a placement resource in the local community.
 - Evaluating causes for sending youth to out-of-state congregate care.
 - New congregate care quality initiative.



Workforce Support



Workforce Support

- Giving the child welfare workforce the ***training, tools and infrastructure to support their work.***
- Ensure successful execution of FFPSA and our child welfare transformation initiative.



Workforce Support

- Three main objectives:
 1. Invest in improvements in training, technology, and practices + processes to maximize time with families.
 2. Design a caseworker training model based on the needs of the workforce and the system.
 3. Enhance infrastructure to support youth justice initiatives and increase cross-system collaboration.



Thank you

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