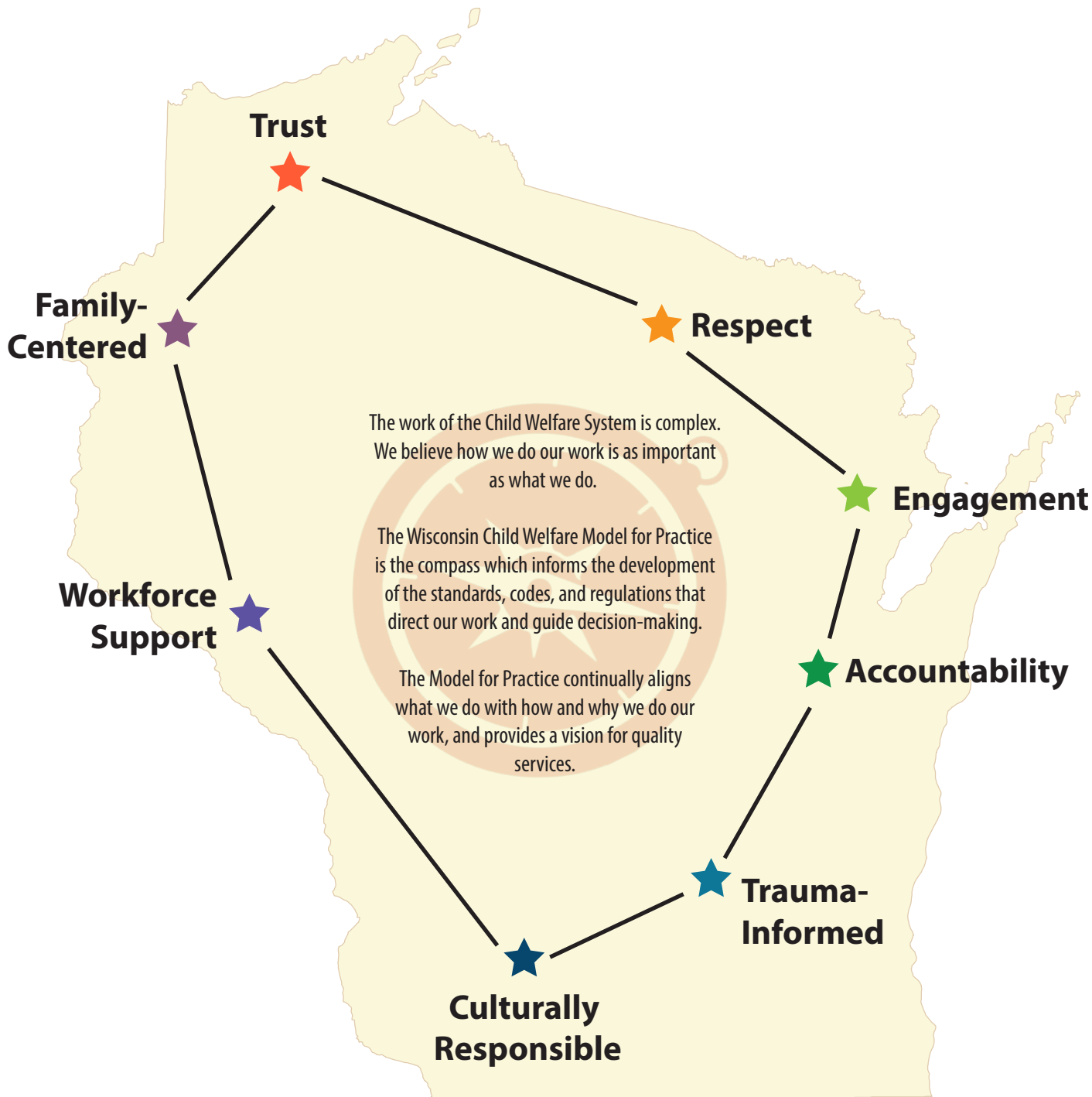


Wisconsin Child Welfare Model for Practice



PURPOSE

The purpose of the Child Welfare System is to keep children safe and to support families to provide safe, permanent, and nurturing homes for their children. The system does this by safely keeping children and youth in their own home, family, tribe, and community whenever possible.

When it is not possible to keep children safely in their home, the system engages with the courts and others to provide a safe, stable, and temporary home that nurtures and supports the child's development. The system aims to transition children in out-of-home care safely and quickly back with their family, whenever possible, or to another permanent home.

The system strives to engage with children, youth, and families to expand healthy connections to supports in their community and tribes and bolster resiliency in families to help them thrive.

Trust

Both the system and the individuals who work in the system approach complex family situations with honesty and integrity to effectively support positive change. Those who experience the system will have transparent, trusting relationships with competent and compassionate child welfare professionals.

Respect

We acknowledge the worth, ideas, and experience of every person and family system, treating each with dignity, positive regard, and consideration.

Engagement

Through collaboration, empathy, and partnership, we effectively establish relationships with children, youth, birth families, foster families, service providers, courts, and others, in order to nurture and support meaningful connections and achieve positive outcomes. The voices of families, as well as youth, are included and welcomed in policy and program development for the system.

Accountability

We are accountable to children, youth, families and the community, to provide effective and accessible services that are strengths-based, trauma-informed, culturally responsive, evidence-informed, and focused on family preservation. We model our values and principles, measure performance, learn, self-correct, innovate, and enhance our ability to achieve positive outcomes through data-driven continuous quality improvement efforts.

Trauma-Informed Practices

The Child Welfare System understands the impact of trauma and recognizes that practice is most effective when trauma is considered. Families, youth, children, workers, and providers who are involved in the system are supported socially, emotionally, and physically to encourage healing, build resilience, and prevent re-traumatization.

Culturally Responsible

As part of the Child Welfare System, we seek to reduce all biases and disparities at the individual, agency, and system level. Those who experience the system are treated with fairness and equity, and are understood and served within the context of their identity, family, community, tribe, history, culture, and traditions.

Workforce Support

The Child Welfare System invests in its workers through training and technical assistance to gain the competencies needed. Additionally, the system promotes teaming amongst workers, supports professional development, seeks to ensure the safety of all workers, and provides support to address secondary trauma.

Family-Centered

The Child Welfare System engages with families with a strengths-based perspective, supports teaming, and advocates for appropriate services and supports to meet the needs of families, youth, and caregivers. Families and youth are the drivers of change and are empowered to make decisions with the recognition that they are experts on their needs.