


To: DCF Area Administrators
Tribal Chairpersons
Child Placing Agency Directors
Child Welfare Agency Directors
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors
Group Home Providers
Tribal Social Service/Indian Child Welfare Directors
Private Child Placing Agencies
Residential Care Center Providers
Shelter Care Providers

From: Wendy Henderson 
Administrator

Re: Wisconsin Adoption and Permanency Support Program (WiAPS)

PURPOSE

This memo addresses the reorganization of Wisconsin's post-permanency support services and introduces the new, statewide, Wisconsin Adoption and Permanency Support program (WiAPS).

BACKGROUND

For years, Wisconsin has supported post-adoption families through regional Post Adoption Resource Centers (PARCS). Each regional PARC served families in their area by:

- Providing education, support activities and services to adoptive families.
- Improving community awareness of adoption, and promoting a positive image of adoption.
- Establishing collaborative efforts among public and private organizations and the general public.
- Providing referrals for services for adoptive families, including:
 - day care and after school care
 - legal help
 - family counseling and support groups related to adoption
 - access to Medicaid service providers
 - planning for the transition of an adopted child to adulthood
 - mental health related issues.

Since 2014, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families has collaborated with the Quality Improvement Center for Adoption and Guardianship (QIC-AG) on a five-year project working with eight sites that will implement evidence-based interventions or develop and test promising practices which if proven effective can be replicated or adapted in other child welfare jurisdictions.

As one of the sites in this five-year project, the Department has evaluated current services provided to post-permanency families and decided to restructure the current post-permanency support services available to better serve families across the state.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

As of July 1, 2019, the statewide Wisconsin Adoption and Permanency Support program (WiAPS) will replace the regional Post Adoption Resource Centers (PARCS). The WiAPS program will serve adoptive, guardianship, and kinship families in Wisconsin, regardless of the type of adoption or guardianship or where the adoption or guardianship occurred. The WiAPS program will provide permanency support services that include:

- Child-centered and family-focused needs assessments
- Information, advocacy and referral services
- Navigation assistance for cross-system needs
- Parent education and training
- Peer support and mentoring – parent/guardian and child
- Education support and advocacy.

These services will be culturally and adoption/guardianship competent, and based on trauma-informed practices.

Catholic Charities Diocese of La Crosse will be managing the WiAPS program for the state, but will serve families regionally. The WiAPS program will continue to serve families currently served by the PARCs. Many of the services and existing events scheduled by current PARCs will continue as planned.

The new website, which will be live on July 1, 2019, is www.wiaps.org. Once live, the website will have additional information regarding locations and services provided. Families may also call the toll-free number for WiAPS services at 1-833-WIS-APSP.

Counties and other agencies should expect the WiAPS program in their area to contact them in the near future for additional information and collaboration.

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Adoption Services & Support Supervisor
(608) 422-6908

MEMO WEB SITE: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>