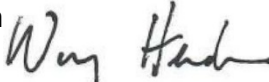


To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator
DCF Area Administrators
Child Placing Agency Directors
Child Welfare Agency Directors
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors
Group Home Providers
Tribal Social Service/Indian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

From: Wendy Henderson
Administrator 

Re: **Ongoing Services Standards Updates September 2021**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to establish and communicate updates to Ongoing Services Standards under the Family First Prevention and Services Act (FFPSA). It will describe which areas of practice are affected and provide an overview of the new requirements, effective on October 1, 2021.

BACKGROUND

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) was signed into law in 2018. The FFPSA is focused on keeping families intact by enhancing support services for families to help children remain at home, reducing the use of congregate care, and building the capacity of communities to support children and families.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE REQUIREMENTS

The Ongoing Services Standards have been updated to reflect the new FFPSA requirements effective October 1, 2021 and include greater clarification of requirements for Indian children.

FFPSA requires written documentation of a prevention plan and additional tasks that must be complete if a local child welfare agency is seeking placement of a child in a facility certified as a qualified residential treatment program (Q RTP). FFPSA documentation requirements will be operationalized in the case plan or permanency plan, depending on case type. Attached to this memo is a summary of all FFPSA-related case work requirements and subsequent changes to standards to support compliance with these new federal requirements.

- For in-home child protective services cases, a prevention plan will be required for all children who are deemed unsafe and are included in a safety plan. This will be operationalized in Wisconsin through the case plan document.

- For minor expecting parents who are placed in out-of-home care, a written prevention plan must be documented to help prevent the out-of-home placement of that youth's child. This will be operationalized in Wisconsin through the permanency plan document for the expectant or parenting youth.
- For out-of-home child protective services and youth justice cases in which an agency is seeking placement in a facility certified as a QRTP, a determination of appropriateness of this placement must be documented in the prevention plan. This will be operationalized in Wisconsin through the permanency plan document or a newly created QRTP Addendum in SACWIS if the permanency plan has not yet been created.

eWiSACWIS DOCUMENTATION

An eWiSACWIS enhancement will assist child welfare professionals with documenting prevention plans and QRTP placement requirements. All prevention plans and the QRTP Addendum will be located within case plans and permanency plans in eWiSACWIS. The eWiSACWIS enhancement will be implemented on October 1, 2021, along with this new policy.

For more information on the Family First Prevention Services Act in Wisconsin, please visit <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/family-first>

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Program and Policy Analyst
Bureau of Permanence and Out-of-Home Care
DCFDSPPGeneralFosterCare@wisconsin.gov

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

ATTACHMENTS:

- Ongoing Service Standards September 2021
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/policy/pdf/ongoing-services-standards.pdf>
- Ongoing Service Standards Updates Summary
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/policy/pdf/ongoing-standards-summary-of-updates.pdf>
- FFPSA Ongoing Service Standards Crosswalk
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/familyfirst/FFPSA-Crosswalk.pdf>
- eWiSACWIS Release Notes
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/ewisacwis-knowledge-web/release-notes/release-notes-september-2021.pdf>
- Permanency Plan Revised 09.2021
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/policy/pdf/permanency-plan-revised.pdf>
- Permanency Plan Addendum for a Placement in a Setting Certified as a QRTP
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/policy/pdf/permanency-plan-addendum.pdf>
- History of Planning and Services
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/policy/pdf/history-planning-services.pdf>