



Division of Safety and Permanence

DSP Informational Memo Series 2026-06i

March 6, 2026

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
 Private Child Placing Agencies
 Residential Care Center Providers
 Shelter Care Providers
 Tribal Chairpersons

From: John Elliott
 Administrator

Re: Revisions to the Safety Intervention and Ongoing Services Standards related to In-Home Case Planning

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to establish and communicate updates made to Ongoing Services Standards and specifically to the following areas:

1. CPS In-Home Cases
 - a. Child and Family Team Meetings
 - b. Initial Child and Family Team Meetings
 - c. Subsequent Meetings
 - d. Planning and Developing Goals with the Child and Family
 - e. Case Planning in Safety Intervention Standards
2. Child Welfare In-Home Cases

The following updates were made to the Safety Intervention Standards:

1. Family Assessment and Case Planning Process
2. Evaluating the Case Plan or Permanency Plan and Safety Plan

BACKGROUND

In the [2018 Children and Family Service Review \(CFSR\)](#), Wisconsin received an overall rating of area needing improvement for item 20: Written Case Plan. The report noted that a significant number of parents were not fully engaged in jointly developing case plans and case plans were not tailored to families’ specific needs.



In response to this finding, the Division of Safety and Permanence identified the need to enhance quality case planning (QCP). This effort sought extensive feedback from ICW Directors, lived experts and child welfare professionals. A central theme in feedback identified the need for family-centered decision making. Child welfare professionals identified the need for clearer guidance and tools as to how to engage families in case planning.

The [Ongoing Services Standards](#) requirements have been updated to include preparation of a written case plan for each child placed in-home under the supervision of a local child welfare agency. Ongoing Services and Safety Intervention Standards have been revised to align with best practice for in-home case planning, with the goal of providing clear and effective guidance to support both child welfare professionals and families in this process.

Areas of language changes:

1. Updated language throughout to center family voice and collaboration.
2. Renamed Case Plan to Family Case Plan.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE REQUIREMENTS

Areas of notable practice and procedural changes include:

1. Defined and required the use of the Child and Family Teaming process as a style of engagement used to develop and monitor the in-home Family Case Plan in collaboration with the family and identified natural supports.
2. Defined steps to develop the in-home Family Case Plan document in collaboration with the family and identified natural supports.
3. Defined number of goals to be developed at a time for the in-home Family Case Plan.
4. Defined requirements for obtaining signatures for the in-home Family Case Plan document to include parents and children once they have reached the age of 12.
5. Updated best practice on reaching consensus for the in-home Family Case Plan.
6. Removed detailed content within the Safety Intervention Standards related to case planning. In its place, the Safety Intervention Standards now provide direction on where to access in-home case planning requirements.
7. Added requirement for in-home Family Case Plans to be used during Child Welfare in-home cases and are developed in accordance with the CPS in-home standards.

A full summary of the updates made to the Ongoing Services Standards is attached (See [Attachment 1](#)).

eWiSACWIS DOCUMENTATION

Changes to eWiSACWIS documentation related to revisions made to the Ongoing Services Standards will be effective as of February 21, 2026. The changes in functionality will do the following:

- Promote the Family Teaming process as an engagement strategy throughout the in-home Family Case Plan, including elevating family voice and choice in the documentation.

- Support collaboration with tribal child welfare professionals, when applicable.
- Connect individual strengths to planning and services section.

As of February 21, 2026, the eWiSACWIS functionality will reflect the above in-home Family Case Plan practice changes and improvements to the documentation functionality. Any pending Family Case Plan in eWiSACWIS before the launch will reflect the new template changes. All Family Case Plans created in eWiSACWIS after February 21, 2026, will use the new in-home Family Case Plan.

ACTION SUMMARY

Child welfare professionals will need to adhere to all requirements within the Ongoing Services Standards. While the Ongoing Case Planning training through PDS will be updated to support these changes, there is no additional training required to implement these changes. The Family Case Plan Supervisor Guide, Family Case Plan Workbook and Family Case Plan Writing Guide regarding in-home case planning will be distributed to support the workforce. Child welfare professionals can find these resources and additional information on the [Child Welfare Worker Portal: In-Home Ongoing Services Information website](#).

Educational opportunities will be available through a series of virtual post-launch support sessions. DCF will offer monthly support sessions between March and June 2026. The details regarding the dates and times will be provided to all child welfare professional staff and their supervisors. Updates and DCF technical assistance will also be available at monthly Targeted Safety Support Funds (TSSF) meetings and Out of Home Care Office Hours.



REGIONAL OFFICE CONTACT:

DCF Area Administrator

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT:

Out-of-Home Care Section
Bureau of Permanence and Out-of-Home Care
Division of Safety and Permanence
DCFDSPPGeneralFosterCare@wisconsin.gov

MEMO WEB SITE:

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>

Attachments:

[In-Home Family Case Plan Revisions Memo Summary
Ongoing Services Standards 2026](#)