

# Wisconsin Trauma Project

2016 ANNUAL UPDATE

## Year One of Statewide Expansion — Accomplishments

The Wisconsin Trauma Project is an initiative of the Division of Safety & Permanence that introduces evidence-based trauma treatment into the child welfare service array; provides trauma-informed parenting training to resource and biological parents; and organizational and system training, consultation and technical support to build a more trauma-responsive system of care through collaboration with Fostering Futures. 2016 was the first year of a 3-year statewide expansion of the project.

### Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)

TF-CBT is an evidence-based, short-term treatment model for children ages 3-18 with a strong caregiver component. 2016 learning collaboratives were held in Green Bay, Hayward and Madison.

In 2016:

- ◆ 225 clinicians from 30 counties and 2 tribes who treat children in the child welfare system participated in TF-CBT learning collaboratives organized by DCF
- ◆ DCF-trained clinicians screened and assessed 243 children for trauma. Based on that assessment, 192 children started the TF-CBT model with a clinician.
- ◆ 93% of the children who completed TF-CBT experienced a decrease in trauma-related symptoms
- ◆ 30 clinicians from past Learning Collaborative participated in a 1.5 day-long advanced training.

*"TF-CBT has provided additional tools and structure to interventions... Children and caregivers explain to me that it works. Symptom reduction from beginning to middle to final assessment is a concrete measure of progress made through TF-CBT."*

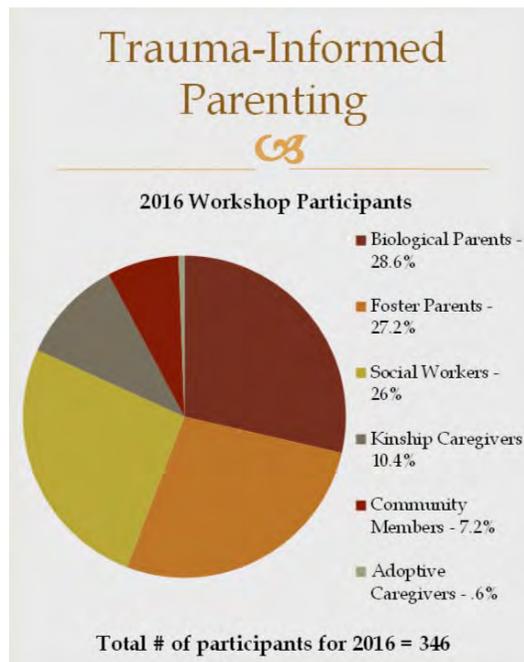
Trained Clinician

### Trauma-informed Parenting Workshops

The goal of these workshops is to reduce transitions for children in foster and relative care and to help make reunifications as successful as possible.

This component of the Wisconsin Trauma Project was designed with sustainability at the forefront.

Two local developing trainers are identified by each site selected to host the Trauma-informed Parenting trainings. They are developed through a comprehensive process and are given the tools and experience to facilitate the workshops after and well beyond the project year.



In 2016:

- ◆ 346 caregivers, community members and workers from 12 counties and one tribe were trained

Post-workshop surveys revealed:

- ◆ 94.6% of participants understood the 10 core training competencies
- ◆ 96% of participants felt the overall experience of participating in the workshop was positive

*"I've opened up lots of doors in myself that make it easier to connect with my children"*

Biological Parent

*"The whole course is an eye-opener."*

Foster Parent

# Other Wisconsin Trauma Project-Related Initiatives

## Fostering Futures Organizational Change Learning Communities

The Department of Children and Families is collaborating with Fostering Futures, First Lady Walker's trauma-informed care initiative, to bring training and technical assistance to 7 state and 14 county child welfare agencies on implementing trauma-informed principles in their organization.

The three focus areas are:

- ◆ Developing a trauma-informed, educated and responsive workforce;
- ◆ Creating safe and secure environments; and
- ◆ Ongoing performance improvement and evaluation.

The application to participate in the next Learning Community will be released mid-2017.

## Milwaukee County's Healthy Infant Court

Beginning in 2016 and through 2018, the Wisconsin Trauma Project is supporting Milwaukee County's Healthy Infant Court – a court focused on connecting babies and their families with additional supports and services, including infant mental health specialists. In 2016 a registered nurse with extensive experience in infant mental health and the child welfare system was hired to serve as the court's coordinator. Several trainings were held in 2016 for the steering committee, court team and partners in child welfare. Two judges were identified to hear cases and are currently serving families.

## Child-Parent Psychotherapy

In 2016, the Wisconsin Trauma Project provided funding for an 18 month learning collaborative in Child Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) for mental health clinicians that treat children in the child welfare system, which is coordinated by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Psychiatry. CPP is an evidence-based treatment for children from birth to age 5 who have experienced trauma. CPP involves the caregiver and addresses emotional, behavior and attachment problems. The 2016-18 learning collaborative held its kickoff event, "The Ripple Effect: An Integrative Framework for Addressing the Epidemic of Trauma for Vulnerable Young Children and Their Parents" in August. The event included legislative and judicial staff as well as child welfare professionals from throughout the state. Together with the TF-CBT training, this initiative will offer an evidence-based therapy to address trauma for children from birth to age 18 years.



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<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/prevention/trauma>