



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

2015 Annual Report of the WI Trauma Project

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A MESSAGE FROM FREDI-ELLEN BOVE

ADMINISTRATOR, DIVISION OF SAFETY AND PERMANENCE

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This is the first annual report for the WI Trauma Project. The report provides background, highlights and accomplishments for this very successful Division of Safety and Permanence initiative, piloted in two counties and one tribe in 2012 and poised to expand statewide in 2016.

Addressing trauma is important because according to studies, as many as nine out of ten children in foster care have been subject to some type of traumatic adverse childhood experience. Entry into the child welfare system causes additional trauma due to separation from family and possibly school, neighborhood, and community, as well as fear and uncertainty about the future. The WI Trauma Project builds state capacity to prevent and treat child trauma, increases access to trauma-informed services and provides the adoption of trauma-informed principles across family-serving systems.

Highlights in the 2015 implementing counties of Jefferson, Rock and Walworth included:

- 77 Masters Level Clinicians trained in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)

- 188 children screened and assessed for trauma

- 123 caregiver parents and agency child welfare workforce staff completed National Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) Trauma-Informed Parenting Training

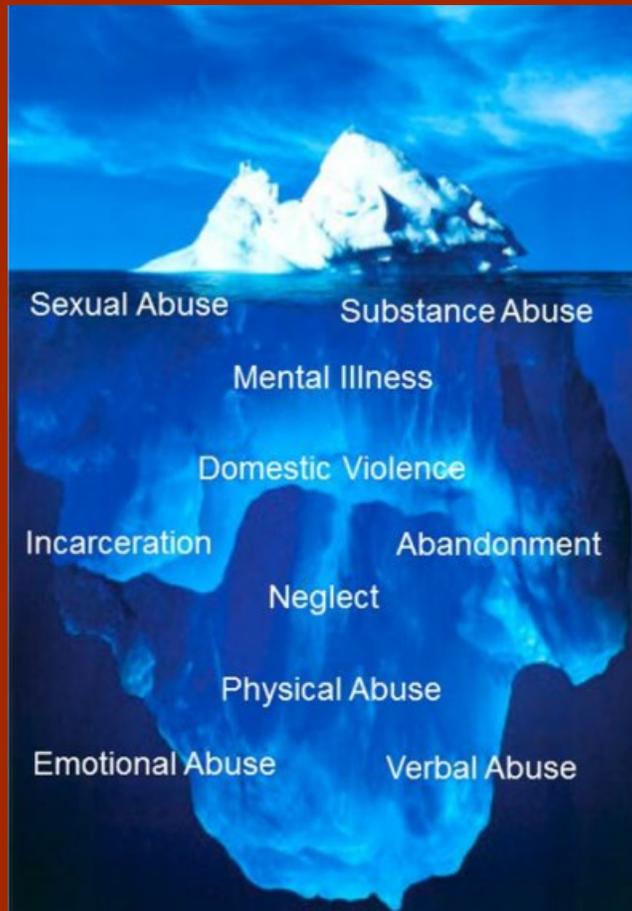
- Development of local trainers for NCTSN TI-Parenting Training

Additionally, 30 previously trained clinicians and clinical supervisors completed a TF-CBT booster session to help ensure model fidelity, and 16 individuals participated in a 2-day Train-The-Trainer Workshop to develop additional TI-Parenting training facilitators.

DCF released a Request for Applications in October 2015, for counties and tribes to participate in a statewide expansion of the WI Trauma Project that includes collaboration with the Fostering Futures Initiative for the 3rd project component: adopting trauma-informed practices at the organizational and systems levels. Training and technical assistance for this will be provided by the National Council on Behavioral Health through external grant funding to assist state, county and tribal child welfare agencies to become trauma-informed organizations.

The 2016-2018 expansion will also include training for clinicians who treat children in the child welfare system or are at risk of entering the child welfare system in Trauma-Informed Child Parent Psychotherapy (TI-CPP), which focuses on very young infants and children up to 5 years of age. Together with TF-CBT, this will help increase the availability of effective evidenced-based interventions for childhood trauma for children of all ages. We are pleased and proud to be part of the movement to make Wisconsin a trauma-informed state.





WHAT IS THE WI TRAUMA PROJECT?

The WI Trauma Project is a comprehensive approach to create a more trauma-informed and responsive child welfare system through training, skill development and collaboration. The Trauma Project is divided into 3 components. The first component **Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) Learning Collaborative** introduces evidence-based trauma treatment into the child welfare service array by training mental health clinicians. The second component **Trauma-Informed Parenting Training** provides trauma-informed parenting training to resource and biological parents and agency case workers. The third component **Trauma-Informed Systems Change** includes system-wide training, consultation and technical support to build a more trauma-responsive system of care. Both the TF-CBT Learning Collaborative and the Trauma-Informed Training are based on national training curriculum with proven outcomes.

The project began in 2012 with two sites. Since then, 12 additional counties have participated and the project is expanding statewide beginning in 2016.

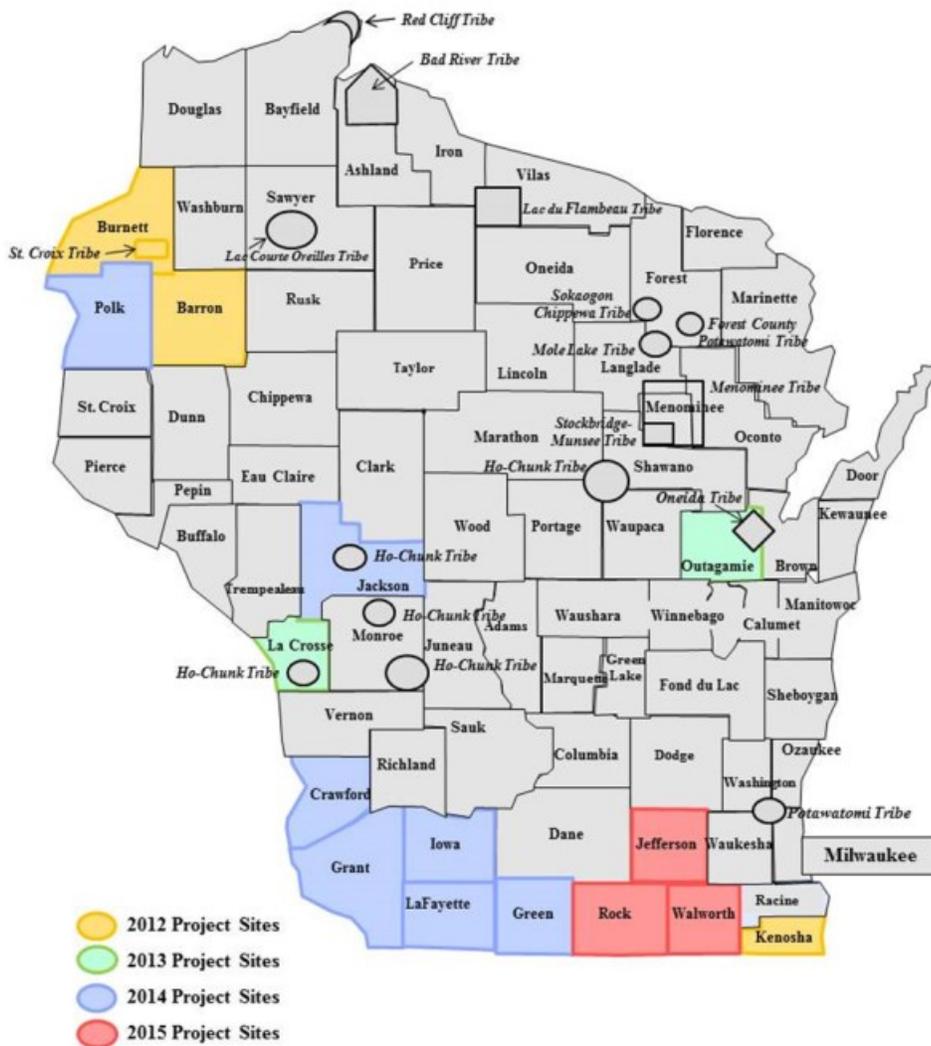


WI Trauma Project Sites

The WI Trauma Project began in 2012 in two pilots sites: Kenosha County and a collaborative site including Barron County/Burnett County/St. Croix Tribe. Project site selection has been through a Request for Applications (RFA) process determined and

prioritized based on service needs, system capacity and readiness; and demonstrated interest and motivation to learn about trauma-informed practice, interventions and system-wide change. Counties and tribes were selected on an individual basis and were required to participate in all three components of the project. Beginning in 2016, there will be an expansion of the project. The expansion will provide counties and tribes the option to participate in some or all components of the project.

Wisconsin Trauma Project Sites



WI TRAUMA PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) Learning Collaborative

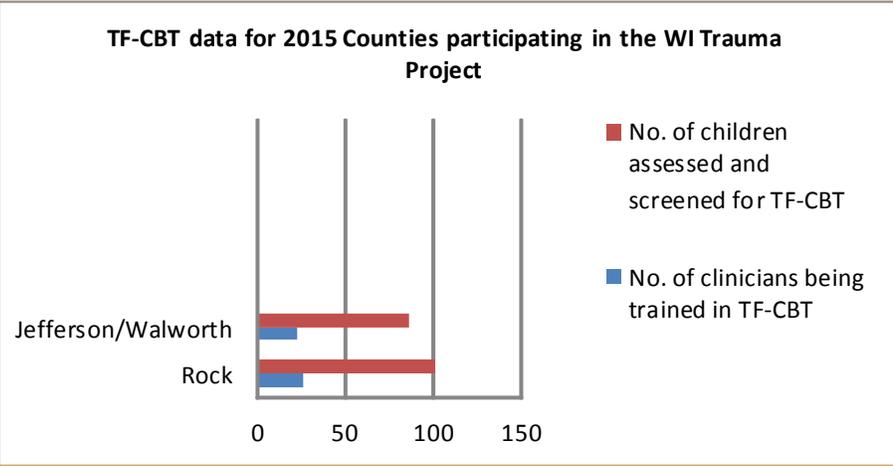
WI Trauma Project TF-CBT trainer Jennifer Wilgocki:
Jennifer is a child and family therapist specializing in adolescent development, childhood trauma, and parent-child attachments. She is an affiliate member of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network and national trainer in TF-CBT. In her private practice she provides trauma-specific treatment to children, adolescents, and their caregivers.

The TF-CBT learning collaborative portion of the WI Trauma Project has been very successful. During the past year, 49 clinicians received training in trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy (TF-CBT) through the learning collaboratives in Rock, Jefferson and Walworth counties. As

a result of the participating counties' clinicians being trained, a total of 188 children have been screened and assessed for TF-CBT in 2015. Additional highlights in 2015 include a TF-CBT booster session in August for previously trained clinicians and a joint add-on TF-CBT learning

collaborative in La Crosse that hosted 28 clinicians from La Crosse and adjacent counties in October 2015. The booster session and add-on collaborative trainings have provided counties and tribes that have previously participated in the project the opportunity to sustain fidelity to the TF-CBT model.

In April, the project launched the TF-CBT database to collect therapy data from clinicians at project sites statewide. The data collected will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the TF-CBT learning collaborative here in Wisconsin.



"...the trauma project is one of the pivotal initiatives that DCF is supporting and funding within our state that has the potential to significantly reduce the intergenerational transmission of trauma as we help children heal."
 - Nancy Pohlman, La Crosse County, Manager of Children and Family Services

WI TRAUMA PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

TRAUMA-INFORMED PARENTING TRAINING

During the past year, Jackson, Jefferson, Rock and Walworth counties had many accomplishments with the Trauma-Informed Parenting Training component of the WI Trauma Project. In total, 23 birth parents, 54 foster parents and 46 agency child welfare workers completed the parenting workshops.

An intentional focus of this component has been the development of agency workers and resource parents as trainers of this curriculum. Therefore another highlight for 2015 has been the successful development of local trainers within each county. The exciting part of accomplishing the goal of local trainers allows for the parenting training workshops to continue after the project has ended.

An additional highlight in 2015 for this component was a two day "Train the Trainer" workshop held in September for facilitators of the Trauma-Informed Parenting Trainings.



WI Trauma Project
Trauma-Informed
Parenting Training
Trainer: *Donna Burns*

Donna has fostered over 90 children since 1998, with most of her time fostering children with serious emotional disturbances.

The needs of this specific client population led to her affiliation with the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN). Donna co-chairs the NCTSN Parent Coordinating Group, facilitates the Wisconsin Trauma Workshops and train-the-trainer events for counties

in Wisconsin, foster care agencies, and the State of Wisconsin. She has presented at the NCTSN All-Network Conferences in Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Falls Church, VA and at the Federation of Families Conference in Washington D.C.

WI TRAUMA PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

SYSTEMS CHANGE

Building on the momentum of the Child Welfare and the Courts Conference held in October 2015, Rock County formed a committee with the mission of educating the community on how to respond to the impact of trauma on families. The cross-sector group, led by Circuit Court Judge Alan Bates, includes membership from the court system, human services, schools, law enforcement and community members.



In December 2015, Rock County piloted a training developed specifically for staff of residential treatment facilities—"Think Trauma" created by the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN). Thirty staff members from the Rock County Youth Services Center (YSC) participated in the 8-hour training. One overarching goal developed by staff at the training was to improve information sharing between the three shifts of employees. Immediately following the training a new tool was developed to facilitate this communication—a list of questions about the residents' behavior during the previous shift and possible trauma triggers was taped to the back of the staff clipboard to encourage staff to discuss the information at the staff shift change. YSC Supervisor, Lee Van Zandt, leads a committee charged with continuing the work started at the training.



Jefferson and Walworth Counties have selected the school system as the community stakeholder they will work with to create a trauma-informed system of care. The Trauma Champions in both counties are actively planning a workshop for school staff, to be held in March or April 2016.

WI TRAUMA PROJECT EXPANSION

Project Expansion—2016-2018



The Department of Children and Families has invested in a three-year expansion of the Wisconsin

Wisconsin Trauma Project to accelerate the integration of prevention and trauma-informed care across all child welfare practice areas. Beginning in early 2016 and continuing through 2018, the WI Trauma Project will be expanding all three components of the project. The expansion will

depart from the original model and provide counties/tribes the option to participate in one, two or all three of the project's components based on their local needs, capacity and readiness.

Beginning in early 2016, the number of clinicians trained in TF-CBT will increase from 30-60 to up to 225 annually. In order to reach these additional clinicians, TF-CBT trainings will be held regionally and all counties and tribes will have an opportunity to participate. The number of counties or tribes participating in the Trauma-Informed Parenting workshops will increase from 2 to up to 10 annually.

The expansion will also include an additional 18-month learning collaborative for clinicians in Trauma-Informed Child Parent Psychotherapy (TI-CPP) coordinated by the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Psychiatry. This collaborative is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2016.

DCF is collaborating with the Fostering Futures initiative on the third component: adopting trauma-informed practices at the organizational and systems levels. The Fostering Futures project has received grant funding to contract with the National Council on Behavioral Health to provide training and technical assistance to state and county child welfare agencies on becoming a trauma-informed organization. The National Council on Behavioral Health (NCBH) is a nationally-recognized organization with an established model that has been utilized successfully in many sites throughout the country. The work under this component of the project is expected to focus on creating a trauma-informed, educated and responsive workforce, and safe and secure environments. NCBH uses a peer learning collaborative approach. Each participating county/Tribe will be required to designate a team to participate in the NCBH trainings. Conference calls and meetings that involve all teams are held on a regular basis with NCBH to engage in peer learning.