

# Child Welfare Strategic Transformation

Putting Wisconsin's families first



## Family First Newsletter | November 2021 | Issue 4

### QRTP Provider Update

The rollout of QRTP has provided multiple channels of communication to assist stakeholders, court officials, child welfare professionals and providers across the state the opportunity to learn about the process of qualifying as a QRTP and how to best implement policy for practical, day to day work in the field.

Coming soon is a flyer for quick access to information related to the Nursing Hotline offered to all youth placed in facilities certified as QRTPs. On October 29<sup>th</sup>, a [memo](#) detailing DCF's commitment to supporting facilities who obtain QRTP certification through one-time rate increases post-certification was released.

Throughout November, technical assistance sessions will be held between providers seeking QRTP certification and staff from the Child Welfare Licensing Section on how to develop certification application materials and transition to successful approval of certification. [Check the webpage](#) for the event times that work best for you.

Lastly, on November 4, 2021, a Provider Forum was held to continue to gather questions about the QRTP certification, understand practice implications in the field now 30-days into the effect of the emergency rule, and to explore opportunities and assistance for the future. We are looking forward to our first facilities being QRTP certified in November!

For additional information on QRTP please [check out our website](#).

### New QRTP digital desk guide!

Communication is key to helping support our child welfare professionals. DCF developed its very first digital desk guide to support professionals in understanding QRTP's, practice in the field, and changes related to the Ongoing Service Standards. The QRTP desk guide is [now available](#).



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## Housing Access and Affordability

Housing access and affordability have been identified by stakeholders and the Home-Like Continuum team as a key barrier to families remaining safely together.

Recently, the Bureau of Regional Operations (BRO) collected feedback from counties about innovative strategies being used to address housing barriers for families served both in-home and through out-of-home care.

DCF is encouraged by the strong front-end prevention efforts happening at the county-level, and how well they align with the Department's strategic transformation.

Stay tuned for the December newsletter, where examples of this work will be highlighted. Samples will include creative solutions being used across the state! If you missed the opportunity to provide feedback, but have an innovative strategy you would like to share, please let us know via the Family First mailbox [familyfirst@wisconsin.gov](mailto:familyfirst@wisconsin.gov).

## eWiSACWIS Changes

You may have noticed some updates to eWiSACWIS as part of the September 29<sup>th</sup> release. As a reminder, a video outlining the minor changes to case plans, permanency plans, and requirements related to expecting and parenting youth in out-of-home care can be found [here](#). Additional updates will be provided in this newsletter in January 2022.

## Case Manager Info Sessions

Bregetta Wilson, DCF Lived Experience (LE) Coordinator, has created a space for child welfare professionals to come together and talk about the newly created Parent Leader sessions. The purpose of these sessions is to provide an overview of the Parent Leader Groups, and to recommend parents that might have an interest in taking part.

Informational sessions will be held on the following dates:

- Tuesday, November 9 at 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 16 at 11:30a.m. to 12:30p.m.
- Wednesday, December 8 at 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.



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These meetings are a collaboration between the Department of Children and Families and the Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health. To attend a session, [please RSVP](#). To learn more about DCF's lived experience implementation efforts, please visit the new [lived experience web page](#).

## New Worker Training

New worker training team is well under way with the new training model for child welfare professionals as mentioned at the fall Town Hall meeting. This innovative training system will help to transform our current system's training to better serve families in home. This new program will offer:

- Remote and in-person learning options
- Real time and offline learning flexibility
- Innovative ways for professionals to learn
- Options for start times, travel, schedules, etc.

Over the next few months, this newsletter will provide updates on the status of the roll out of the new training program with important transition dates, lunch + learns, and webinars. For the latest on the training program, please visit the [new web page for new worker training](#).

## Learning Map Update

The county level roll out of the Learning Maps and training sessions is in progress and going well. To date, 66 counties and over 1,700 participants have participated in the Learning Map sessions and feedback has been positive! A big thank you to ALL trainers on helping DCF complete these training sessions and deliver high quality content to all of our counties, tribes, and partners.

Over the next several months, a sustainability plan will be implemented to ensure that new child welfare workers and staff have access to the learning maps and resource materials. Refresh courses on the learning maps will also be available to all staff. Surveys from the Learning Map sessions are being collected now, and DCF will have



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some regional data to review for future Learning Map information. These surveys will help determine the support for next steps at the county level.

## Spring Town Hall Meetings

Spring topics are already in the works. The DCF Spring Town Hall is tentatively set for April 2022 and will cover a variety of subjects related to the Strategic Transformation and Family First. Please send suggestions to [FamilyFirst@wisconsin.gov](mailto:FamilyFirst@wisconsin.gov).

For those not able to attend the most recent Fall Town Halls, the videos have posted to the [Family First website](#).

## Communications Update

As transformation efforts continue, visit the [transformation web page](#) for additional resources. If you participated in the learning map sessions and would like a refresh on the information presented, links are available under the Facilitator Learning Map Resources. For a complete presentation on the learning maps and research to jump start a conversation or meeting, lean on the Transformation in Action section for a [video presentation](#).

For additional information or questions on topics included in this newsletter, please reach out to [FamilyFirst@wisconsin.gov](mailto:FamilyFirst@wisconsin.gov).

From all of us at the Department of Children and Families, Happy Thanksgiving.

