

Initial Assessment Improvement Project (IAIP)

Spring 2024

Improving Child Welfare

Four projects focused on supporting the workforce and centering children, youth, and families.



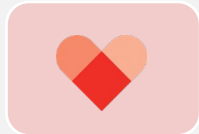
Initial Assessment Improvement Project



Safety Revisions



Quality Case Planning



Independent Living Project

Improvements Coming June 22, 2024!

eWiSACWIS

The June release will remove redundancies and improve the workflow of the IA template. Other eWiSACWIS changes include:

- A new Safety Tab that prefills from the Safety Assessment and Plan.
- Three new narrative boxes, one to document collaborative efforts with tribes, one for information about non-household parents, and one for the CPS response.
- Real-time guidance, in the form of detail flairs to support the workforce.

An important note: Any Initial Assessment that is started in eWiSACWIS before the launch will be completed in the old template. Any new IA that is entered on or after June 22 will use the new template.

CPS Access and Initial Assessment Standards

Updates to standards will simultaneously be released that reflect changes to eWiSACWIS and support best practices in the field, including the creation of a single statewide IA pathway. Other updates include:

- Emphasis on parent and caregiver engagement.
- Clarification on interview order.
- Providing families with information on CPS and the IA process.

Single Statewide IA Pathway

The new single statewide pathway reflects good social work practice that is already happening across the state and incorporates the best elements of Traditional Response (TR) and Alternative Response (AR) practices, and Actuarial documentation. Standards will now reflect the importance of partnering with families during IA and that practice should aim to lead with engaging parents or caregivers. These changes incorporate the findings from the AR Think Tank along with input and feedback from the CQI Advisory IA subgroup, which includes representatives from county agencies that have used TR, AR, and Actuarial.

Purpose

The primary goals of the IA improvements are to:

- 1) Streamline IA documentation and processes.
- 2) Center parents, caregivers, and family voice in the IA process.





Legacy AR Counties

Local CPS agencies that were part of the AR pilot will continue to have the option to determine if “services are needed or not needed.” The AR Policy Addendum is being updated to reflect practice and documentation expectations on the use of the Services Needed/Services Not Needed maltreatment determination. These updates align with the expectations and guidance in [DSP Informational Memo Series 2020-39i](#) from December 2020 on phasing out the AR pilot.

2024 Timeline

- May 20** Supervisor trainings and support materials available; eWiSACWIS testing begins
- May 28** Training webinars available to the existing workforce; DSP eWiSACWIS release preview
- June 22** **Updated Access and Initial Assessment Standards; eWiSACWIS release***
- June 26** Twice weekly post-launch TA support sessions offered for three weeks following the launch
- July 18** Weekly post-launch support sessions through August

* Any IAs begun in eWiSACWIS before June 22 will be completed in the old IA template. IAs begun on or after June 22 will use the new template.

Training and Post-Launch Support

To ensure IA workers and supervisors are prepared for the IA updates:

- The Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System (PDS) will provide two training webinars (one on eWiSACWIS changes, the other on standards changes) plus a Supervisors Guide to supervisors on May 20.
- Training webinars will be available to the existing workforce on May 28 and will be available online to review, as needed.
- PDS is updating Pre-Service, WiLearn, and other relevant trainings.
- The eWiSACWIS User Guide is being updated.
- DSP will provide an eWiSACWIS release preview on May 28, with an overview of the updates, a walkthrough of the workflows, and time for Q&A.
- DSP will hold a series of technical assistance sessions to provide post-launch support.
 - Sessions will be offered twice weekly from the launch through mid-July.
 - One session per week will be offered from mid-July through the end of August.

Acknowledgements

The IAIP team incorporated input from stakeholders across the state, including IA and Ongoing CPS professionals and supervisors, tribal child welfare leadership, and parent leaders with child welfare experience. Workforce surveys, a Business Process Re-Engineering study, and a Continuous Quality Improvement Advisory IA subgroup consisting of local CPS agency professionals and leaders, the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services, representatives from the Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System, and state staff also contributed to this work. We are grateful to these individuals for the time, effort, and expertise they have generously shared. Our work is better as a result.