

# Safety Assessment and Planning Revisions

## 2023 Talking Points



### How did this work start?

This work is part of our Putting Families First initiative focusing on supporting case management practice expectations and approaches to increase the likelihood that children can be safely served in their family homes as part of the families' involvement in child protective services (CPS). Changes to the safety assessment and planning process – with specific attention to centering family voice, better identifying parental protective capacities and attending to workforce needs and capacities – will be part of these changes. These changes will be iterative and intentional with opportunities for continued stakeholder feedback throughout the design, planning and implementation phases.

### Why are the changes necessary?

- Racial disparities occur at nearly every major decision-making point along the child welfare intervention continuum. Both nationally and in Wisconsin there is an overrepresentation of certain racial and ethnic groups in the child welfare system relative to their representation in the general population. Understanding these disparities in relation to safety is a crucial step to disrupting disproportionality and ensuring families are served equitably.
- Wisconsin's current safety threat language and safety assessment processes are complex, cumbersome and inconsistently applied statewide.



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## What data has been reviewed as part of this work?

Data analysis of Present and Impending Danger from 2017 – 2021 which included answers to questions such as:

- How frequently are safety threats identified?
  - Present Danger Threats and Impending Danger Threats were reviewed to see which were used most often and which were rarely used. This will help inform which threats should be removed from the current lists.
- What safety threats are most closely related/frequently identified together?
  - This data showed those threats that are often selected together. This will help inform which of the current safety threats could be combined to reduce redundancy and to help determine what is the actual condition that requires safety planning.
- Are any safety threats associated with maltreater race/ethnicity?
  - This data will identify what, if any, threats are more likely to be identified for maltreaters of a particular race.

## What has been happening since Fall 2022?

Feedback from the Safety Institute at last fall's Public Child Welfare Conference has been compiled and the Safety Revisions Workgroup continues to meet regularly to conceptualize changes to the Safety Assessment Process and Safety Threat language.

Continued work on analysis and stakeholder feedback – particularly those with lived experience – remain at the forefront in guiding this work.

