Initial Assessment Improvement Project

Safety Revisions

Quality Case Planning
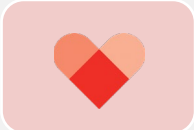
Independent Living Project

Safety Revisions – February 2025 Enhancements

September 2024

Small Changes, Smart Incremental Steps, Positive Impact

Because changes to the safety assessment, analysis, and plan will impact families who are involved with Child Protective Services (CPS) and CPS professionals, the Department of Children and Families is being deliberate about introducing incremental changes, one step at a time.

Based on feedback from stakeholders, preliminary changes are being made in February 2025 to center families, be more culturally responsive, and support the workforce, in line with the Wisconsin Child Welfare Model for Practice. These small shifts promote best practice, will make a positive difference now, and create a solid foundation for future safety revisions.

The February 2025 changes include: 1) improving documentation in eWiSACWIS and 2) removing buzzwords and problematic concepts from the Parental Protective Capacities in the CPS Safety Intervention Standards (Appendix 5). The upcoming eWiSACWIS enhancements will highlight the importance of:
- Protective capacities and the strengths of parents/caregivers
- Tribal collaboration

Highlighting and elevating protective capacities

Parents' and caregivers' strengths and protective capacities are key to child safety and are central to making decisions at different points in the safety assessment, analysis, and planning process.

Changes to documentation in the February 2025 eWiSACWIS release will reflect the significance of:
- The presence of a protective adult in determining whether CPS involvement is necessary.
- Identifying and supporting parents'/caregivers' protective capacities either when there is an in-home safety plan or when a child is in an out-of-home placement.

Purpose

The Safety Revisions project has two primary goals:

1) Centering parents/ caregivers throughout the safety decision-making process.

2) Making the safety decision-making process easier for families to understand and the workforce to implement.

CPS Safety Intervention Standards

Along with eWiSACWIS enhancements, one portion of the Safety Intervention Standards will also be updated in February 2025. Appendix 5: Parent/Caregiver Protective Capacities will be updated to remove buzzwords, language, and concepts that can lead to bias or disparities. This work is similar to improvements that were made to the danger threat lists in June 2022.

Supporting Indian Children & Tribal Collaboration

When a child has Native American heritage, it is both important and required to identify any potential tribal affiliation and make diligent efforts to confirm the child's Indian status. Additionally, CPS agencies must collaborate with the Indian child's tribe/s when assessing and case planning. Mirroring recent changes to the Initial Assessment (IA), there will be a new ICWA/WICWA tab dedicated to documenting the CPS agency's efforts to engage the tribe/s.

Stay Tuned!

Before the end of the year, there will be additional information about the roll-out of these updates, what to expect, specific dates, and any other information the workforce will need.

Timeline

Sept 2024	Raising awareness about the February 2025 eWiSACWIS and Safety Intervention Standards enhancements.
	Convening the Safety Revisions Implementation Workgroup.
Oct-Dec	Ongoing communication with stakeholders about the February changes, including information about training/support materials.
	eWiSACWIS enhancements in development.
Jan 2025	Continued communication, including distributing workforce training/support materials.
	eWiSACWIS testing and release preview.
February	Launch of limited Safety Intervention Standards and eWiSACWIS updates
March	Post-launch support, if needed (tbd)