

# Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council

November 12, 2021



Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

# Division of Safety and Permanence



Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

# Overview

- Prevention
- Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)
- New Worker Training



# Prevention



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# FFPSA Prevention Plan

- Explored other opportunities: Home Builders and motivational interviewing if state revenue dollars were available.
- Submit streamlined 5-year plan prior to the 10/1 implementation date.
  - Healthy Families America.
  - Parents as Teachers.
  - Nurse-Family Partnership.
- Building on existing infrastructure.
- Working to understand the child welfare / home visiting overlap.



# What will this mean for child welfare agencies?

- Only some families will have needs best met through Home Visiting.
- Agencies can continue to refer eligible families.
- State may be able to claim IV-E for candidates of foster care served by home visiting programs.



# New Prevention Materials Available

- 1-Page Constellation of Services.
- Wisconsin's 5-Year Prevention Plan & 1-Page Summary.
- Prevention FAQs.



<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/family-first/prevention>



# Transformation Work: Supporting Families

- Efforts around key services continue.
  - Concrete Supports and informal resources.
  - Ongoing work to explore policy barriers to in-home planning.
    - e.g. Childcare.
- Evaluating agency interest in Motivational Interviewing.
- Looking ahead to future budget cycles.





# Transformation Work: **Supporting Families**

- Launched the Safety Planning Revisions Workgroup in September.
  - County stakeholders, DMCPS, DSP & PDS.
- **Key Objectives Include:**
  - Refine the safety assessment process and danger threat language to be culturally responsive, equitable and just.
  - Refine and improve the safety assessment and planning framework that facilitates upfront safety decisions that are informed by engagement with families to guide the case process and keep more children and youth safely in their homes.



# QRTP Updates



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# Clear Communication & Training

- Videos, Desk Guide, and FAQ's available on Family First website
  - <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/family-first/qntp>
- Children's Court Improvement Project trained over 1000 legal partners in changes to judicial process related to QNTTP and Family First
- Over 850 child welfare professionals received technical training on the process of QNTTP certification and work-related tasks, intervention with families, and documentation in eWiSACWIS





# Nursing Hotline

- 24/7 Nursing Hotline offered to all youth placed in certified QRTP's to improve quality of supportive services and assist in QRTP certification qualification.
- Memo released to inform all stakeholders of the benefit of this service.



# Supportive Rate Change



- **Memo released on 10/29/21 providing recently certified QRTP's an opportunity to request a rate adjustment to:**
  - Expand services and reimbursement.
  - Assist in accreditation costs associated with certification.
  - Provide child-specific interventions that are relevant to their trauma-informed treatment model.
  - Support clinical care staff, workforce retention and support.
  - Development of family-based aftercare supportive services when youth discharge from a facility.



# Provider Town Hall & Future Steps

- We continue to seek feedback on the process of certification application
- **Coordinating open 'office hours' for Providers to engage with CWLS staff to walkthrough the application process and support facilities.**
- Assist with development of policies and trauma-informed treatment models to enhance services and personnel within facilities applying for QRTP certification
- **Seeking feedback for potential improvements when the emergency rule transfers to permanent rule**



# **New Child Welfare Professional Training | Supporting our Workforce**



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# Child Welfare Workers + Staff

- Less turnover = increased stability for families and permanency for children.



- ✓ Timely investigations
- ✓ More contacts and visits with families
- ✓ Better service
- ✓ Improved safety
- ✓ More permanency





# New Worker Training Model

- Creating a robust innovative child welfare worker training program will transform the system to better serve families in home.
- **DCF Goals:**
  1. Support workers serving families through human-centered design concepts.
  2. Incorporate learning objectives into trainings.
  3. Build supervisor support throughout the program.



# New Worker Training Model

- **The training program will deliver:**
  - Remote and in-person learning options.
  - Real time and offline learning flexibility.
  - Innovative ways for people to learn
  - Options for starting times, travel, cost, schedules, etc.



**Flexibility**



**Options**



**Teamwork**



# Supporting our Workforce: Permanency Plan Improvement

- Front line and tribal child welfare staff were actively engaged in this process that will help improve outcomes for families and reduce workload for child welfare staff while maintaining requirements for this process.
- The permanency plan process was streamlined focused on making it more strengths-based, trauma-informed, and easier to understand so that the process more effectively helps families.



# Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services



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# Supporting In-Home Services/Preventing Removals Workgroup

- Goal
  - Gather information to inform on successful practice/service interventions provided to families which help keep children and families safely together.



# Scope of Work – In-Home/Prevention

- DMCPS starting point is to focus on children who experienced six months or less stay in out-of-home care
  - Utilization of qualitative and quantitative data(demographics, ages, and safety decisions)
  - Additional data sets will be identified and reviewed
- Reviewing the data may assist with:
  - Identify connections between family conditions and service interventions.
  - Understand family systems (dynamics/conditions, the availability of services and the impact on efforts to ensure children's safety in the home.
  - Evaluate the system and/or practice changes in our efforts to keep children in the home.



# Preliminary Data

DRAFT and PRELIMINARY REUNIFICATION DATA  
SHORT STAYERS 2017 - 2020 - based on exits

	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021 YTD (Aug)		Totals 2017-2020	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<= 3 days	72	12.7%	44	8.2%	55	10.0%	47	12.2%	22	9.2%	218	10.7%
4-7 days	8	1.4%	33	6.2%	8	1.5%	7	1.8%	2	0.8%	56	2.8%
<b>Total &lt;=7</b>	80	14.2%	77	14.4%	63	11.5%	54	14.0%	24	10.1%	274	13.5%
8-14 days	13	2.3%	1	0.2%	3	0.5%	1	0.3%	1	0.4%	18	0.9%
15-30 days	14	2.5%	7	1.3%	3	0.5%	4	1.0%	1	0.4%	28	1.4%
<b>Total &lt;= 30 days</b>	107	18.9%	85	15.9%	69	12.6%	59	15.3%	26	10.9%	320	15.7%
31 to 60 days	9	1.6%	25	4.7%	23	4.2%	8	2.1%	4	1.7%	65	3.2%
<b>Total &lt;= 60 days</b>	116	20.5%	110	20.5%	92	16.8%	67	17.4%	30	12.6%	385	18.9%
61 to 180 days	97	17.2%	92	17.2%	71	12.9%	39	10.1%	24	10.1%	299	14.7%
<b>Total &lt;= 180 days</b>	213	37.7%	202	37.7%	163	29.7%	106	27.5%	54	22.7%	684	33.6%
<b>Total Reunifications</b>	565		536		549		386		238		2036	



# Next Steps

- Finalizing a tool to collect qualitative data on identified cases
- Collect the data
- Analyze the qualitative and quantitative data
- Identification of themes and patterns – how does each set of data support or contradict, how does it inform us?
- Share Information
- Action Planning





# Ongoing Services Section Efforts

- Addition of a Program and Policy Analyst position in June 2021 to help focus on FFPSA work and strategic goals
- Developing Milwaukee-specific procedures for implementation of FFPSA
  - Including a Guide for Case Managers
- Stronger Families Milwaukee RFP



# Qualified Residential Treatment Programs

- Ongoing engagement of congregate care providers transitioning to QRTP and other aspects of FFPSA
- After Care Model
  - Developing expectations for facilities contracted with DMCCPS
- Court Process
  - Guide for Case Managers to follow Milwaukee procedures for QRTP placements
  - Collaborate with court system to be in accordance with state statutes when a youth is placed at an in or out-of-state QRTP



# Casey Family Programs Collaboration

- DMCPS is starting a partnership with Casey Family Programs for a project focused on reducing the need for congregate care placements
  - Congregate Care includes Group Homes and Residential Care Centers (RCC/RTC)
  - Casey Family Programs is working successfully with several other jurisdictions across the county on reduction of using congregate care.

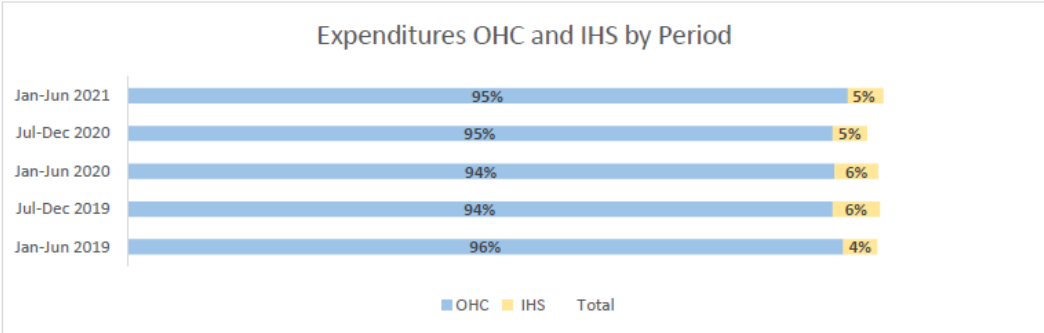
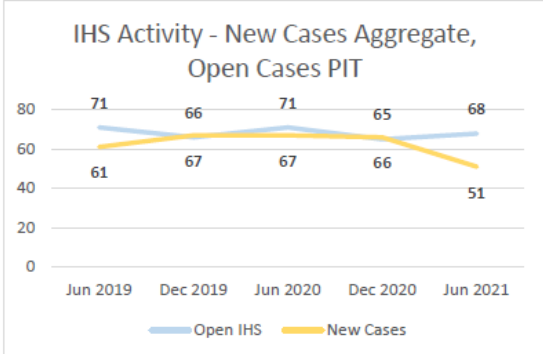
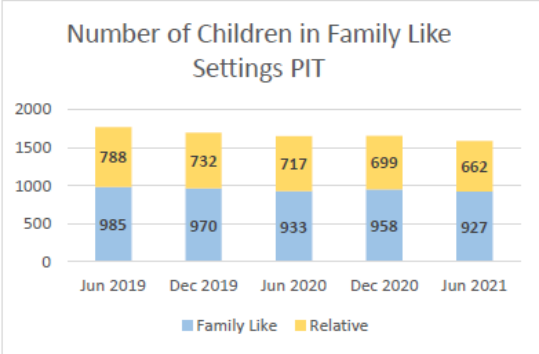
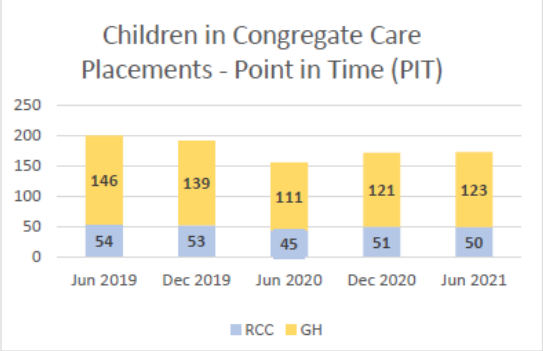
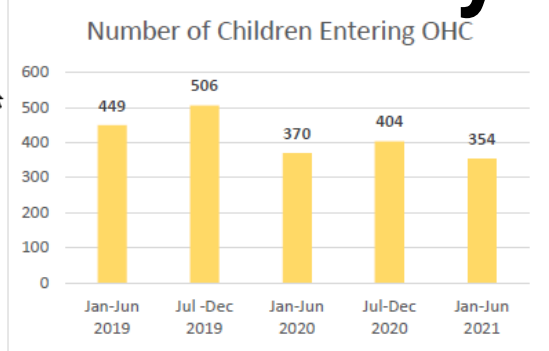


# FFPSA Score Card

- Budget and spending established by legislature; researching ways to increase funding for in-home services
  - DMCPS will need partnership for community stakeholders and Council in advocating for additional funding designated for in-home services.
- Out-of-Home Care and In-Home Services baseline data from January 2019 through June 2021
- Internal and external (DMCPS website) scorecard
- Purpose will be to measure progress towards FFPSA outcomes



# DMCPS Out-of-Home Care & In-Home Services Baseline Data January 2019-June 2021



# Resources

- DCF FFPSA site: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/family-first/background>
- DCF FFPSA Newsletter: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/family-first/news>
- DMCPS FFPSA website: TBA

