

MILWAUKEE CHILD WELFARE PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL
Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services
Friday, May 16, 2025
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The meeting was conducted by Zoom. The Zoom meeting information was made available on the DCF DMCPs Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council webpage on May 9, 2025. (<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/mcps/partnership-council>).

Notice of Meeting – Chairperson Kelly Pethke reviewed compliance with Open Meetings Law requirements.

First, the notice of the meeting was published on the DCF and DOA websites on April 29, 2025, and in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on May 12, 2025. Second, the notice was emailed to the newspaper of record for the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin State Journal, on May 12, 2025. The notice was emailed to the Partnership Council stakeholders including any media who had requested such notice on May 12, 2025. Finally, the agenda was posted on the front door of the DMCPs building at 635 N. 26th St. on May 12, 2025. This satisfies the requirements for notice under Wis. Stat. 19.84(1)(b).

Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions, Kelly Pethke, Chair

At the request of Chairperson Pethke, a roll call was taken to identify the MCWPC members present for the meeting.

Present were Chairperson Kelly Pethke, Libby Mueller, Judge Jane Carroll, Carmen Pitre, Dr. Mallory O'Brien, Katie Holtz, Bria Grant, Rochelle Johnson-Bent, Dr. Juan Baez, Representative Darrin Madison, and Senator LaTonya Johnson.

A quorum of the Council was present during roll call of the Zoom meeting.

Chairperson Kelly Pethke expressed gratitude for Supervisor Sequanna Taylor and Supervisor Patti Logsdon for their services on the MCWPC as their terms will conclude July 1, 2025.

DCF Assistant Secretary Nadya Perez Reyes thanked Supervisor Logsdon for her service on MCWPC and share a letter from Secretary Jeff Pertl

Review and Approval of Past Minutes, Kelly Pethke, Chair

Libby Mueller motioned to approve minutes from February 21, 2025. Judge Carroll seconded approval. Minutes were approved.

Independent Monitoring Report (IMR) and Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services Response, Tyler Oettinger, Quality Review and Performance Analysis Section Manager, Bureau of Performance Management

Tyler Oettinger reported results on the Annual Independent Monitoring Report (IMR) including performance from January to December 2024. Full presentation is available at <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/mcps/data>.

Senator LaTonya Johnson asked if there is any concern that the number of incidents that should have been screened in but were missed. Tyler Oettinger answered it is hard to tell if things are missed based on the screen in rate only. Screening is something specific to each

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county, there are different practices, and external influences. It is consistent to statewide trends. Bridget Chybowski shared the calls overall are going down and the Access Section does quality reviews of Access report and screen in decisions. Lee Johnson, Access Section Manger does not believe they are missing families and shared the Access Section is focusing on neglect referrals, typically minor neglect such as lack of basic needs. They have been meeting with partner agencies intervention to speak about community resources to address basic needs. Mandated reporters are being trained in having a better understanding of what is appropriate to report.

Bria Grant asked what things are contributing to the closure of foster homes, what can be done to strengthen the reunification for out-of-home placements, and what were the contributors to the unique outlier. Tyler Oettinger answered one reason of the decline is there are people licensed in child specific homes and once the child achieves reunification or is discharged, the home will close. He stated permanency within 12 months is something to watch and because of the complexities of some children it makes the timeliness in reunification take longer. For the maltreatment outlier of 12 children in 2023, Tyler stated some of those were older incidents and the way it is reported is based on the date the initial assessment is completed.

Jennifer Erdmann, Director of Out-of-Home Care at Wellpoint Care Network, shared majority of homes are closing due to permanency. The majority of Wellpoint's Level 2 homes are child specific. She shared they shift their strategies and try figuring out how to reach to other community members who are interested and do persistent follow up such as phone calls, emails, and later follow up for those not ready at the time.

Susanna Leggio, Director of Child Welfare at Children's Wisconsin, commented that their majority of foster home closure reasons are of permanency as well. Some closures have been intentional such as licensed homes not taking placement of children. Most of Children's licensed homes have 2 or more beds.

Administrator's Report/ Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Update, Bridget Chybowski, Administrator, Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services

Update did not occur due to power surge at DCF building on N. 26th. Administrator loss connection.

Governor's Budget Requests 2025-27, John Elliott, Administrator, Division of Safety and Permanence

John Elliott reported highlights on the budget item recommendations for 2025-2027 Biennial Budget and updates from Joint Finance Committee. Full presentation is available at <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/mcps/partnership-council>.

Service Array Milwaukee County and DMCPs: Full presentation is available at <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/mcps/partnership-council>

1. Jasmine Window, Program Director at IMPACT 21; Jasmine Window's contact info is jwindow@impactinc.org.

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2. Danique Seymour, Program Supervisor, Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services – Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS)
3. Kristina Janik, Director of Service Quality, Wellpoint Care Network
4. Susanna Leggio, Director of Child Welfare, and Jennifer Winkler, Family Support and Well Being Manager, Children’s Wisconsin

View from the Bench, Judge Jane Carroll, Presiding Judge, Milwaukee County Children’s Court

No updates, all is well in the Courts.

Community Input, Kelly Pethke, Chair

No community input shared.

Concluding Remarks, Kelly Pethke, Chair

Chair Kelly Pethke shared a suggestion for Senator Johnson to present State of Black Wisconsin presentation as a future agenda item. MCWPC members expressed interest with having this on the agenda (no vote was taken).

Adjourn