

Department of Children and Families

Tribal Consultation Action Plan

May 2019 to May 2020

The Department of Children and Families and the Federally recognized Indian Tribes headquartered in Wisconsin held a consultation meeting on May 8, 2019. This Action Plan is the result of that consultation meeting. The plan is a set of mutually agreeable short- and long-term strategies to address issues of interest to Tribes. The Department and the Tribes headquartered in Wisconsin agree to collaborate on these strategies and provide staff support as required to successfully achieve these outcomes by May 2020.

Item 1: Explore methods to share tribal success stories	<p>Responsible Party: DCF Tribal Liaison – Stephanie Lozano</p> <p>In collaboration with: DCF Communications DCF Divisions Tribal Leaders</p>
<p>History:</p> <p>At the 2019 Consultation, Tribal Leaders and DCF Leaders discussed the desire to ensure that we are sharing success stories and innovative practices in tribal communities.</p>	
Outcome/Update:	
Resources:	
Item 2: Families First Prevention Act	<p>Responsible Party: Division of Safety and Permanence Tribal Affairs Specialist – Tania Cornelius DCF Tribal Liaison – Stephanie Lozano</p> <p>In collaboration with: ICW Directors</p>
<p>History:</p> <p>The tribes would like to be included in the discussion and planning regarding the implementation of the Families First Prevention Act. The Tribes were most interested in the impact to the Tribal Title IV-E Pass-through Agreements and any proposed service expansions. At the Tribal Consultation meeting, the Department responded that they were still working to fully understand the impact of the Families First Prevention Act and agreed that they would include the tribes in discussions and planning.</p>	
Outcome/Update:	

Resources:	
Item 3: Shares New Worker Training and New Administrator Training	Responsible Party: DCF Tribal Liaison – Stephanie Lozano DECE Bureau of Operations and Planning DECE Bureau of Program Integrity DECE Bureau of Regulation and Licensing In collaboration with: DMS Bureau of Regional Operations
History: The tribes requested additional training for new workers and new administrators for the Shares program.	
Outcome/Update:	
Resources:	
Item 4: Tribal eWiSACWIS Access	Responsible Party: Division of Safety and Permanence Tribal Affairs Specialist – Tania Cornelius In collaboration with: ICW Directors
History: The tribes requested an update on full eWiSACWIS access for tribes.	
Outcome/Update:	
Resources:	
Item 5: Update on Progress and Implementation of Protective Plan Policy	Responsible Party: DSP Tribal Affairs Specialist – Tania Cornelius DSP Bureau of Safety and Well-Being – Michelle Rawlings and Angela Krueger In collaboration with: ICW Directors DCF Tribal Liaison – Stephanie Lozano
History:	

The Tribal ICW Directors raised concerns regarding the current practice surrounding protective plans. Concerns regarding ICWA compliance, county worker follow through, and coercive tactics being used with families were highlighted at the Tribal Consultation Meeting. DCF Tribal Liaison agreed to partner with the Tribes and department staff to create a plan to address the concerns.

Outcome/Update:

Resources:

Item 6: Update on Tailored Child Welfare Court Orders Project

Responsible Party:

DSP Tribal Affairs Specialist – Tania Cornelius
DSP Division Administrator – Wendy Henderson

History:

DSP Division of Safety and Permanence Division Administrator, Wendy Henderson, shared that they will be working on a Tailored Court Orders Project that is aimed at reducing lengthy child welfare dispositional orders and ensuring that the orders are right sized for each family. The Tribal Leaders requested an update on this project at the 2020 Tribal Consultation Meeting.

Outcome/Update:

Resources:

Item 7: Training Opportunities to Support Child Welfare Case Workers

Responsible Party:

Division of Safety and Permanence Tribal Affairs Specialist – Tania Cornelius
DCF Tribal Liaison – Stephanie Lozano

In collaboration with:

WCW-PDS Intertribal Child Welfare Specialist - Heather Halonie
ICW Directors

History:

Tribal Leaders shared concerns regarding the strain that their case workers are feeling as a result of higher caseload sizes and vicarious trauma. Tribal Leaders asked for additional training to support their child welfare workers and prevent burnout.

Outcome/Update:

Resources:

Item 8: TEACH Scholarship Information	Responsible Party: DECE Policy Initiatives Advisor – Amanda Reeve DCF Tribal Liaison – Stephanie Lozano
History: The Tribal Leaders shared concerns regarding recruitment, retention, and training for childcare providers.	
Outcome/Update: T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Wisconsin provides higher education scholarships to professionals who work in regulated early childhood and school age care settings. The Scholarship Program operates in partnership with individual students and their child care program. T.E.A.C.H. will cover 75% of tuition costs for group center staff and 90% for family child care providers. In group programs, the sponsoring center's share is 15%. The student's share is always 10%. T.E.A.C.H. scholarships also include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reimbursement for 75% of book expenses • A \$75 travel stipend per semester • 15 hours of paid release time per semester • Access to a scholarship counselor for support and encouragement • A financial bonus upon completion In addition to early childhood coursework, the First Nations Pathway Scholarship allows students to take culturally relevant courses at a variety of tribal and public schools, including the University of Minnesota-Duluth.	
Resources: A flyer for First Nations Pathway and T.E.A.C.H. can be found here: https://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/FirstNation-Flyer.pdf For further information contact: Jeanette Paulson jpaulson@wisconsinearlychildhood.org 608-729-1025	
Item 9: Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)	Responsible Party: DCF Tribal Liaison – Stephanie Lozano
History: A short discussion regarding the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was held. DCF offered to provide the tribes with information regarding ESSA as well as the point of contact that is listed for child welfare agencies and local education agencies.	
Outcome/Update: The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) foster care provisions:	

- Apply to all children in out-of-home care enrolled in public schools, including public preschools.
- Effective on December 10, 2016.
- Are based on comprehensive collaboration between LEAs and CWAs.
- Are predicated on the default position that a child should remain in his or her school of origin.

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and child welfare agencies (CWAs) are required to collaborate in order to facilitate the educational stability of children placed in out-of-home care. The resources below are provided on the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and Department of Children and Families (DCF) websites.

Resources:

[DPI website for Out-of-Home-Care & Educational Stability](#)

[Local Education Agency Point of Contact Roles and Responsibilities](#)

[School District Foster Care Points of Contact in Wisconsin](#)

[DCF website for Supporting Students in Out-of-Home Care](#)

[Child Welfare Agency Education Point of Contact Roles and Responsibilities](#)

[County and Tribal Child Welfare Agency Contacts](#)

Item 10: Rehabilitation Review Process for child care and foster care providers

Responsible Party:

DCF Tribal Liaison – Stephanie Lozano

In collaboration with:

DCF Office of Legal Counsel

DCF Division of Safety and Permanence

DCF Division of Early Care and Education

History:

During a discussion regarding the lack of foster care and child care providers, tribal leaders stated that there were people in their community who would be excellent providers; however, due to previous struggles that have since been remedied, background check issues were preventing them from serving as a foster home or child care provider.

DCF agreed to provide the tribes with information regarding Rehabilitation Review Processes for child care and foster care.

Outcome/Update:

Resources: