

Tribal Consultation Action Plan

May 2022 to May 2023

The Department of Children and Families and the Federally-recognized Indian Tribes headquartered in Wisconsin held a consultation meeting on May 10, 2022. 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 2023.

Item 1: eWiSACWIS – Tribal Access Workgroup	<i>Responsible Party:</i> Division of Safety and Permanence <i>In collaboration with:</i> ICW Directors
<i>History:</i> At the 2022 Consultation, DCF presented next steps in providing additional access to eWiSACWIS. DCF announced the creation of a workgroup with tribes that will focus on developing a customized solution for tribes to receive data/information about Indian children, manage cases and provide information/data to counties.	
<i>Outcome/Update:</i>	
<i>Resources:</i>	
Item 2: Explore modification to existing policy and statute that would direct county agencies to provide copies of services reports to tribes.	<i>Responsible Party:</i> Division of Safety and Permanence <i>In collaboration with:</i> ICW Committee

History:

At the 2022 Tribal Consultation, tribes were interested in exploring automated notice of services reports and CPS reports via the eWiSACWIS system. Tribes expressed a desire to have services reports added to the required reports to be shared with tribes under DSP Numbered Memo: 2012-08 - Notifying Tribal Indian Child Welfare Agencies of Child Protective Services Reports and Wis Stats: 48.981(3)(bm).

Outcome/Update:

Resources:

Item 3: Explore eWiSACWIS automation for notice to tribes regarding Child Protective Services Reports and Child Welfare Services Reports

Responsible Party:

Division of Safety and Permanence

In collaboration with:

ICW Committee

History:

At the 2022 Tribal Consultation, tribes requested that DCF explore the viability of using eWiSACWIS to automate notice of child welfare services reports and child protection services reports to tribes. Under DSP Numbered Memo: 2012-08 - Notifying Tribal Indian Child Welfare Agencies of Child Protective Services Reports and Wis Stats: 48.981(3)(bm) counties are required to provide notice to tribes for Child Protective Service Reports; however, this is not happening routinely. This lack of notice results in tribes not being aware of referrals for families and prevents tribes from intervening early and offering services. Should Action Item 2 (Explore modification to existing policy and statute that would direct county agencies to provide copies of services reports to tribes) be permissible, tribes would like to add Child Protective Services Reports to the list of automated reports for notice to be provided via eWiSACWIS.

Outcome/Update:

Resources:

Item 4: Tribal Consultation on Kinship Care

Responsible Party:

Division of Safety and Permanence

Office of Budget and Policy

DCF Tribal Liaison – Stephanie Lozano

In collaboration with:

Tribal Leaders and delegates

History:

At the 2022 Tribal Consultation, Tribal leaders spoke about their concerns with the Kinship Care Program. DCF and the Tribal Leaders agreed that additional discussion and collaboration was needed and a Tribal Consultation Meeting focusing on Kinship Care would be the best approach to ensuring that all necessary parties were present including leadership and subject matter experts from both DCF and Tribal Nations.

Areas of exploration that were identified include:

- Increasing the payment to kinship providers
- System supports for kinship providers and children
- Expanding the definition of relative to include tribal definitions
- Parity with foster homes

Outcome/Update:

Resources: