



# Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

## Tribal Consultation Action Plan

June 2024 to June 2025

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Federally recognized Tribes headquartered in Wisconsin held a consultation meeting on June 4, 2024. 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 June 2025.

### Item 1: Strengthening State and Tribal Child Support Enforcement Act

#### *Responsible Party:*

DCF Division of Family and Economic Security

#### *In collaboration with:*

Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Child Support

#### *Requested Action:*

At the 2024 Tribal Consultation Meeting, DCF and LCO Child Support provided information on the Strengthening State and Tribal Child Support Enforcement Act which is a bill pending in the House Ways and Means Committee. Without this legislative fix, as of October 1, 2024, the IRS will no longer hold in 'abeyance' findings related to tribal child support programs and contractors' access to federal tax information.

A request was made to:

- 1) Provide a copy of the Strengthening State and Tribal Child Support Enforcement Act (H.R. 7906) and
- 2) Draft letter of support for tribal leaders, the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, and the Chippewa Federation in advance of the House Ways and Means Committee meeting in July 2024.

DCF offered to provide the materials within two weeks.

#### *Outcome:*

A draft letter of support was sent to tribal leaders, tribal child support directors, and all DCF tribal consultation attendees on June 24, 2024.

H.R. 7906 was subsequently included into a larger bill package known as H.R. 9076 Supporting America's Children and Families Act. H.R. 9076 was passed in December 2024 and was signed by the President on January 4, 2025, becoming P.L. 118-258.

#### *Resources:*

H.R. 7906 can be found here: <https://www.congress.gov/118/bills/hr7906/BILLS-118hr7906ih.pdf>

More information about H.R. 7096 can be found here: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/7906>

Information about H.R. 9076 can be found here: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/9076/all-actions>

## Item 2: Child Care

### *Responsible Party:*

DCF Division of Early Care and Education

### *In collaboration with:*

WI Department of Administration (DOA), Tribal Leaders and Directors

### *Requested Action:*

At the 2024 consultation, there were several conversations regarding child care/early childhood concerns.

- **Fingerprinting:** Tribes brought up concerns that prospective child care and Head Start employees are required to go through fingerprinting; however, the closest FieldPrint site is nearly an hour away from their community. There are barriers regarding transportation and FieldPrint will not accept a purchase order from the tribe, only credit cards. The tribes would like to find a way to make it easier for their community members to comply with background check requirements. Some tribes have a Tribal Access Program (TAP) kiosk through the federal government, but they are not able to use the TAP system for child care background checks.
  - DCF will inquire with federal, tribal, and state partners to identify any potential barriers to using the TAP kiosks that are in tribal communities (E.g.: DCF will reach out to TAP to see if it is possible/the process for adding the appropriate coding for child care background checks; talk with federal Head Start program to see whether this would be allowable under the Head Start rules as they are required to use the state system for fingerprinting and background checks; follow up with WI Department of Justice (DOJ) regarding existing capacity within communities; follow up with WI DOA regarding FieldPrint contract).
- **“Full-Faith and Credit” for Tribal Self-Regulated Certification and Licensing for Providers:** Tribes brought up concerns that there are barriers to the current state child care regulation process causing them to explore and utilize self-regulation options; however, self-regulation also prevents tribes from accepting the Wisconsin Shares subsidy funding where families may be eligible and in need of child care.
  - DCF will research the barriers to providing full-faith and credit for tribal self-regulated certified or licensed providers.
- **Continued conversations on how we can partner together on these concerns:** During these conversations it was noted that we (DCF and Tribes) are philosophically aligned. DCF committed to identifying: what is within our control, what needs state statutory change, what needs federal changes, and how we can best partner together to effectuate changes.

### *Outcome:*

- **Fingerprinting:** DCF is continuing to have conversations with DOA and DOJ to improve access to fingerprinting and conducting background checks. Currently, TAP kiosks are not supported from the approved DOJ security solution and do not route to DOJ data source. Therefore, TAP kiosks cannot connect to BadgerNet, the secure network that allows access to State of Wisconsin data centers and then DOJ data sources to complete background checks. If other fingerprint machines are used in gaming and law enforcement that have BadgerNet access, those machines could potentially be used for child care background checks.

- **“Full-Faith and Credit”:** DCF researched other states that have allowed tribal self-regulated programs to participate in their state-funded Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) programs. DCF identified the legal changes that would need to be made in state law, administrative code, and CCDF State Plan for tribal self-regulated child care programs to receive Wisconsin Shares subsidies. DCF would need to work with tribes to develop a process for tribal attestation to CCDF health and safety requirements. Tribes may need to determine whether they want to conduct their own background checks and/or allow DCF to continue to centralize background checks even under full-faith and credit prior to policy changes. DCF will also continue to research the implications and requirements for Head Start, Wisconsin Shares and YoungStar, Wisconsin’s Child Care Quality Rating and Improvement System.

#### *Resources:*

Refer to handouts for additional information.

### **Item 3: Provide Resources Shared During Education Neglect/Truancy Conversation**

#### *Responsible Party:*

DCF Tribal Liaison

#### *In collaboration with:*

Department of Health Services (DHS), Office of Children’s Mental Health (OCMH), Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board (CANPB), DCF Legislative Liaison, Department of Public Instruction

#### *Requested Action:*

At the 2024 Tribal Consultation Meeting, there was a discussion about education neglect and truancy. While the topic was identified as statutorily being under the purview of the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) a larger conversation took place regarding root causes of education neglect/truancy and how those root causes could encompass the responsibility of several agencies (DCF, DHS, OCMH, CANPB, etc.). During the conversation, several resources and pieces of information were shared verbally. DCF Secretary Amundson requested the DCF Tribal Liaison gather all of the resources and provide the information to the attendees.

#### *Outcome:*

A list of the resources that were mentioned at the DCF Tribal Consultation Meeting is provided below.

#### *Resources:*

- Triple P Online: <https://www.triplep-parenting.com/wi-en/triple-p/>
  - Triple P Online – for parents of young children under 12 years
  - Teen Triple P Online – for parents of pre-teens and teens, approx. 10-16 years
  - Fear-Less Triple P Online support for parents of anxious kids (6-14 years)
- WI After School Network, <https://www.wiafterschoolnetwork.org/>
  - Randy Neve is a good contact to discuss parent cafes ([neve.randy@marshfieldclinic.org](mailto:neve.randy@marshfieldclinic.org))
- Triple P (in-person or by zoom)
  - UW Extension educators: <https://parenting.extension.wisc.edu/toddlers/triple-p-positive-parenting-program/>
  - Family Resource Centers: <https://fiveforfamilies.org/family-resource-centers/>
- Family Resource Centers: <https://fiveforfamilies.org/family-resource-centers/>

- Tribal Youth Resource Center recording of Building and Sustaining Partnerships for Truancy Prevention Programs (December 16, 2021): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HtVERYkSXXI>
  - Additional materials from this presentation can also be found here: <https://myemail-api.constantcontact.com/Resources-and-Evaluation-from-the-12-16-TYRC-OLE-Building-and-Sustaining-Partnerships-to-Support-Tribal-Truancy-Prevention.html?soid=1132718811129&aid=sYkp8aZpVs4>
  - Other resources they've created/curated include:
    - A YouTube playlist on [Tribal Truancy Prevention](#) (3 ~1hr webinar recordings)
    - A library with materials specific to truancy prevention [https://www.tribalyouth.org/resources/resource-library/?\\_sft\\_resource\\_issues=truancy-prevention-and-attendance](https://www.tribalyouth.org/resources/resource-library/?_sft_resource_issues=truancy-prevention-and-attendance)
- Office of Children's Mental Health (OCMH) Key Facts in Youth Mental Health: <https://children.wi.gov/Pages/ResearchData/KeyFacts.aspx>
  - Additional OCMH Fact Sheets can be found here: <https://children.wi.gov/Pages/ResearchData/FactSheets.aspx>
- Mental Health America Article: The Impact of School Mental Health Services on Reducing Chronic Absenteeism <https://mhanational.org/blog/impact-school-mental-health-services-reducing-chronic-absenteeism?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=825f02ce-de3b-42a4-8991-178c5bf1cb9a>
- DCF Youth Justice Issue Brief on Truancy (November 2021): <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/publications/pdf/5489.pdf>
- OJJDP Supporting Tribal Youth Attendance Achievement: A Resource to Support Community Based Truancy Prevention Programs: <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/publications/supporting-tribal-youth-attendance-achievement.pdf>
- DPI School Attendance Improvement and Truancy Prevention website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/safe-schools/school-attendance>
  - This website also includes a four-part Truancy Prevention Learning series with resources and summary sheets

**Item 4: Continue Sharing Information and Resources Regarding Youth with Complex Needs/High Acuity/Intellectual Disabilities**

*Responsible Party:*

DCF Division of Safety and Permanence

*In collaboration with:*

Indian Child Welfare (ICW) Directors

*Requested Action:*

At the 2024 Tribal Consultation Meeting, there was a discussion about youth and adults with complex needs, high acuity, and/or intellectual disabilities. DCF clarified that adults with intellectual disabilities were under the purview of DHS; however, children with intellectual disabilities involved programs and services from both DHS and DCF. Tribal leaders shared the growing concerns and needs of their community and community members. DCF Secretary Amundson requested that we continue sharing resources and information regarding youth with complex needs, high acuity, and intellectual disabilities through the ICW Director meetings.

*Outcome:*

DCF partnered with DPI and DHS on a children's behavioral health initiative, also known as the Behavioral Health Lab. This initiative will focus on children and youth with complex behavioral health needs with the following goals:

- Serve these kids and their families in communities across the state through high fidelity and targeted wraparound services.
- Intervene earlier to reduce child welfare involvement.
- Fill gaps in existing local programs like Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) and Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS).

This initiative developed a proposal for a new Medicaid program that will provide:

- Wraparound Model/ Care Coordination.
- Individualized, team-based, collaborative process to provide coordinated services and supports.
- Implemented by a statewide organization.
- Eligibility and Enrollment.
- No wrong referral approach (schools, child welfare, health care, justice).
- Assessment via functional screen.
- Benefit Package – Examples of Services.
- Health related social needs (potential to braid funding with DCF).
- Parental capacity building, support, and respite care.
- Behavioral health treatments.

The three state agencies hosted multiple listening sessions with various key external partners over the past year for feedback on this proposal, including, attending meetings of the Intertribal Child Welfare Committee, Tribal Behavioral Health Directors, and Tribal Health Directors. The three state agencies also hosted a webinar with a similar model from Ohio that all external partners were invited to attend to learn more information.

*Resources:*