

## Department of Children and Families Boards, Committees, Councils, and Commissions 2024

\* statutory board/council

### Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board (s. 15.205(4))\*

<https://preventionboard.wi.gov/Pages/Homepage.aspx>

#### Description

The Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board was created by the Legislature in 1983 as the lead state agency on child abuse and neglect prevention efforts in Wisconsin. The agency's work is grounded in the strengths-based Protective Factors Framework utilizing a public health approach which incorporates a continuum of prevention strategies to strengthen families. The Prevention Board promotes and supports community-based, family-centered strategies to prevent child abuse and neglect while strengthening family protective factors.

The Prevention Board strategic plan provides a roadmap for its work to prevent first time occurrences of child maltreatment. The strategic plan is comprised of four strategies with key initiatives to advance the Board's mission and vision. Annually, the Prevention Board creates a Community Investment Plan reflecting its policy, program, professional development and public awareness priorities.

#### Board Members

The Prevention Board is comprised of representatives from the Legislature; Governor's Office; state Departments of Children and Families, Health Services, Public Instruction, Justice and Corrections; and 10 public members.

- Senator Joan Ballweg, Wisconsin State Senate
- Representative Jill Billings, CANPB Legislative Committee Chair, Wisconsin State Assembly
- Senator LaTonya Johnson, Wisconsin State Senate
- Representative Patrick Snyder, Wisconsin State Assembly
- Jonette Arms, Assistant Administrator, Division of Public Health, Department of Health Services *Designee*
- Julie Incitti, School Social Work Consultant, Department of Public Instruction *Designee*
- Mary Anne Snyder, Governor's *Designee*
- Ron Hermes, Administrator, Division of Juvenile Corrections, Department of Correction *Designee*
- Stephanie Lozano, Tribal Liaison, Department of Children and Families *Designee*
- Lynn Cook, Office of Crime Victim Services, Department of Justice *Designee*
- Paula Breese, Executive Director, Family & Childcare Resources of N.E.W.
- Molly Jasmer, Attorney, Grady, Hayes & Neary, LLC

- Dr. Jennifer Kleven, CANPB Chair, Pediatrician, Gundersen Health Systems
- Michael McHorney
- William Olivier, CANPB Secretary & CANPB Performance Improvement Committee Chair
- Vicki Tylka, Director, Managing Director of Community Programs, North Central Health Care
- Sara Christensen, CANPB Vice Chair, Assistant District Attorney, Sheboygan County District Attorney's Office
- Allison Budzinski, Senior Analyst - Social and Behavioral Health, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
- Erika Traver, Indian Child Welfare Supervisor, Ho-Chunk Nation
- Alice Egan, Clinical Associate Professor; Child Welfare Training Coordinator, UW-Madison Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work

### **Governor's Council on Domestic Abuse (s. 15.207(16))\***

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/domesticabuse>

#### **Description**

The Governor's Council on Domestic Abuse (Council) advises the Department of Children and Families and the legislature on domestic abuse funding and policy issues. The Council also serves as a sounding board and resource for citizens of the State on domestic abuse issues.

#### **Membership**

The Council consists of thirteen members appointed for three-year terms. Of those 13 members, nine are nominated by the Governor, with advice and consent of the Senate. The other members are designated, for appointment by the Governor (\*\*), by the speaker of the assembly, senate majority leader, and the minority leader in each house of the legislature. Persons appointed have a recognized interest in and knowledge of domestic abuse issues.

- Senator Melissa Agard
- Rosalind McClain, Healing Starts Today \*\*
- Virginia Gittens Escudero, UNIDOS
- Susan Perry, Co-Chair\*\*
- Dr. Abdul Shour, Marshfield Clinic Research Institute
- Representative Sue Conley
- Susan Sippel, Co-Chair, Family Center\*\*
- Alena Taylor, Turningpoint for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence\*\*
- Representative Pat Snyder
- Shannon Barry, Domestic Abuse Intervention Services
- Elizabeth Lucas, Wisconsin Department of Corrections
- Cyrena Martin, C.A.R.E.S.
- Janan Najeeb, Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition

## Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council (Head Start Act of 2007)\*

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/ecac>

### Description

The Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) was formed as a result of the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007. Executive Order #269 officially created the Council on October 30, 2008. The mission of the Council is to help ensure that all children and families in Wisconsin have access to quality early childhood programs and services.

The Council is responsible for:

1. Conducting a periodic, statewide needs assessment concerning the availability and quality of early childhood education and development programs,
2. Identifying opportunities for, and barriers to, collaborating and coordination among federally-funded and state-funded child development, child care, and early childhood education programs and services,
3. Developing recommendations for increasing overall participation of children in existing federal, state, and local child care and early childhood education programs, including outreach of underrepresented and special populations,
4. Developing recommendations regarding the establishment of a unified data collection system for public early childhood education and development programs and services throughout the state,
5. Developing recommendations regarding statewide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood educators in the state,
6. Assessing the capacity and effectiveness of 2- and 4-year public and private institutions of higher education in the State toward supporting the development of early childhood educators, including the extent to which such institutions have in place articulation agreements, professional development and career advancement plans, and practice or internships for students to spend time in a Head Start or pre-kindergarten program, and
7. Making recommendations for improvements in State early learning standards and undertake efforts to develop high-quality comprehensive early learning standards, as appropriate

### Membership

Members of the Wisconsin Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council are appointed by the Governor.

- Secretary Emilie Amundson, Council Co-chair, Department of Children and Families
- State Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly, Council Co-chair, Department of Public Instruction
- Barbara Bales, Associate Professor, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee – School of Education
- Jillian Clemens, Head Start State Collaboration Office Director, Department of Children and Families
- Eric Fulcomer, President, Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities

- Andrea Gugel, Department of Public Instruction, Part B Coordinator, Department of Public Instruction
- Peng Her, The Hmong Institute
- Kia Kjensrud, Executive Director, Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and WIAAP Foundation
- Angi Krueger, Policy Advisor, Division of Safety and Permanence, DCF
- Heidi Luft, Executive Director, Supporting Families Together Association
- Lupe Martinez, President, UMOS
- Jose Martinez, Vice President, UMOS
- Kelly Matthews, Consultant
- Jennie Mauer, Executive Director, Wisconsin Head Start Association
- Suzette Mayotte, Program Director, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council
- Charlene Mouille, United Way of Wisconsin
- Kathy Mullally, Co-Director, Northwest Connection Family Resources
- Lana Nenide, Executive Director, Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health
- Cailin O'Connor, Center for the Study of Social Policy
- Stephany Pruitt, Consultant
- Deborah Rathermel, Part C Coordinator, Department of Health Services
- Katie Roberts, Education Director – Hospitality, Human Services & Education, Wisconsin Technical College System
- Ruth Schmidt, Executive Director, Wisconsin Early Childhood Association
- Sarah Valencia, Assistant Deputy Secretary, Department of Health Services
- Dea Wright, Director, City of Milwaukee Office of Early Childhood Initiatives

Staff:

- Priya Bhatia, Administrator, Division of Early Care and Education, DCF
- Sara Kneuve, Acting Assistant State Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction
- Jane Penner-Hoppe, Senior Policy Advisor, Department of Children and Families
- Heidi Guarino, EdLab Strategies
- Erin Arango-Escalante, All Children Thrive, LLC

**Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council (s.15.207(24))\***

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/mcps/partnership-council>

**Description**

The Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council was created by statute and charged with holding public hearings to encourage participation in, and solicit input regarding, the child welfare system in Milwaukee County. The Council is also charged with making recommendations for evaluating, funding, improving, and innovating the system. Additionally, the Council serves as a Wisconsin Citizen Review Panel for Milwaukee County.

**Membership**

- Libby Mueller, Milwaukee County District Attorney, Designee

- Judge Jane Carroll, Children's Court Presiding Judge
- Carmen Pitre, Milwaukee County resident
- Dr. Mallory O'Brien, Milwaukee County resident
- Santana Lee, Milwaukee County resident
- Sup. Sequanna Taylor, Milwaukee County Supervisor
- Sup. Willie Johnson, Jr., Milwaukee County Supervisor
- Sup. Patti Logdson, Milwaukee County Supervisor
- Linda Davis, State of Wisconsin resident (Chair)
- Bria Grant, State of Wisconsin resident
- Kelly Pethke, State of Wisconsin resident
- Sally Yeldell, Milwaukee County resident
- Sharain Anderson, Milwaukee County resident
- Rep. Darrin Madison, State Representative
- Sen. LaTonya Johnson, State Senator
- Sen. Dan Knodl, State Senator

## Rate Regulation Advisory Committee (s. 49.343(5))\*

### Description

The Rate Regulation Advisory Committee is charged with advising the Department on the development of administrative rules, the implementation of rate regulation for providers and the identification of the measurements in performance-based outcomes.

### Membership

- Emily Coddington, Wisconsin Association of Family and Children Agencies (WAFCA), Associate Director
- Katie Davis, DCF
- Rachel Karow, Family Works, Executive Director
- Crystal McClain, Revive Youth and Family Services, Executive Director
- Tongenell Campbell, VIC Living Center, Executive Director
- Kelli Kamholz, Positive Alternatives, President/CEO
- Jeff Pease, Lad Lake, Director
- Rachel Rolaff, Tomorrow's Children, Executive Director
- Heather Yaeger, Lutheran Social Services, Regional Director
- Teresa Kovach, Portage County, Supervisor
- Roger Phillips, Division of Milwaukee Child Protection Services (DMCPS), Senior Auditor
- Bruce Flinn, DCF
- Maria McDermott, Children's Wisconsin, Director of Out-of-Home Care

## Parent/Caregiver Equity Advisory Cabinet

### Description

The Parent/Caregiver Equity Advisory Cabinet (PCEAC) has been created to elevate the voices of parents and caregivers who have true lived experience in navigating the early childhood system across our state. The PCEAC also creates a space where parents and caregivers are given a unique opportunity to deeply inform the state's early childhood programs, policies and services. The PCEAC Cabinet is structured around three core strategies to influence state-level action:

- **Connect:** The PCEAC brings together parents/caregivers who understand and can represent the urgent needs of their community.
- **Listen:** Cabinet members work with community organizations to host feedback sessions to listen, share information and gather feedback on state policy.
- **Inform:** Cabinet members represent their community's concerns, pose questions, and share information with DCF to inform state policy and priorities.
- **Act:** DCF will prioritize discussion, actions and decisions that directly address questions, concerns, and challenges raised by members of the Cabinet.

### Membership

- Jordan St. Germaine, Hayward (Lac Courte Oreilles, Sawyer County)
- Joyce Hall, Madison (Dane County)
- Meagan Grabarski, Plainville (Adams County)
- Morgan Rowell, Friendship (Adams County)
- Nailah Adama, Beloit (Rock County)
- Sheila Cruz, Milwaukee (Milwaukee County)
- Trisha Murphy, Rome (Adams County)

#### Staff:

- Erin Arango-Escalante, All Children Thrive, LLC
- Alex Gagnon, DCF
- Michele Mackey, Kids Forward
- Daithi Wolfe, Kids Forward

## Statewide Permanency Collaborative: Putting Families First

### Description

Created as part of a stakeholder group realignment in 2023, this brings together the former Out of Home Care and Adoption Committee, Foster Parent Advisory Committee, and Child Placing Agencies. The purpose of this is to establish a collaborative space to inform and create communication between the Department of Children and Families Bureau of Permanence and Out of Home care and community stakeholders that informs creation and dissemination of professional practice resources and provides broad updates regarding out of home care programs, policies, and workgroups. The goal is to center thoughtful discussions about the current child welfare system and our desired future stated, focused on family-centered practice and prioritizing kin.

## Membership

Open to local agency licensors, child welfare professionals (particularly ongoing services and foster care specialists), public adoption staff, foster parents, members of the previous foster parent advisory group, DCF Bureau of Regional Operations staff, and the Children's Court Improvement Program staff to be active participants in this group.

## Child Welfare Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Advisory Group

### Description

The Child Welfare Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Advisory Committee is comprised of state and local child welfare agency leaders, as well as other important partners from the Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System and Children's Court Improvement Program, and meet on a quarterly basis to provide guidance and direction on multiple, large-scale initiatives to support and improve Wisconsin's child welfare system.

The purpose of the CQI Advisory Group is to identify and advance improvement projects grounded in qualitative and quantitative data related to system change. Improvement projects will align with the Child Welfare Model for Practice.

### Membership

- Julie Ahnen, Dane County
- Katie Day, Columbia County
- Tina Lehn, Winnebago County
- Maggie Marmor, Outagamie County
- Melinda Mommaerts, Brown County
- Connie Oates, Monroe County
- Eric Calvino, Waukesha County
- Susanna Leggio, Children's of Wisconsin
- Kate Angers, Children's of Wisconsin
- Maria Andrade, Well Point
- James Lezala, Well Point
- Clint Herbert, DMCPS
- Mark Sarvela, DMCPS
- Mary Kramer, Menominee Tribe
- Jessica Dodge, St. Croix County
- Dee Jay Miles, Green County
- Aerieal Diedrich, Fond Du Lac County
- Kailyn Epps, Brown county
- Erica Campbell, Chippewa County
- Kyra Secraw, Chippewa County
- Jerry Esala, Ashland County
- Val Alvarez, Walworth County
- Jen Wilkens, Washington County

- Mike Nelson, Marathon County
- Michelle Rawlings, DCF, DSP, BSWB
- Sam Kramer, DCF, DSP, BSWB
- Lisa Hankes, DCF, DSP, BSWB
- Lexi Matter, DCF, DSP, BSWB
- Shannon Braden, DCF, DSP, BPOHC
- Emily Erickson, DCF, DSP, BPOHC
- Darin Smith, WCW-PDS
- Alana Peck, DCF, DSP, BYS
- Justine Girard, DCF, DMS, BRO
- Jenny Fahy, WCW-PDS
- Kristina Trastek, DCF, DMS, BPM
- Shelby McCulley, DCF, DSP, BYS
- Meghan Sluga, DCF, DMS, BPM
- Ragen Shapiro, DCF, DSP, BYS
- Kelly Smithback, WCW-PDS
- Tyler Oettinger, DCF, DMS, BMS
- Jessica Pac, UW-Madison
- Kristen Wetzel, WI-Courts
- Tania Cornelius, DCF, DSP AO

## Intertribal Child Welfare (ICW) Committee

### Description

The Intertribal Child Welfare (ICW) Committee discusses child welfare-related issues, including but not limited to policy and program changes and development. In addition, child welfare and legal staff of the Department and Tribes, along with professionals from related organizations (e.g., Children’s Court Improvement Program) meet upon request of the ICW Directors as the Tribal/State Child Welfare Policy & Law (PALS) Workgroup to discuss policy and legal issues.

### Membership

Membership of the ICW Committee is comprised of Indian Child Welfare (ICW) Directors from each of the 11 federally-recognized tribes headquartered in Wisconsin and others they designate, such as tribal attorneys and family/social services directors. Leadership from DCF’s Division of Safety and Permanence, the DCF Tribal Liaison, and DCF’s Bureau of Regional Operations regularly participate in the ICW Committee meetings.

## State-Tribal IV-D Meeting

### Description

The Division of Family and Economic Security, the Bureau of Child Support Director and DCF staff meet with tribal child support programs on a quarterly basis to share information on child



support initiatives impacting tribal IV-D programs. This group also discuss legal issues, policies and legislation.

### **Membership**

The Tribal IV-D Directors, tribal attorney's and leadership from DCF's Division of Family and Economic Security, Bureau of Child Support, and Bureau of Regional Operations participate in these meetings. Staff from the Region V Office of Child Support Enforcement are also invited to attend and provide updates.

## **Wisconsin Inter Tribal Child Care Association**

### **Description**

The purpose of the Wisconsin Inter Tribal Child Care Association (WITCCA) is to promote inter-tribal networking, communication, information sharing, support and encouragement of Wisconsin's Child Care Tribal Directors/Departments. WITCCA respects and fosters effective relationships with other governmental and state agencies, organizations, and entities. We work cooperatively and collectively, to promote and address Tribal child care issues and topics

### **Membership**

Invitations are sent to tribal child care managers and program directors as well as tribal head start directors. These tribal representatives comprise the WITCCA; however, representatives from DCF and child care stakeholder groups are also invited to provide updates, information, technical assistance, and support.

## **Stakeholder Calls**

### **Description**

Each division and the Secretary's Office continue to hold stakeholder calls to provide updates or solicit feedback on specific initiatives. During the legislative season, stakeholder calls regarding bill packages or specific bills have been incredibly helpful to ensure stakeholders are aware of the position or concerns one another may have with particular pieces of legislation prior to the committee hearings.

### **Membership**

At times, Tribes are included in the larger calls with other stakeholder groups/representatives; however, both DCF and tribal representatives have found that it has been extremely helpful to engage in separate conversations with tribes specifically. This type of specific outreach continues to be done with an invitation to all of the tribes or one-on-one conversations between DCF and an individual tribe as requested or necessary.