



Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Boards, Committees, Councils, and Commissions 2025

* 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 (CANPB) 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 purpose and vision. Annually, the Prevention Board creates a Community Investment Plan reflecting its policy, program, professional development and public awareness priorities.

Membership

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 Jesse James, 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*
- Lance Horozewski, 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, public member
- 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
- Alice Egan, Clinical Associate Professor; Child Welfare Training Coordinator, UW-Madison Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work
- Erika Traver, Indian Child Welfare Supervisor, Ho-Chunk Nation

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

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

Description

The Governor's Council on Domestic Abuse advises the Department of Children and Families and the Legislature on domestic abuse funding and policy issues. The Council also serves as an official resource for citizens of the State of Wisconsin 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.

- Susan Sippel, co-chair
- Senator Sarah Keyeski
- Representative Sequanna Taylor
- Rosalind McClain, Healing Starts Today
- Virginia Gittens Escudero, UNIDOS
- Shannon Barry, co-chair, Domestic Abuse Intervention Services
- Dr. Abdul Shour, Marshfield Clinic Research Institute
- 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
- Brenda Frasser
- Vacant

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.

Membership

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

- Secretary Jeff Pertl, 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, Policy Initiatives Advisor, 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, Thriving Wisconsin (formerly known as Supporting Families Together Association)
- Lupe Martinez, President, UMOS
- Jose Martinez, Vice President, UMOS
- Kelly Matthews, Consultant, Wisconsin Early Childhood Association
- 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, Consultant
- Stephany Pruitt, Consultant
- Deborah Rathermel, Part C Coordinator, Department of Health Services
- Katie Wagner-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
- Rebecca Murray, Executive Director, Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board
- Bianca Hill, Executive Director, TenderCare Christian Child Care Center
- Jamie Goodle, Red Cliff Early Childhood
- Ivy Meierotto, Washburn Principal

Staff:

- Priya Bhatia, Administrator, Division of Early Care and Education, DCF
- Sara Knueve, Assistant Deputy State Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction
- Jane Penner-Hoppe, Senior Policy Advisor, DCF
- Tessa Freedberg, Strategic Initiatives Advisor, DCF, Council Coordinator
- Elizabeth Valitchka, Secretary's Office, DCF, Council Coordinator

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

- Kathy Markeland, Wisconsin Association of Family and Children Agencies (WAFCA), Director
- Katie Davis, Department of Children and Families, Child Welfare Licensing Section Manager
- Teresa Kovach, Portage County, Supervisor
- 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
- Roger Phillips, Division of Milwaukee Child Protection Services (DMCPS), Senior Auditor
- Bruce Flinn, Department of Children and Families, Accountant
- Maria McDermott, Children's Wisconsin, Director of Out-of-Home Care

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 attorneys 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 Tribal Child Care Directors/Departments across the state. 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 partner groups are also invited to provide updates, information, technical assistance, and support.

Partnership Calls

Description

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

Membership

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