

# ***Community Efforts to Strengthen Families***

## **Informational Meetings Report**

**March 2017**



*Improving the life of every Wisconsin child*



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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE CHILDREN'S CAUCUS

The Wisconsin Legislative Children's Caucus is a bipartisan caucus co-chaired by Representative Joan Ballweg, Representative Jill Billings, Senator Alberta Darling, and Senator LaTonya Johnson. Formed in 2015, the mission of the Children's Caucus is to cultivate a legislature dedicated to advancing promising, evidence-informed public policy that improves the life of every Wisconsin child. The Children's Caucus currently has 25 members, representing both parties in both houses of the legislature. A list of Children's Caucus members is included as Appendix 1 of this report.

After months of planning by a 10-member steering committee, the Children's Caucus held its kick-off event at the State Capitol in April 2016. Invited speakers presented on the neuroscience of early childhood brain development, effective early childhood programs, and the benefits of investing in early childhood. Over 100 people attended the event.

To build on the momentum generated by the kick-off event, the Children's Caucus decided to host a series of meetings to inform legislators on best practices in preventing child abuse and neglect and strengthening families. During March 2017 the Children's Caucus hosted five regional meetings entitled *Community Efforts to Strengthen Families*. The meetings were held in La Crosse, Milwaukee, Green Bay, Stevens Point, and Rice Lake. The meetings featured speakers discussing the evidence-informed child abuse and neglect prevention initiatives in their communities. About 170 people attended the meetings, as well as 36 legislators.

This report highlights successful initiatives for the Legislature to consider as it develops public policies related to children and families. Video of the Milwaukee, Green Bay, Stevens Point, and Rice Lake meetings can be found at [wischildrenciaucus.org](http://wischildrenciaucus.org)

### SUCCESS STORIES

All of the initiatives featured in this report have improved the lives of children and families in the communities served. This success is demonstrated through cost savings, decreased referrals to the child protective services system, and in the experiences of individual families. Some of those successes include:

- After a decade of increases, child abuse and neglect referrals to the La Crosse County child protective service system have decreased 14 percent due in part to the embedded social worker program
- Children served in the Milwaukee County Family Drug Treatment Court are 2.5 times more likely to be reunified with their parents and are almost 50 percent less likely to continue in out-of-home care after a year, compared with children of substance using parents in a traditional court setting
- Results show that 96 percent of the families served in an evidence-informed home visiting program in Brown County had no substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect
- Out-of-home placements for the Forest County Potawatomi decreased by 45 percent in 2015 and 56 percent in 2016
- Waupaca County experienced a 17 percent decrease in children being placed in out of home care and no children were placed in residential care in 2016
- 100 percent of parents in an evidence-informed home visiting program in the St. Croix Valley anticipate and provide for their child's development needs, compared with 29 percent before beginning the program
- Implementing the Protective Factors Framework has improved the ability of family-serving professionals to effectively meet the needs of the families they serve
- Parents who participate in evidence-informed programs say the programs helped them become self-sufficient, know how to access resources, and better care for their children

## IMPROVING THE LIFE OF EVERY WISCONSIN CHILD

The following best practices and promising strategies are being implemented in some Wisconsin communities and if supported and expanded throughout the State could reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect:

- Implement the **Protective Factors Framework**, a strengths-based, evidence-informed approach to working with families, in the county child protective services system and in family and child serving agencies
- Make the **Community Response Program** available in all counties, including establishing flexible emergency funds to help families access goods and services needed to become self-sufficient
- Implement **evidence-informed home visiting programs** in all counties
- Support Abusive Head Trauma prevention education, such as **The Period of PURPLE Crying**
- Implement **evidence-informed parent education programs**, such as Triple P, Nurturing Parenting, and culturally-adapted programs
- Encourage and support cross-agency **collaboration**
- Build trusting **relationships** between families and service providers
- Understand that a families' **basic needs** must be met first to maximize the success of other interventions
- Establish **Family Resource Centers** that can effectively coordinate the provision of evidence-informed services to families
- Provide **sufficient resources** because service capacity and access to services can be hampered by limited resources
- Support **adequate salaries** for family and child serving agency professionals so the families have continuity care, which is vital to their success
- **Identify and serve families** before child abuse and neglect occur
- Expand access to **treatment and specialty courts**

## SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

### Wisconsin Legislative Children's Caucus Informational Meeting *Community Efforts to Strengthen Families*

La Crosse Public Library, Main Library  
La Crosse, WI

March 10, 2017  
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The following is a summary of the March 10, 2017 meeting of the Wisconsin Legislative Children's Caucus. About 46 people, including speakers, attended the meeting.

**Legislators present:** Representative Jill Billings (Children's Caucus co-chair); Senator LaTonya Johnson (Children's Caucus co-chair); Representatives Edward Brooks, Lee Nerison, and Nancy VanderMeer.

#### **Presentation by Family & Children's Center**

##### **Amanda Jalensky, Coordinator of Community Services**

Amanda Jalensky described the Family & Children's Center Healthy Families Program. This is an evidence-based home visiting program that serves at-risk families. Services begin prenatally or right after birth and are provided long-term. The goals of the program are to cultivate nurturing parent-child relationships, promote healthy childhood growth and development, and enhance family functioning by building Protective Factors. The Protective Factors Framework is a strengths-based approach where parents play a critical role and are essential partners in the growth and change process. All families, regardless of socio-economic status, need Protective Factors.

The five Protective Factors are:

- Parental Resilience – the ability of the parent to withstand and rebound from challenges
- Social Connections – having meaningful connections with others
- Concrete Supports in Time of Need – knowing how to access resources in times of need
- Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development – information to understand child behavior, development, and safety
- Social and Emotional Competence of Children – understanding how to help children regulate themselves socially and emotionally

Research on the Healthy Families Program nationwide has shown:

- Programs can save up to \$5.70 for every dollar invested
- Reduced child maltreatment
- Increased utilization of prenatal care and decreased pre-term, low weight babies
- Improved parent-child interaction and school readiness
- Decreased dependency on welfare and other social services
- Increased access to primary care medical services
- Increased immunization rates

In La Crosse, 85 families were served in 2015, with the following outcomes:

- Reduced child maltreatment; no CPS referrals made by staff
- 98% of families reported they could access concrete support in time of need
- 88% of families achieved their self-identified goals in their family plan
- Parents interact with their children in ways that enhance their child's development and early learning

Ms. Jalensky also provided information on the HOPE Academy, an alternative school program serving pregnant teens and teen mothers. The program has four components: academic preparation, early childhood education, parent and life education, and a developmentally focused program for the children.

The program has demonstrated success:

- Average graduation rate is less than 40% for teen parents, Hope Academy has 100% graduation rate for seniors since 2008
- All students complete coursework at 80% or above
- Average attendance rate is 89%
- Five of the six graduates in 2016 were working and/or entered into post-secondary education
- Reduction in second pregnancies

The programs are funded with a combination of grants, private donations, and United Way funding.

### **Presentation by The Parenting Place**

#### **Jodi Widuch, Executive Director, and Kristi Strelow, Parent Educator**

Jodi Widuch and Kristi Strelow described the organization's parent education programs, all of which use the Protective Factors Framework. The programs are available free of charge to all adults who have a young child in their lives. The Parenting Place uses an evidence-based curriculum, *Parents as Teachers*, in its home visiting program. It also provides parent education through Triple P (Positive Parenting Program).

The Newborn Behavioral Observations (NBO) Program is an emerging best practice The Parenting Place is implementing. This program is a set of 18 observations done by a trained and certified parent educator that is performed on infants between birth and three months using an interactive approach engaging parents. NBO provides parents with unique information about their child, including preferences on sleeping, soothing, and eating. Research has shown NBO has positive effects on maternal confidence, parent-infant interaction, and paternal attitudes and involvement in caretaking.

The Parenting Place also uses play groups as a means to educate parents. Play Shoppe is a semi-structured time for parents and young children to play freely in a developmentally appropriate environment. Parents are actively involved in the play and they also meet and connect with other parents.

## **Presentation by Gundersen Health System**

### **Dr. Ann Budzak**

Dr. Budzak described the Gundersen Health System's Gunderkids Program that serves parents with substance use disorder and their newborns.

Care is provided by a team that includes a pediatrician, two pediatric nurses, a pediatric social worker, a child psychologist, and a pediatric occupational therapist. The nurses meet with the mother at an OB clinic visit ideally during the 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> weeks of pregnancy. If she agrees to participate in the program, the nurses will meet with the family in the hospital when the baby is born. The family is seen weekly for the first month after birth, and then every two weeks until four months, then monthly until six months, and then every six weeks until the child is a year old. During the visits the nurses help connect the family to community resources and provide information on child development, parenting, nurture, and play activities.

She reported that since the program began in 2015 over 50 babies and their parents have participated in the program. The vast majority has come to their appointments and has maintained sobriety. Incidents of child maltreatment are rare.

The program is funded by Gundersen Health System. All of the families served receive Medicaid.

## **Presentation by The Parenting Place, Monroe County**

### **Tanya Evanson, Director of Monroe County Family Support Programs, Monroe County Community Response Program**

Tanya Evanson described the Monroe County Community Response Program. The program provides voluntary supports to families reported to county child protective services for alleged child abuse or neglect who are not receiving services because the referral was either screened out or unsubstantiated. Most of the families need access to reliable transportation and financial assistance. Ms. Evanson reported that the program began in October 2016, and to date 41% of the families contacted have agreed to participate in the program.

## **Presentation by Ho-Chunk Nation**

### **Lori Stellflue and Desiree Gearing-Lancaster, Children and Family Services**

Lori Stellflue and Desiree Gearing-Lancaster described Ho-Chunk Nation's prevention programs. The Children and Family Prevention Program was developed three years ago and provides services to families on a voluntary basis. The services focus on skill development needed to strengthen families and keep them unified. The Family Resource Center Program provides culturally appropriate services to families to build upon the families' strengths and help stabilize the families. Some of those services include Mending Broken Hearts, which focuses on intergenerational and historical trauma and identifies cultural practices that strengthen families and incorporate the Protective Factors Framework; Medicine Wheel, a creative problem-solving process for individuals, families, and organizations; and Preparation for Life, a program in which elders go into high schools and provide cultural training and assist with academics. The Clan Mothers Program is another prevention initiative. Comprised of female Ho-Chunk elders, the Clan Mothers represent five of the 12 clans of the Ho-Chunk Nation. They meet confidentially with young Ho-Chunk women and their parents to share Ho-Chunk teachings, values, and customs.

## **Presentation by La Crosse Area Family Collaborative**

**Jason Witt, Director, La Crosse County Human Services Department; Isaac Hoffman, Director, La Crosse Area Family Collaborative; Laura Huber, Principal, Northside Elementary School; and Officer Daniel Ulrich, Neighborhood Resource Officer, La Crosse Police Department**

The La Crosse Area Family Collaborative is a collaborative among the La Crosse County Human Services Department, schools, and law enforcement. It began in January 2016 as an effort to address the sharp increase in the number of referrals to child protective services. Social workers are embedded in the neighborhoods and schools in the focus areas. They work closely with the families in the neighborhood to build trusting relationships and help connect families to community resources. Many families have housing, transportation, employment, and behavioral health needs that the social worker and neighborhood resource officer can help address before the families reach the level of needing more intensive services. Since the program inception, referrals to child protective services have decreased 14%. This success is attributed to the social workers and neighborhood resource officers building trusting relationships with families, addressing the unique needs of each family, and working collaboratively across systems.

The program is funded through a combination of school, city, and county funds, and well as Gundersen Health Systems. Facility space is provided through in-kind support.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Wisconsin Legislative Children’s Caucus Informational Meeting**  
***Community Efforts to Strengthen Families***

University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee  
Zilber Center  
Milwaukee, WI

March 13, 2017  
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

The following is a summary of the March 13, 2017 meeting of the Wisconsin Legislative Children’s Caucus. About 46 people, including speakers, attended the meeting.

**Legislators present:** Representative Joan Ballweg (Children’s Caucus co-chair); Representative Jill Billings (Children’s Caucus co-chair); Senator Albert Darling (Children’s Caucus co-chair); Senator LaTonya Johnson (Children’s Caucus co-chair); Senators Chris Larson and Lena Taylor; Representative David Crowley.

**Presentation by The Parenting Network**

**Patrick Fendt, Parent Education and Support Program Manager**

Patrick Fendt described the variety of parent educational services offered by The Parenting Network, which has been using evidence-informed programming since 1998. The Parenting Network offers programming for new parents, fathers, parents of pre-teens and teens. One of the programs offered is Triple P (Positive Parenting Program). This program uses a tiered structure to tailor the right level and format of support and instruction to the parents’ needs, including large group seminars, small group discussions, and individual sessions to give parents strategies to help them build strong, healthy relationships, and manage their children’s behavior. The Parenting Network also participates in the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board’s Protective Factors Framework initiative, which provides professionals with an in-depth look into each of the five Protective Factors that comprise the framework and supports them in identifying ways to incorporate them into their existing work and use them with the families they serve.

**Presentation on the Protective Factors Framework**

**Mary Jo Gerlach and Kamaria Holland, Protective Factors Framework Facilitators**

The research-based Protective Factors Framework (PFF) is comprised of five Protective Factors that increase family strengths, promote optimal child development, and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. The PFF consists of six courses designed to help family service providers incorporate the PFF into their work to increase parent understanding and support family strength building. Protective Factors are attributes that serve as buffers, helping parents who might otherwise be at risk of abusing their children to find resources, supports, and learn coping strategies that help them parent effectively.

The five Protective Factors are:

- Parental Resilience – the ability of the parent to withstand and rebound from challenges
- Social Connections – having meaningful connections with others
- Concrete Supports in Time of Need – knowing how to access resources in times of need
- Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development – information to understand child behavior, development, and safety

- Social and Emotional Competence of Children – understanding how to help children regulate themselves socially and emotionally

The PFF is a strengths-based framework where parents play a critical role and are essential partners in the growth and change process. All families experience stressors. Therefore, all families need Protective Factors.

### **Presentation by Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin**

#### **Amy Herbst, Vice President, and Nelly Martinez, Program Coordinator**

Amy Herbst discussed the Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin prevention services in southeastern Wisconsin, which are partially funded through the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board. Children’s Hospital provides education to parents with the Period of PURPLE Crying materials to educate them on normal infant crying, the need for self-care, and how to prevent abusive head trauma (aka Shaken Baby Syndrome). Another program offered is Awareness to Action, a child sexual abuse prevention program focused on preventing child sexual abuse by helping adults and communities take action to protect children through awareness, education, advocacy, and policy. In Rock County Children’s Hospital provides home visiting services and a Family Resource Center. The outcomes for those programs include:

- 90% of parents report increased connections with other families and children
- 90% of parents report increased knowledge of child development
- 93% of parents report confidence in helping their children learn
- 90% of parents report the ability to identified their children’s needs
- 100% of parents say they receive the services they need
- 96% of parents would recommend the programs to a friend

Nelly Martinez detailed the Triple P, Protective Factors Framework Initiative, and Newborn Nests programs in Milwaukee, Racine, and Walworth Counties. Triple P is an evidence-based program consisting of multiple tiers of intensity that can address specific levels of family need and that equip parents to manage family issues without ongoing support. Ms. Martinez provides Triple P seminars for parents, leads small group discussion, and provides individualized sessions for parents. She also is a certified trainer in *Bringing the Protective Factors Framework to Life in Your Work*, who works with a parent co-presenter to bring the curriculum to educators in the Racine area. Children’s Hospital uses Newborn Nests, or baby boxes, as part of its safe sleeping initiative. Newborn Nests are used during the first few months of infancy to promote safe sleep.

### **Presentation on Treatment Courts**

#### **Judge Mary Triggiano, Milwaukee County Circuit Court**

Judge Triggiano describe two problem-solving courts currently operating in Milwaukee County—the Family Drug Treatment Court and the Healthy Infant Court. The Family Drug Treatment Court is a voluntary program begun in 2011. The court is recognized nationally as a model for its family-centered, team approach to the handling of child abuse and neglect cases in which parental substance abuse is a contributing factor. There is cross agency collaboration that includes AODA and mental health providers, recovery support specialists, housing and employment specialists, and parent coaching. The court takes a trauma-informed, family-focused approach using the Protective Factors Framework. The court has demonstrated success that makes it a national model. For example:

- Children in the Family Drug Treatment Court are 2.5 times more likely to be reunified with their parents and are nearly 50% less likely to continue in out-of-home care after a year as compared to children of substance using parents in a traditional court setting

In 2016 Milwaukee County started Wisconsin's first Healthy Infant Court. The court focuses on children ages birth to three who have been removed from their home. It works to build parental capacity, create healthy relationships, and provide access to substance use disorder and mental health treatment. Nationally, children in baby courts exit foster care nearly three times faster than comparison groups; almost 2/3 find permanent homes with a family, while only 1/3 of babies in the general population exist foster care to family members; and the estimated cost savings is \$7,300 per child.

### **Presentation by Kenosha County Division of Children & Family Services**

#### **Ron Rogers, Director**

Ron Rogers described prevention services available in Kenosha County. The Prevention Services Network (PSN) is a communitywide collaboration dedicated to strengthening families in order to prevent child abuse and neglect. Some of the programs include:

- **PSN Service Coordination:** Services coordinators provide voluntary case management services at no cost to families to strengthen and enhance parental resilience. Service coordinators do an in-home family needs assessment to identify service needs, help families access services, advocate for families, and help with problem solving.
- **Community Response Program:** This program serves families who have been referred to child protective services but are screened out or closed after an investigation with no identified safety risks. It is a voluntary program that helps families identify their needs and connect to services. The program is funded by the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board.
- **Teen Parent Home Visitation Program:** This is a long-term, in-home program for pregnant teens and teen parents. The program focuses on developing life skills as well as facilitating access to needed services.
- **Family Support Program:** This program is a long-term, intensive program designed to engage families in the home and improve their ability to successfully parent and nurture their children. Included in the program design are life skills training, household budgeting, mobilizing resources, stress management, improved parenting skills, problem solving, and vocational skills. About 90% of the families involved in the program do not get referred to child protective services.
- **Family Resource Center:** The center provides programs and services that build on family strengths through prevention, education, support, and networking.

These programs are cost effective. He reported that it costs \$45,000 a year to place five children in foster care, and \$206,000 a year to place five children in treatment foster care. The cost of the Family Support Program, which served 342 children and 130 families in 2015, costs \$200,000 a year to operate.

### **Public Comment**

One person commented on the need to be aware of how bias occurs when children and families are labeled "at risk"; the need to know what percentage of service providers are people of color; and the need for training on disparities and bias. Another person commented that Wisconsin is the worst place in the United States to raise an African-American child. It is offensive that the system does not honor fathers. There is a perception that foster care is good, but it is not. The state needs to focus on how to eliminate the need for foster care and needs to spend more money on family preservation. The Milwaukee Child Abuse Prevention Services Coalition provided written testimony about the crises faced by families when trying to meet their basic needs, particularly housing. It asks the Children's Caucus to support evidence-based, intensive home visiting; quality parent education; trauma-informed care; Project GAIN; the Community Response Program; and increased access to housing and cash assistance.

**Wisconsin Legislative Children's Caucus Informational Meeting**  
***Community Efforts to Strengthen Families***

Green Bay Central Library  
Green Bay, WI

March 17, 2017  
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The following is a summary of the March 17, 2017 meeting of the Wisconsin Legislative Children's Caucus. About 25 people, including speakers, attended the meeting.

**Legislators present:** Representative Joan Ballweg (Children's Caucus co-chair); Representative Jill Billings (Children's Caucus co-chair); Representatives Eric Genrich, André Jacque, Joel Kitchens, Mike Rohrkaste, David Steffen, Jim Steineke, and Gary Tauchen.

**Presentation by Community Partnership for Children**

**Sarah Inman, Vice President of Community Investment & Strategic Impact, Brown County United Way; Erik Pritzl, Executive Director, Brown County Health and Human Services Department; Bonnie Phernetton, Director of Children's Services, Family Services of NEW, Inc.; Paula Breese, Executive Director, Family and Childcare Resources of N.E.W.; and Amanda Johnson, Director of Parenting Services, Howe Community Resource Center**

This presentation highlighted the Greater Green Bay-area prevention strategies for supporting children and families. In early 2013 the community formed a Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect to look at ways to prevent child maltreatment. In Brown County it costs \$78,000 a year to provide foster care for six children (\$13,000 per child) and up to \$100,000 a year to support one child in a residential treatment program. The community decided to develop a systematic means of providing timely outreach to families who are screened out of the child protective service (CPS) system, but for whom there was still cause for concern. Brown County implemented a Community Response Program to serve these families. The program helps connect families with needed resources. The most commonly identified needs are food, counseling, healthcare, employment, and legal. It is a voluntary program, and 43% of the people referred enter the program. Of those in the program, 48% are couples with children. The results have been positive: 92% of Community Response Program families have stayed out of the formal CPS system.

The presenters then discussed the Community Partnership for Children Gateway, which provides a coordinated entry point into Brown County's system of care. Initiated with support from Brown County United Way, and is a cross-sector collaboration. The goal is to develop and sustain a seamless system of care for families with young children, providing universal screening for risk factors at birth, timely support for struggling families, and coordinated access to available resources.

Family Services of NEW, Inc. conducts Welcome Baby visits, which serve as the coordinated entry point into Brown County's system of care. All parents in all four area hospitals receive a Welcome Baby Visit, during which a screening for risk factors is conducted, and if necessary, a more in depth assessment. Over 3,000 screenings were conducted in 2016, and 969 were identified as at risk and were referred to voluntary services. The 13-point screen looks at risk factors known to potentially lead to child abuse and neglect. Of those mothers who screened "at risk", 49% had an annual household income of \$25,000 or less; 74% were single mothers; and 57% had a history of depression. The top referral needs for 2016 were housing, employment, basic baby care items, transportation, food, educational support, and public health services. All parents, no matter the screening results, are offered information.

Some families who screen “at risk” are offered home visiting services. Howe Community Resource Center is one of the partners in the Community Partnership for Children that provide home visiting services. Evidence-based home visiting programs have a return of up to \$5.70 for every dollar invested. The Howe Community Center program provides personal visits with the family that focus on family well-being, connecting to and accessing resources, parent-child interaction, and parental knowledge of child development. In 2016 307 families were served via 4,654 home visits.

The program results show:

- 96% of the families served had no substantiated cases of child abuse or neglect
- 99% of the children are linked to a primary care provider
- 70% of the children score at or above average appropriate developmental levels in each of the key areas of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire
- 94% of the children score at or above age appropriate developmental levels of the Ages and Stages Social-Emotional Questionnaire.

Family & Childcare Resources of N.E.W. is another partner in the Community Partnership for Children. The agency is a combined Child Care Resource and Referral Agency and Family Resource Center serving seven counties in Northeastern Wisconsin. One of the services it provides is Triple P (Positive Parenting Program). Funded by the Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board, this is an evidence-based program that equips parents to manage family issues without need for ongoing support. The program is offered in schools and communities in Brown and Oconto Counties, and will soon be offered in the Brown County Jail. The agency also provides the Protective Factors Framework training to family service providers. The PFF is a research-based, cost-effective framework that increases family strengths, enhances child development, and reduces the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. Protective Factors are attributes that serve as buffers, helping parents who might otherwise be at risk of abusing their children to find resources, supports, and learn coping strategies that help them parent effectively.

The five Protective Factors are:

- Parental Resilience – the ability of the parent to withstand and rebound from challenges
- Social Connections – having meaningful connections with others
- Concrete Supports in Time of Need – knowing how to access resources in times of need
- Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development – information to understand child behavior, development, and safety
- Social and Emotional Competence of Children – understanding how to help children regulate themselves socially and emotionally

## **Presentation by Oneida Nation Social Services**

### **Heather Lee, Child Welfare Supervisor, and Heather Vandenlangenberg, Parenting Program Coordinator**

Heather Lee and Heather Vandenlangenberg described the Conscious Discipline Curriculum, an evidence-based social-emotional parenting curriculum Oneida Nation Social Services uses to teach parents new skills to help strengthen families. The curriculum addresses historical trauma, uses traditional practices, and is relationship-based. The skills taught are:

- Composure: being the person you want others to become
- Assertiveness: saying “no” and being heard; setting limits respectfully
- Encouragement: building a sense of family
- Choices: building self-esteem and will power
- Empathy: teaching children to manage their emotions and teaching parents to manage a child’s behavior appropriately
- Positive intent: creating teaching moments with children
- Consequences: helping children learn from their mistakes

## **Presentation by Lakeshore Community Action Program**

### **Colleen Homb, Interim CEO, and Abi Roerdink, Community Response Coordinator**

Colleen Homb and Abi Roerdink discussed the variety of programs offered by Lakeshore Community Action Program. The programs include education and prevention programming, homelessness assistance, and food pantries. The programs incorporate the Protective Factors Framework, use a strengths-based approach to working with families, and let the families guide the process. One of the prevention programs the agency offers is the Community Response Program. Funded by the Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board, it serves families in Manitowoc and Sheboygan Counties. The program provides supports for families who have been screened out of the child protective services system but could benefit from case management and other services to connect them to needed resources. According to the most recent data, only one family in the Community Response Program had a referral to child protective services.

## **Presentation by Family Services of NEW, Inc.**

### **Wendy Schwalbe, Manager, Parent Connection**

Wendy Schwalbe discussed the Parent Connection Program, which provides home visiting services, parent education, and a Community Response Program. The home visiting program is funded through a Family Foundations grant, county tax levy, and the United Way and serves families in Winnebago County. The home visitors not only offer parent education, but also connect the family to community resources. Only one percent of the program participants have had a subsequent substantiated child abuse and neglect report. The Nurturing Parenting Programs serve families with children ages birth to 12 and is designed to build nurturing parenting skills. Program participants complete an assessment about the parenting beliefs and then the curriculum is tailored to address that belief system. The Community Response Program serves families who have been screened out the Outagamie child protective services system. It is a voluntary program designed to connect families with needed resources. The case manager works with the family to set and accomplish goals.

## **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Wisconsin Legislative Children’s Caucus Informational Meeting**  
***Community Efforts to Strengthen Families***

Portage County UW-Extension  
Courthouse Annex Building  
Stevens Point, WI

March 20, 2017  
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The following is a summary of the March 20, 2017 meeting of the Wisconsin Legislative Children’s Caucus. About 35 people, including speakers, attended the meeting.

**Legislators present:** Representative Joan Ballweg (Children’s Caucus co-chair); Representative Jill Billings (Children’s Caucus co-chair); Senators Luther Olsen and Patrick Testin; Representatives Dave Considine, Bob Kulp, Katrina Shankland, and Patrick Snyder.

**Presentation by Indianhead Community Action Agency**

**Keith Brownlow, Mission Director for Healthy Families**

Keith Brownlow detailed the variety of primary prevention programs offered by Indianhead Community Action Agency. The Early Headstart Partnership Program serves Burnett, Clark, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, and Washburn Counties. The program enhances and supports early learning settings by increasing access to high-quality, full-day, year round childcare. The Home Visiting Program, funded with a Family Foundations grant, serves Clark, Rusk, Sawyer, and Taylor Counties by providing support to expectant mothers and families with children ages birth to three. Through weekly home visits families learn the importance of attachment theory, continuity of care, and brain and child development. The agency receives funding from the Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board to support the Nurturing Parenting and Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) Programs and to support implementation of the Protective Factors Framework training. These programs are available in Burnett, Clark, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, and Washburn Counties. Nurturing Parenting is provided in a group setting for 16 sessions. Triple P is provided in four individual sessions to families who are in the Headstart or Home Visiting Programs and is providing in four individual sessions. The agency also participates in the Protective Factors Framework (PFF) training initiative to provide professionals with an in-depth look into each of the Protective Factors and ways to incorporate them into their work.

The five Protective Factors are:

- Parental Resilience – the ability of the parent to withstand and rebound from challenges
- Social Connections – having meaningful connections with others
- Concrete Supports in Time of Need – knowing how to access resources in times of need
- Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development – information to understand child behavior, development, and safety
- Social and Emotional Competence of Children – understanding how to help children regulate themselves socially and emotionally

The PFF is a strengths-based approach where parents play a critical role and are essential partners in the growth and change process. All families, regardless of socio-economic status, need Protective Factors.

## **Presentation by Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Community Services**

### **Sandy Stetzer, Community Service Leader**

Sandy Stetzer highlighted the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Community Services' child maltreatment prevention programs that serve central and northern Wisconsin. The Family Support Program is an in-home program for families with children ages birth to 18 which supports family goal setting, teaches parents how to better support their children's development, and improve parent/child relationships while identifying family needs and connecting families to community resources. The Start Right Program is a home visiting program that serves families with children age birth to five. In 2016, 301 families throughout Marathon, Lincoln, Langlade, Vilas, Oneida, Portage, and Forest County were served. Children's Hospital uses Newborn Nests, or baby boxes, as part of its safe sleeping initiative. Newborn Nests are used during the first few months of infancy to promote safe sleep. Play and Learn is a universal prevention program in which staff facilitate parent-child interactions that support early learning, enhance a child's development, and promote school readiness. Staff are trained observers who can refer families with additional needs to community resources. Parents have the opportunity to meet and connect with other parents and learn about community resources. Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Community Services provides group-based parenting classes in Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, and Wood Counties, using the evidence-based Nurturing Parenting curriculum. The program is available to parents of young children as well as parents of teenagers. The Ask the Experts Program consists of informational sessions designed for parents with young children. Programming is developed based on community need and identified target audiences. The Community Response Program works with families who have been screened out of the child protective services system to connect them to community resources and prevent future child protective services system involvement.

## **Presentation by Forest County Potawatomi**

### **Abbey Dall Lukowski, Family Service Division Director**

Abbey Dall Lukowski detailed the collaboration among the tribal departments that supports the Forest County Potawatomi child maltreatment prevention efforts. The goal is to empower families to effectively serve their own needs. The results of the collaboration among the departments include:

- A decrease in out of home placements (by 45% in 2015 and 56% in 2016)
- An increase in regular school attendance
- An increase in program participation

The tribe has a family prevention worker who provides home visiting services to families, sharing cultural values, and connecting families to community resources. The programs offered include Healthy Relationships, which serves at-risk youth; Positive Indian Parenting, which provides parent education focusing on families; and Nurturing Fathers, a program that provides one-to-one meetings with fathers to help them gain and improve their parenting skills. The newest tribal project, the IT Film Project, is a result of the inter-department collaboration. The project is designed to foster independence, learning, and provide mentoring to youth ages 12 – 18. A team of youth and mentors will have access to a television studio and technology and will work with the technology team to develop social programming that addresses youth problems and needs. All homes will have access to the channel.

## **Presentation by Marathon County Department of Social Services**

### **Dawn Perez, Child Welfare Manager**

The Community Response Program is a voluntary program designed to support families who have been screened out of the child protective services system to prevent future entry into the system. The program is embedded in the Marathon County Department of Social Services as part of the continuum of services. Staffed by one FTE social worker, the program promotes self-sufficiency, improves function, and increases family social support. In addition, the program offers flex funds to help families pay for immediate needs, such as utilities, rent/security deposits, car repairs, bus passes, and childcare fees. The program began in 2008 with funding from the Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board and that funding continued through 2010. When grant funding expired Marathon County continued to fund the program using county tax levy. A 2014 study measuring the impact of the program found:

- Families who do not participate in the program are twice as likely to have children placed in out of home care as families who do participate
- The program has a 62% participation rate
- 16 additional children would have been placed in foster care if not for the program, saving the county \$30,072 annually
- There is less demand on other systems, such as the Children's Court, Corporation Counsel, and law enforcement

(Maguire-Jack, Katie & Campbell, Tori. Marathon County Community Response: Child Abuse Prevention Findings).

## **Presentation by Marquette County Department of Human Services**

### **Mandy Stanley, Director**

Mandy Stanley discussed the Community Response Program that serves Adams, Green Lake, Marquette, and Waushara Counties. The program began in Marquette County in 2006 with a grant from the Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board. It continued to serve Marquette County until 2011, when it expanded to include Adams, Green Lake, and Waushara Counties. The program is operated by the Department of Human Services, which makes connecting families to services and sharing information easier. The program is currently undergoing a randomized controlled trial to determine what factors make families more likely to benefit from the program.

## **Presentation by Waupaca County Department of Health and Human Services**

### **Chuck Price, Director**

Chuck Price discussed the culture change that occurred in Waupaca County and how that has positively impacted the community. About five years ago the county began using a trauma-informed care approach to working with families. Since that time, the county has seen a 17% decrease in children being placed in out of home care. In 2016 no children were placed in residential care. As a result, 25% of the county's out of home care budget is now dedicated to child maltreatment prevention activities. Those activities include the Healthy Beginnings home visitation program, providing parent aide services, and providing Protective Factors Framework training for staff and service providers. In addition to the cost savings, the Department of Health and Human Services has seen increased staff retention and healthier staff since making the culture shift.

### **Public Comment**

Three people presented for public comment. One person commented on the increase in schools/human service department collaboration and the need to provide more wraparound services for families and fund more school social workers. Another person said service providers are seeing the same families and the children in those families need services as young as age one or two. There is a need for funding to pay for high quality staff to serve those children and families. Another person said a major challenge for families is the high level of poverty. Over 200,000 Wisconsin children live in poverty, and funding must be part of the conversation.

**Wisconsin Legislative Children’s Caucus Informational Meeting**  
***Community Efforts to Strengthen Families***

WITC – Rice Lake Campus  
Rice Lake, WI

March 24, 2017  
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

The following is a summary of the March 24, 2017 meeting of the Wisconsin Legislative Children’s Caucus. Fifteen people, including speakers, attended the meeting.

**Legislators present:** Representative Joan Ballweg (Children’s Caucus co-chair); Senator Sheila Harsdorf; Representatives Kathleen Bernier, James Edming, Nick Milroy, Warren Petryk, and Romaine Quinn

**Presentation by Indianhead Community Action Agency**

**Keith Brownlow, Mission Director for Healthy Families**

Keith Brownlow detailed the variety of primary prevention programs offered by Indianhead Community Action Agency. The Early Headstart Partnership Program serves Burnett, Clark, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, and Washburn Counties. The program enhances and supports early learning settings by increasing access to high-quality, full-day, year round childcare. The Home Visiting Program, funded with a Family Foundations grant, serves Clark, Rusk, Sawyer, and Taylor Counties by providing support to expectant mothers and families with children ages birth to three. Through weekly home visits families learn the importance of attachment theory, continuity of care, and brain and child development. The agency receives funding from the Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board to support the Nurturing Parenting and Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) Programs and to support implementation of the Protective Factors Framework training. These programs are available in Burnett, Clark, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, and Washburn Counties. Nurturing Parenting is provided in a group setting for 16 sessions. Triple P is provided in four individual sessions to families who are in the Headstart or Home Visiting Programs and is providing in four individual sessions. The agency also participates in the Protective Factors Framework training initiative to provide professionals with an in-depth look into each of the Protective Factors and ways to incorporate them into their work.

The five Protective Factors are:

- Parental Resilience – the ability of the parent to withstand and rebound from challenges
- Social Connections – having meaningful connections with others
- Concrete Supports in Time of Need – knowing how to access resources in times of need
- Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development – information to understand child behavior, development, and safety
- Social and Emotional Competence of Children – understanding how to help children regulate themselves socially and emotionally

The PFF is a strengths-based approach where parents play a critical role and are essential partners in the growth and change process. All families, regardless of socio-economic status, need Protective Factors.

## **Presentation by Children’s Museum of Eau Claire**

### **Michael McHorney, Executive Director**

The Children’s Museum of Eau Claire emphasizes play in an environment where parents and children learn together. Play is not only serious learning, but it is serious business. Since opening in 2004 the museum has invested \$9.3 million in the community, has spent \$250,000 annually on local goods and services, and has created 9.25 FTE jobs. The Play for All Program has several components:

- All Play Family Membership – provides reduced-price memberships for low income families in addition to children with special needs, military, and foster care families
- Passport to Play – provides mini-grants to schools and community organizations who need funding for field trips
- Family Free Play Nights – a partnership with local school districts to provide free museum admission for children in free and reduced lunch programs on designated nights
- Special Kids Nights – a night when exhibits are adapted for children with special needs

Through its programs and exhibits, the museum helps children develop emotional control, social skills and empathy, and fine and gross motor skills. It promotes children’s cognitive development, family engagement, and academic success.

## **Presentation by Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians**

### **Jennifer Bisonette, Program Supervisor for the Mino Maajisewin Home Visitation Program**

The Mino Maajisewin (A Good Beginning) Home Visiting Program is a voluntary, intensive, long-term home visitation program that focuses on supporting parent-child interaction. Since 2011 the program has been funded with a Family Foundations Comprehensive Home Visitation Grant. The program provides parents with information on the basics of caring for children, child brain development, social-emotional development, and self-care for parents. Home visitors conduct an assessment of the family to determine needs and identify strengths, and then work with the family to develop a plan to meet those needs. The program recently became an accredited Healthy Families America® site. The program currently serves 40 families.

Many of the program participants have a history of childhood trauma, a history of substance abuse, lack positive peer relationships and social supports, and experience poverty. About 50% of the mothers screen positive for depression. The tribe is currently part of a project that will help the home visitors learn how to help alleviate maternal depression, including developing a standardized process for screening mothers for depression, making referrals to appropriate resources, and follow up. The tribe also offers a Mother-Infant Therapy Group (Oshki Maamaa Eni Mino Ayaang – To work towards being in a Good State of Mind) that offers mothers the opportunity to connect with other mothers who have similar feelings and experiences in mothering and to receive support in coping with feelings of mothering and the mother-child relationship; and infant mental health consultation.

## **Presentation by Northwest Connection Family Resources**

### **Jacqueline Strand, Executive Director, and Sky Holt, Family Service Coordinator**

Northwest Connection Family Resources is a blended childcare resource and referral agency and family resource center. Through the Family Resource Center the agency offers programming that promotes positive parent-child interaction. The Community Response Program serves Sawyer and Washburn Counties and the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians. The voluntary program is funded by the Wisconsin Child Abuse and

Neglect Prevention Board and serves families who have had cases screened out of the child protective services system who would not otherwise receive services. It is a 16-20 week program designed to strengthen and support families by working with them to determine their needs. The families receive services free of charge. The home visiting program uses the evidence-based Growing Great Kids curriculum to serve families in Sawyer and Washburn Counties, in partnership with Indianhead Community Action Agency. The agency has two certified Protective Factors Framework trainers who are part of the statewide initiative to provide professionals with an in-depth understanding of the Protective Factors, how they can be incorporated into the daily work of professionals, and how they can be shared with the families they serve.

### **Presentation by Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley**

#### **Patty Draxler, Executive Director, and Marla Butler, Parent Educator Lead**

The Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley provides a myriad of prevention services. All programs are free and available to all families. The home visiting program serves Pierce, Polk, and St. Croix Counties. Home visits offer individualized parent support and education in the home. Parent educators provide age-appropriate child development information, parent-child play ideas, developmental screenings, and opportunities for parents to discuss issues. Some of the outcomes for the home visiting program for 2015 include:

- 100% of parents learn and begin to anticipate their child’s developmental changes and provide for and play with them according to their needs (initial assessment: 29%)
- 100% of parents protect their children from injury by providing a safe home and car and seeking and using information appropriate for their child’s age (initial assessment: 68%)
- 87% of parents read to their children daily with books that interest their child and are age appropriate (initial assessment: 41%)

The Play & Learn groups are weekly, 90 minute group sessions for parents and their toddlers and preschoolers. The groups involve structured, guided parent-child play, time for a children’s activity, and time for a parent education discussion topic. Ninety-eight percent of parents reported that the group helped them enhance their parent-child relationship and better understand their child’s stages of development. The same number reported that the program provided their child with the opportunity to communicate emotions and begin to learn and respond to others’ emotions. The Baby and Me class is a play and discussion hour for babies and their parents. Each class includes story time, music, and infant massage. Parents have the opportunity to discuss concerns with a parent educator and connect with other parents. The Youth Parent Program is available to any teen who is pregnant or parenting. The program includes home visits and a semi-monthly group class. Ninety-two percent of the teens in the group stayed in school or graduated. The agency partners with six hospitals in the St. Croix Valley to visit families with newborns and provide information on newborn development and information to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma. The agency uses the evidence-informed Period of PURPLE Crying materials to educate parents about the dangers of shaking a baby, how to soothe a baby, and parent self-care.

### **Presentation by Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board**

#### **Rebecca Murray, Associate Director**

Rebecca Murray discussed the role of the Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board in supporting community-based, evidence-informed child abuse and neglect prevention initiatives. The Prevention Board is a statutory board comprised of six state government officials, four legislators, and 10 public members appointed by the Governor. The four legislators—Sen. LaTonya Johnson, Sen. Patrick Testin, Rep. Joan Ballweg, Rep. Jill Billings—are also members of the Wisconsin Legislative Children’s Caucus. The Prevention Board is funded with

state general purpose revenue, birth certificate revenue, and federal community-based child abuse prevention funds. The Prevention Board develops and funds strategies to prevent child abuse and neglect. It uses the Protective Factors Framework as a guiding principle for all of its work. The PFF is one of the best strategies for strengthening families so they can withstand adversity and build resilience, rather than sustain long-term damage. The Prevention Board administers a community investment plan that distributes about \$2.2 million to over 25 communities across Wisconsin to support evidence-informed prevention activities related to abusive head trauma, child sexual abuse, parent education, Community Response Programs, and public awareness. In addition, the Prevention Board provides administrative support for the Wisconsin Legislative Children's Caucus.

#### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Appendix 1**  
**Wisconsin Legislative Children’s Caucus Members**

**Co-Chairs**

Rep. Joan Ballweg (R – Markesan)  
Rep. Jill Billings (D – La Crosse)  
Sen. Alberta Darling (R – River Hills)  
Sen. LaTonya Johnson (D – Milwaukee)

**Representatives**

Representative Scott Allen (R – Waukesha)  
Representative David Bowen (D – Milwaukee)  
Representative Dave Considine (D – Baraboo)  
Representative Bob Gannon (R – West Bend)  
Representative Eric Genrich (D – Green Bay)  
Representative Andre Jacque (R – DePere)  
Representative SONDY POPE (D – Mt. Horeb)  
Representative Jessie Rodriguez (R – Oak Creek)  
Representative Melissa Sargent (D – Madison)  
Representative Katrina Shankland (D – Stevens Point)  
Representative Patrick Snyder (R – Schofield)  
Representative David Steffen (R – Green Bay)  
Representative Gary Tauchen (R – Bonduel)  
Representative Chris Taylor (D – Madison)  
Representative Paul Tittl (R – Manitowoc)

**Senators**

Senator Janet Bewley (D – Ashland)  
Senator Chris Larson (D – Milwaukee)  
Senator Luther Olsen (R – Ripon)  
Senator Patrick Testin (R- Stevens Point)  
Senator Kathleen Vinehout (D – Alma)  
Senator Leah Vukmir (R – Brookfield)

## **Appendix 2 - Agendas**

**COMMUNITY EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES  
MEETING AGENDA**

**March 10, 2017**

**9:30 AM – 12:30 PM**

**La Crosse Public Library, Main Library**

**800 Main St., La Crosse**

- 9:30 AM Welcome – *Rep. Jill Billings and Sen. LaTonya Johnson*
- 9:35 AM Wisconsin Legislative Children's Caucus Background – *Rep. Jill Billings*
- 9:45 AM Invited Speakers
- *Amanda Jalensky, Coordinator of Community Services, Family & Children's Center, La Crosse*
  - *Jodi Widuch, Executive Director, and Kristi Strelow, Parent Educator, The Parenting Place, La Crosse*
  - *Dr. Ann Budzak, Pediatrician, Gundersen Health System*
- 10:45 AM BREAK
- 11:00 AM Invited Speakers
- *Tanya Evanson, The Parenting Place Director of Monroe County Family Support Programs, Monroe County Community Response Program*
  - *Lori Stellflue and Desiree Gearing-Lancaster, Children and Family Services, Ho-Chunk Nation*
  - *Jason Witt, Director, La Crosse County Human Services Department; Isaac Hoffman, Director, La Crosse Area Family Collaborative; Laura Huber, Principal, Northside Elementary School; Officer Daniel Ulrich, Neighborhood Resource Officer, La Crosse Police Department*
- 12:00 PM Public Comment
- 12:20 PM Wrap Up – *Rep. Jill Billings*

***Testimony will be taken only from the invited speakers listed above. Members of the public are welcome to attend, but may only speak during public comment and invited speakers will take questions only from legislators.***

**Improving the life of every Wisconsin child.**

**COMMUNITY EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES  
MEETING AGENDA**

**March 13, 2017**

**1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Zilber Center Triplex (Rooms 109,119,129)  
1240 N. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Milwaukee**

- 1:00 PM Welcome – *Sen. Alberta Darling and Sen. LaTonya Johnson*
- 1:05 PM Wisconsin Legislative Children's Caucus Background – *Rep. Joan Ballweg and Rep. Jill Billings*
- 1:15 PM Invited Speakers
- *Patrick Fendt, Parent Education and Support Program Manager, The Parenting Network*
  - *Mary Jo Gerlach and Kamaria Holland, Protective Factors Framework Facilitators*
  - *Amy Herbst, Vice President, and Nelly Martinez, Program Coordinator, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin (Milwaukee, Kenosha, Racine, Rock, Walworth, and Waukesha Counties)*
- 2:30 PM BREAK
- 2:45 PM Invited Speakers
- *Judge Mary Triggiano, Milwaukee County Circuit Court*
  - *Ron Rogers, MS, LCSW, Director, Kenosha County Division of Children & Family Services*
- 3:30 PM Public Comment
- 3:50 p.m. Wrap Up – *Sen. Alberta Darling and Sen. LaTonya Johnson*

***Testimony will be taken only from the invited speakers listed above. Members of the public are welcome to attend, but may only speak during public comment and invited speakers will take questions only from legislators.***

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**COMMUNITY EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES  
MEETING AGENDA**

**March 17, 2017**

**9:30 AM – 12:30 PM**

**Green Bay Central Library  
515 Pine St., Green Bay**

- 9:30 AM Welcome – *Rep. Joan Ballweg and Rep. Jill Billings*
- 9:35 AM Wisconsin Legislative Children's Caucus Background – *Rep. Joan Ballweg and Rep. Jill Billings*
- 9:45 AM Invited Speakers
- *Sarah Inman, Vice President of Community Investment & Strategic Impact, Brown County United Way; Erik Pritzl, Executive Director, Brown County Health and Human Services Department*
  - *Bonnie Phernetton, Director of Children's Services, Family Services of NEW, Inc. (Brown and Door Counties)*
  - *Paula Breese, Executive Director, Family and Childcare Resources of N.E.W.*
  - *Amanda Johnson, Director of Parenting Services, Howe Community Resource Center*
- 10:45 AM BREAK
- 11:00 AM Invited Speakers
- *Heather Lee, Child Welfare Supervisor, and Heather Vandenlangenberg, Parenting Program Coordinator, Family Support Services, Oneida Nation Social Services*
  - *Colleen Homb, Interim CEO, and Abi Roerdink, Community Response Coordinator, Lakeshore Community Action Program (Manitowoc and Sheboygan Counties)*
  - *Wendy Schwalbe, Manager, Parent Connection, Family Services of NEW, Inc. (Outagamie and Winnebago Counties)*
- 12:00 PM Public comment
- 12:20 PM Wrap Up – *Rep. Jill Billings*  
*Testimony will be taken only from the invited speakers listed above. Members of the public are welcome to attend, but may only speak during public comment and invited speakers will take questions only from legislators.*

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**COMMUNITY EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES  
MEETING AGENDA**

**March 20, 2017**

**9:30 AM – 12:30 PM**

**Portage County UW-Extension  
Courthouse Annex Building  
1462 Strongs Ave., Stevens Point**

- 9:30 AM Welcome – *Rep. Joan Ballweg and Rep. Jill Billings*
- 9:35 AM Wisconsin Legislative Children's Caucus Background – *Rep. Joan Ballweg and Rep. Jill Billings*
- 9:45 AM Invited Speakers
- *Keith Brownlow, Mission Director for Healthy Families, Indianhead Community Action Agency*
  - *Sandy Stetzer, Community Service Leader, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Community Services*
  - *Abbey Dall Lukowski, Ma. Ed., Forest County Potawatomi Family Service Division Director*
- 10:45 AM BREAK
- 11:00 AM Invited Speakers
- *Dawn Perez, Child Welfare Manager, Marathon County Department of Social Services*
  - *Mandy Stanley, Director, Marquette County Department of Human Services*
  - *Chuck Price, Director, Waupaca County Department of Health and Human Services*
- 12:00 PM Public Comment
- 12:20 PM Wrap Up – *Rep. Joan Ballweg and Rep. Jill Billings*

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**COMMUNITY EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES  
MEETING AGENDA**

**March 24, 2017  
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
WITC-Rice Lake Campus  
1900 College Dr., Room 241, Rice Lake**

- 1:00 PM Welcome – *Rep. Joan Ballweg*
- 1:05 PM Wisconsin Legislative Children's Caucus Background – *Rep. Joan Ballweg*
- 1:15 PM Invited Speakers
- *Keith Brownlow, Mission Director for Healthy Families, Indianhead Community Action Agency*
  - *Michael McHorney, Executive Director, Children's Museum of Eau Claire*
  - *Jennifer Bisonette, Program Supervisor for the Mino Maajisewin Home Visitation Program, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians*
- 2:15 PM BREAK
- 2:30 PM Invited Speakers
- *Jacqueline Strand, Executive Director, and Sky Holt, Family Service Coordinator, Northwest Connection Family Resources*
  - *Patty Draxler, Executive Director, and Marla Butler, Parent Educator Lead, Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley*
  - *Rebecca Murray, Associate Director, Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board*
- 3:30 PM Public Comment
- 3:50 PM Wrap Up – *Rep. Joan Ballweg*

***Testimony will be taken only from the invited speakers listed above. Members of the public are welcome to attend, but may only speak during public comment and invited speakers will take questions only from legislators.***

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**Appendix 3**  
**List of Informational Meeting Materials**

**La Crosse Informational Meeting – March 10, 2017**

- The Parenting Place PowerPoint
- GunderKids PowerPoint
- Family & Children's Center: Healthy Families PowerPoint
- Family & Children's Center Healthy Families and Hope Academy Brochures
- La Crosse Area Family Collaborative PowerPoint
- La Crosse County Handout
- Ho-Chunk Nation PowerPoint
- Ho-Chunk Nation Clan Mothers Brochure
- Ho-Chunk Nation Organizational Chart
- Ho-Chunk Nation List of Services

**Milwaukee Informational Meeting – March 13, 2017**

- Milwaukee Child Abuse Prevention Services Coalition comments
- Family Drug Treatment Court PowerPoint
- Protective Factors Framework PowerPoint
- The Parenting Network PowerPoint
- Kenosha County Division of Children and Family Services Prevention Services Handout
- Youth Justice Handout

**Green Bay Informational Meeting – March 17, 2017**

- The Community Partnership for Children PowerPoint
- The Community Partnership for Children Handout
- Brown County United Way Annual Report
- Brown County Child Abuse and Neglect Initiative Overview
- Winnebago County PowerPoint
- Oneida Nation Family Support Services PowerPoint
- Lakeshore Community Action Brochure
- Wisconsin Community Response Program Manitowoc Brochure
- Wisconsin Community Response Program Sheboygan Brochure

**Stevens Point Informational Meeting – March 20, 2017**

- Children's Hospital of Wisconsin's Community Services PowerPoint
- Forest County Potawatomi PowerPoint
- Forest County Potawatomi Flyer
- Wisconsin Department of Children and Families Home Visiting Report
- Marathon County Community Response Program PowerPoint
- Marathon County Community Response Program Evaluation
- Marathon County Community Response: Child Abuse Prevention Findings
- Marathon County Community Response Program Graphic

**Rice Lake Informational Meeting – March 24, 2017**

- Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board PowerPoint
- Indianhead Brochure
- Indianhead Programs
- ICAA, Inc. Family Foundations Home Visiting Program
- Children's Museum of Eau Claire PowerPoint
- Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley 2015 Annual Report Brochure
- Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley Brochure
- Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley PowerPoint
- Lac Courte Oreilles Home Visitation PowerPoint
- Native Trauma Flyer
- Northwest Connection Family Resources Brochure
- Northwest Connection Family Resources PowerPoint
- Northwest Connection Family Resources Brochure 2
- Walk in my Shoes Brochure

Appendix 4



## Grantee List SFY2017

### Parent Education

#### **Children's Service Society of Wisconsin**

Serving: Milwaukee, Racine, Walworth  
Program(s): Triple P level 3-PC and discussion groups

#### **The Parenting Place**

Serving: La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau, Vernon  
Program(s): Triple P Level 3 - PC, discussion groups, L2 Seminars and Nurturing Parenting

#### **Indianhead Community Action Agency**

Serving: Burnett, Washburn, Sawyer, Rusk, Taylor, Clark  
Program(s): Triple P level P 3-PC and Nurturing Parenting

#### **Family & Childcare Resources of NEW**

Serving: Brown, Oconto  
Program(s): Triple P level 4

#### **Kenosha Co. Division of Children and Family Services**

Serving: Kenosha  
Program(s): Triple P level 3-PC and discussion groups and Effective Black Parenting

#### **The Parenting Network**

Serving: Racine County  
Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Washington, Waukesha  
Program(s): Triple P level 2, level 3 PC and DG

### Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

#### **Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Community Services**

Serving: Milwaukee  
Program: Awareness 2 Action

### Community Response Program

#### **The Parenting Place**

Serving: La Crosse and Monroe

#### **Lakeshore Community Action**

Serving: Manitowoc and Sheboygan

#### **Northwest Connection Family Resources**

Serving: Sawyer, Washburn and Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe

#### **Children's Service Society of Wisconsin**

Serving: Kenosha, Rock, Langlade, Lincoln, Vilas and Milwaukee

#### **Green Lake County Department of Health & Human Services**

Serving: Adams, Green Lake, Marquette and Waushara

### Abusive Head Trauma Prevention

(Period of PURPLE Crying)

#### **Children's Hospital and Health System, Inc.**

Serving: Milwaukee

#### **Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley, Inc.**

Serving: Pierce, Polk and St. Croix



