

WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE

# Children's Caucus



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

Informational Meetings Report

June 7, 2017

# Background

- April 12, 2016 – First Wisconsin Legislative Children’s Caucus Meeting
  - 100+ attendees
- Currently 25 members
- Create a sustainable forum to educate legislators
- Build bi-partisan support for promising, evidence-informed investments in children and families

# Informational Meetings

- La Crosse                      Friday, March 10, 2017
- Milwaukee                     Monday, March 13, 2017
- Green Bay                      Friday, March 17, 2017
- Stevens Point                Monday, March 20, 2017
- Rice Lake                        Friday, March 24, 2017

## **Informational Meetings Final Report:**

[wichildrenciaucus.org](http://wichildrenciaucus.org)

# What We Learned

- System infrastructure
  - Protective Factors Framework and relationships
- Community Response Program
- Parent Education
- Home Visiting Programs

# Systems Approach

- Protective Factors Framework
  - Social and emotional competence of children
  - Knowledge of parenting and child development
  - Social connections
  - Parental resilience
  - Concrete supports in times of need
- Embedded neighborhood social workers
- Prevention Services Network
  - About 90% of the 130 families (342 children) receiving in-home family support services were not referred to CPS
- [A parent's experience](#)

# How to remember the 5 PROTECTIVE FACTORS that make your family strong.



Use your Thumb to remember

## **Social & Emotional Competence of Children**

because a "thumbs up"  
is one of the first ways  
we learn to communicate  
our emotions.



## **Your Pinky Finger signifies Concrete Support in Times of Need**

because it is the smallest  
finger and reminds us that we  
all need help sometimes.



Your Index Finger represents  
**Knowledge of Parenting  
and Child Development**  
because you are your child's  
**1st** teacher!

## **Your Ring Finger stands for Parental Resilience**

because your first commitment  
must be to yourself in order  
to be strong for others.



Your Middle Finger can  
help you remember  
**Social Connections**  
because it should never  
stand alone! We all need a  
positive social network.



Charlevoix, Emmet  
Northern Antrim Counties

strengthening families

# Community Response Program

- Voluntary program for families screened out of CPS
- Brown County – 92% of families served stay out of CPS
- Marathon County – Saves \$30,000 annually
  - Parent Experience



# Parenting Education

- Triple P
- Nurturing Parenting
- Culturally-adapted parent education
- [A parent's experience](#)



# Home Visiting

- Provide families support and link them to resources
- Saves \$5.70 for every dollar invested
- La Crosse County – No CPS referrals
- Brown County – 96% of families served had no substantiated cases of child abuse or neglect
  - [A parent's experience](#)

# Challenges

- Funding for primary prevention
- Workforce
- Service availability

# Continuing Education

- What are the most effective ways to move the initiatives forward?
  - Protective Factors Framework/Embedded social workers
  - Community Response Program
  - Parent Education
  - Home Visiting

# Children's Caucus

Visit our website:

[wchildrenscaucus.org](http://wchildrenscaucus.org)

Contact us:

[Childrens.Caucus@legis.wi.gov](mailto:Childrens.Caucus@legis.wi.gov)

