

## WCHSA/WAFCA Collaborative Workgroup

WCHSA Spring Conference –  
April 25, 2024  
Reaching New Heights



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## Background

- Federal Family First Prevention Services Act – 2018
- Wisconsin delayed implementation until 2021
- Qualified Residential Treatment Program – DCF 61 promulgated
  - ✓ **Date Rule Approved by Governor:** January 26, 2023
  - ✓ **Date Rule Filed with LRB:** April 27, 2023
  - ✓ **Date Published:** May 30, 2023
  - ✓ **Effective Date:** June 1, 2023

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## Workgroup Purpose

- 1) Clarifying how purchasers and providers team/partner effectively to achieve positive outcomes for children and families;
- 2) Identifying areas of service expectation and potential uniformity for QRTPs that could be incorporated into purchaser & provider contracts; and
- 3) Exploring opportunities for joint advocacy designed to improve service capacity, funding, and the continuum of care for children in both community and out-of-home care settings.

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## Engaging in the Conversation



Shared hopes and fears, perspectives and interpretations.



Acknowledged that things don't always play out in practice the way we as leaders hope or intend for them too.



Recognized that we have more in common than we do differences.

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## Workgroup Learnings & Recommendations

### **Barriers to serving children and families are multi-faceted.**

- Resource Shortages
  - *Operational Capacity – RCC “licensed beds” may be similar to 10 years ago, but “staffed beds” and shared rooms are fewer due to shifts in practice*
  - Trauma-informed care; agencies moving from double-occupancy to single; challenges recruiting qualified staff to work with children in need of treatment
  - Lower levels of care not properly resourced – driving kids into deeper end of the system.
  - Lack of childcare is placing additional constraints on the system.
- We Can Partner to Effect Change
  - *Joint advocacy for a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility*

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## Workgroup Learnings & Recommendations

- Shifts in the Field
  - Trauma-informed care
  - Family First – TIC Model, evidence-based/informed interventions, clinical need for service
  - DCF Child Welfare Transformation – moving from “placement” to “short bursts of treatment”, prevention, family and like kin, 5% reduction in group care, resource homes
- The way we communicate matters
  - Providers communicating with others about their unique program delivery
  - How we talk about one another is important – we are partners
  - Uniform Addendum for Qualified Residential Treatment Programs & SYNC

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## Workgroup Learnings & Recommendations

- Workforce
  - Significant turnover and green staff
  - We all do things differently – each provider, each county or other purchaser (of which there are many), AND each individual worker
- Partnership Improvement Strategies
  - There are things we can do now (see pages 10-12 of the report)
  - Relationships matter!
  - Talk, share power, and respect everyone’s unique expertise – child, family, case managers, clinicians

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## Recommendations

### *Resource Shortages, Financing, Partnership Improvements*

- ✓ Joint advocacy for things such as the creation of a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility in Wisconsin.
- ✓ Requests for the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Department of Health Services (DHS).
- ✓ Developing tools, such as a uniform Addendum for Qualified Residential Treatment Programs that each provider will complete.
- ✓ Creating a more formalized process for ongoing WCHSA/WAFCA partnerships.
- ✓ Fund a position dedicated to overseeing the change process and advocacy needs for 1-2 years.

*NOTE: All recommendations are pending acceptance of the WCHSA and WAFCA Boards and are subject to change or veto.*

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## WCHSA/WAFCA Workgroup Report



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