



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT  
of HEALTH SERVICES**

## WCHSA Spring Conference Reaching New Heights

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Deputy Secretary  
April 24, 2024

To protect and promote the health and safety of the people of Wisconsin

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## County Human Services

Accomplishments

Opportunities

Trends



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## Trends Impacting Human Services

- 65 and older population
- Mental health
- Housing support
- Children's Long-Term Support
- Health care workforce

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## Preparing for the 65 and older population

- Increasing population rate
- Building capacity for adult protective services
- Community conditions research study




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## Ensuring Local Mental Health Resources

- Statewide treatment needs remain high
- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
  - Coordination of local support
  - 988 Improvement Grant

[dhs.wi.gov/contracts/988-improvement.htm](https://dhs.wi.gov/contracts/988-improvement.htm)



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## Providing Housing Supports

- Increase in homelessness
- Interagency Council on Homelessness
  - Medicaid 1915(i) exemption
  - Lead Safe Homes partnership
  - Monthly forums
  - Children's Health Insurance Program
- PATH and SOAR programs



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## Accessing Children's Long-Term Support Program

- Increase in enrollment
  - 2021: ~12,000
  - March 2024: ~22,000
  - Average of 400 eligible monthly
- Ensuring timely access




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## Addressing the Healthcare Workforce Shortage

Governor's Task Force on Healthcare Workforce



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## Addressing the Healthcare Workforce Shortage

**DHS workforce initiatives:**

- WisCaregivers Career Program
- Home and community-based services grants
- Qualified Treatment Trainees Grant Program
- Education Pathways Program
- Emerging Leaders Program



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## Opportunities to Connect to Reach Higher Levels


- Workforce
- Medicaid expansion
- Mental health
- Customer service
- Reproductive health

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## Priority: Workforce

- **Year of the Worker**
  - Build on statewide efforts
  - Bolster high need industries – health care
- Potential deficit of 20,000 nurses by 2040
- Governor's Task Force on the Healthcare Workforce



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## Priority: Mental Health

- Interagency Council on Mental Health
- Strengthening services
- Supporting Community Support Programs
- Controlling costs at state facilities



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## Priority: Reproductive Health

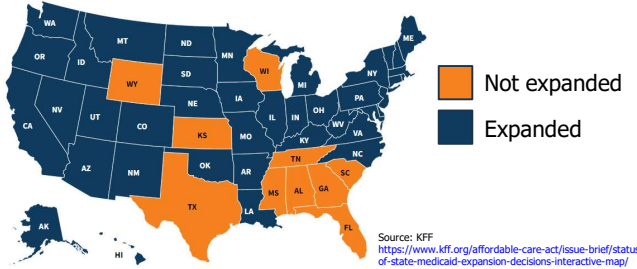
- Streamlining access to contraception for Medicaid members
- Removing barriers
- Empowering members



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## Priority: Medicaid Expansion

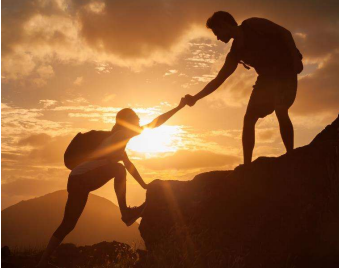


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## Priority: Customer Service

- Public servants thrive on helping others
- Helping people get through challenges
- Connect the dots with public health
  - Bridge gaps
  - Promote efficiencies



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## Elevating our Accomplishments



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## Celebrating our Successes

- **Adult protective services**
  - Stronger system of protection and advocacy
  - Ongoing data collection effort
- **Aging and disability resource centers**
  - Understanding costs
  - Increase in base funding



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## Celebrating our Successes

**Mental health and substance use prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery efforts:**

- Opioid settlement funds
- Xylazine test strips
- Crisis urgent care centers
- Children's System of Care strategic plan
- Intellectual and developmental disabilities and mental health state service system

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