

**Parents
Supporting
Parents:
Wisconsin's
Parent Mentor
Program**



For Today

Background and overview

Benefits

Local PSP Program Infrastructure

Local and State Advisory Councils

Moving Forward

How to get Involved

About the PSP Program



Parents who successfully exited the system are employed, to support and mentor parents involved in the system



The Program integrates parent perspective and voice into local and state policy and system change



PSP program is based on Iowa's very successful model



Initial funding is for three years with the opportunity to reapply for four subsequent years



Door County is one of three initial sites that will be implementing the program, the other site is Jefferson County



The program is supported by a state team comprised of DCF staff, PDS staff, and evaluators from the University of Nebraska



Sites as well as parents will participate in a state advisory council

Parents Supporting Parents: A WI Parent Partner Model

Local Level Service

Empower parents with lived Child Protective Services experience as mentors to parents currently involved in the child welfare system; thereby:

⑩ Improving child, family and system outcomes



System Level Transformation

Integrate the voice of lived experience into local and state decision-making bodies, thereby:

⑩ impacting policy, programmatic and system change throughout the state



Strengthened reunification



Less likely to reenter system



Parents receiving services felt well-supported



Parents receiving services empowered to make positive change



Parent Mentors gained professional skills



Parent Mentors felt more confident and part of a team and community



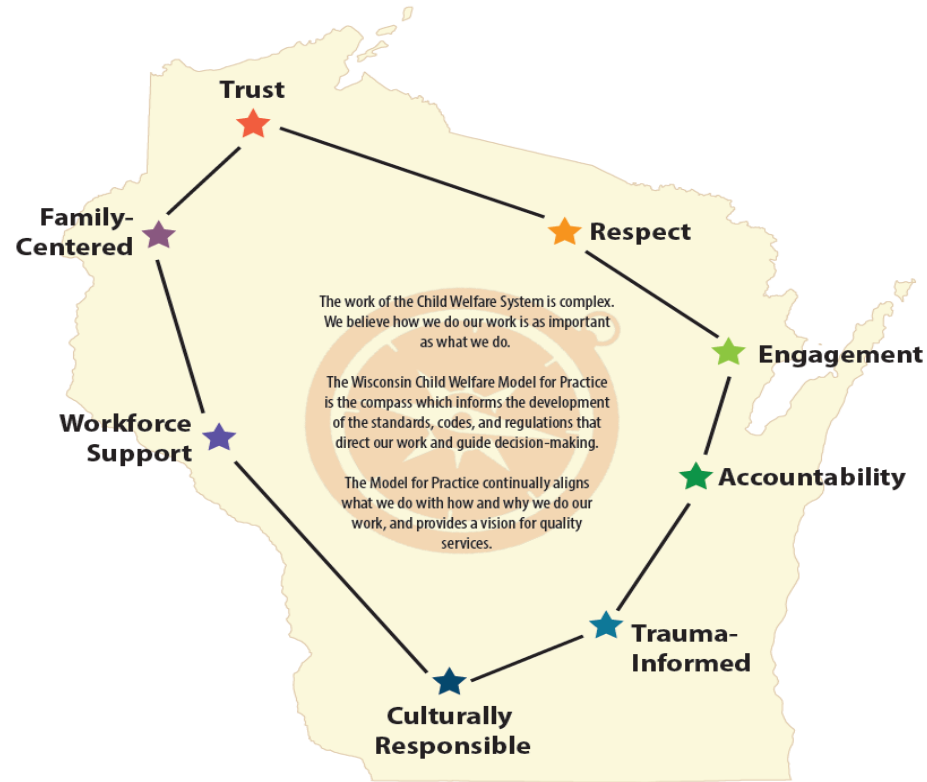
Culture shift and systems change



Evidence base aligns with areas we need to improve in our state

Benefits/Outcomes

Wisconsin Child Welfare Model for Practice



PURPOSE

The purpose of the Child Welfare System is to keep children safe and to support families to provide safe, permanent, and nurturing homes for their children. The system does this by safely keeping children and youth in their own home, family, tribe, and community whenever possible.

When it is not possible to keep children safely in their home, the system engages with the courts and others to provide a safe, stable, and temporary home that nurtures and supports the child's development. The system aims to transition children in out-of-home care safely and quickly back with their family, whenever possible, or to another permanent home.

The system strives to engage with children, youth, and families to expand healthy connections to supports in their community and tribes and bolster resiliency in families to help them thrive.

Aligns with the WI CW Model for Practice

The PSP Program Supports Door County Values and Priorities



Incorporating the voice of lived experience has been a cornerstone of Door County's Trauma Informed Care Initiative.



Door County strives to foster an environment where all consumers of the agency experience safety, trust, transparency, collaboration and empowerment.



The PSP Program adds to and strengthens existing initiatives and programs that incorporate the voice of lived experience into agency and community practice and governance.



Builds upon the success of the Community Connections Program.



Family Well-Being Coordinator

Develops and coordinates program
Supervise staff (Family Well-Being Specialists)
Outreach, education, advocacy



Family Well-Being Specialist

Support and mentor parents
Community outreach & Advocacy



Clinical Support

Monthly 1-hour group for FWS
Communication/collaboration with Coordinator

Structure of Local PSP Program

Door County Innovation Zone Team

- ▶ Dori Goddard: Manager, Door County
- ▶ Cori McFarlane: Deputy Director, Door County
- ▶ Rebecca Nicholson: Community Impact Coordinator, United Way of Door County
- ▶ Quinn Hansen: Family Well-Being Coordinator, Door County



Family Well-Being Specialist: Services Provided

Work	Work intensively with birth parents to promote engagement in the case plan
Maintain	Maintain regular face-to-face contact
Support	Support families by attending team meetings, court hearings, recovery meetings or other gatherings
Help	Help maintain connections between parents and their children
Assist in	Assist in the goal of reunification or appropriate permanency goal
Provide	Provide a sense of hope and inspiration
Collaborate	Collaborate with the team of professionals

Family Well-Being Specialist: Evolving Role within the local agency



- ▶ Onboarding and training
- ▶ Shadowing with more experienced professionals
- ▶ Initiating first set of case assignments
- ▶ Becoming comfortable serving as a mentor
- ▶ Stepping into advocacy, outreach and education
- ▶ Telling their story and talking about experiences personally and professionally
- ▶ Training and mentoring new FWS
- ▶ Participating in statewide outreach and training

Who can become a Family Well-Being Specialist (FWS)?

Parents who, for at least one year, have been reunited with their children or who have resolved issues related to termination of their parental rights or other permanency decisions, and:

- ▶ Meet Eligibility Criteria
- ▶ Complete required training
- ▶ Shadow with more experienced FWS or social worker

** Can begin training when reunited with children for 6 months or have resolved issues related to TPR or other permanency decisions.

Local and State Advisory Process

Local

- Each site is required to form a local advisory council
- Purpose: to support implementation and integration of parent voice in local policy and system change
- Meet at least quarterly each year
- Broad participation with special emphasis on parent participation

State

- Each site will participate in the state advisory council
- Purpose: inform program implementation and improvement and advise state policy and system change to support parent perspective
- Meets every other month; 6x/year
- Broad participation; parent participation is required



What to expect moving forward

- ▶ 2020 Planning year
 - ▶ Goal be ready for program implementation in 2021
- ▶ 2021 Implementation
 - ▶ Hire and train FWS
 - ▶ Referrals/family assignments
- ▶ 2022 Sustained implementation
 - ▶ Support new Innovation Zones

2020 The Planning Year: What to Expect



May: Hire Family Well-Being Coordinator



June/July: Community outreach and recruitment



September: Annual PSP Summit



October-December: First Local Advisory Council meeting



December: Ready for 2021 implementation

How to Get Involved





Questions?



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Thank you!

► Carrie Finkbiner, finkbiner@wisc.edu

Special Initiatives Coordinator

WI Child Welfare Professional
Development System