

CONNECTING THE DOTS



2024
Public Child
Welfare
Conference

WI PUBLIC CHILD WELFARE CONFERENCE

September 23-25, 2024

Virtual or In-Person Attendance



REGISTRATION
WILL OPEN JULY 2024

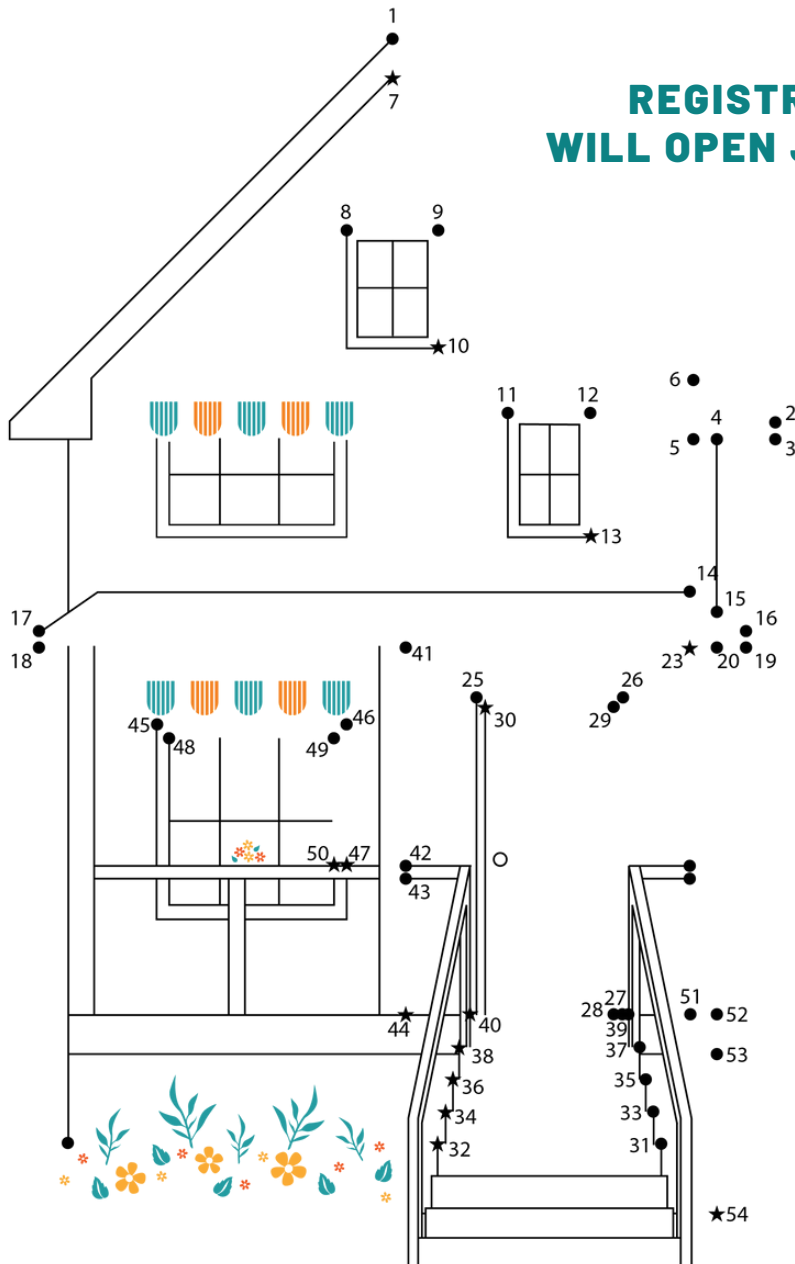
Registration Fee is
\$100 for both
in-person and online
attendance

WILDERNESS RESORT

511 E Adams St
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

QUESTIONS?

Contact Kim Eithun at
keithun@wisc.edu



Conference Information

The 2024 Wisconsin Public Child Welfare Conference, sponsored by the Department of Children and Families, will feature national and local experts providing training, innovations, and evidence-based programs to support families, professionals, and teams. The conference will cover a variety of topics including supporting resiliency in families and professionals, addressing needs of families, connecting youth and families to resources, and supporting the workforce. Workshops will highlight best practices and provide tools and skill-building exercises. You will be able to attend in person or virtually.

Monday, September 23 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Tuesday, September 24 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Wednesday, September 25 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Wilderness Resort
511 E. Adams Street
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

Registration

Registration is available through this link:

<https://btnt.short.gy/PCW>

There is a \$100.00 registration fee. Please indicate any dietary restrictions or special accommodations when you register. **Registration closes on September 19, 2024.**

There will be a virtual option for the plenary and workshop sessions.

Hotel Reservations

Hotel reservations can be made at: 1-800-867-9453. Please state you are with the WCWPDS - Public Child Welfare Conference 2024 at Glacier Canyon Lodge, Leader #A13430.

Please make your hotel reservations by **Friday, August 23, 2024**, to ensure you receive the discounted rate.

Please provide your tax-exempt documentation prior to checking in.

Continuing Education Credits

Continuing Education Hours (CEH) will be offered to attendees. You will receive 1 CEH for each hour attended. If you attend the entire conference, you will earn 19 CEHs.

Conference Materials

Conference materials will be provided to attendees in electronic format only. These materials will be made available prior to the conference in the Whova app. Participants wishing to have hard copies should print the materials prior to arrival.

Questions

Please contact Kim Eithun at keithun@wisc.edu or (608)807-6152.



Agenda at a Glance

Monday, September 23

9:30 am - 10:00 am Registration

10:00 am - 12:00 pm Pre-Conference Seminar

12:00 pm - 12:45 pm LUNCH

12:45 pm - 2:30 pm Pre-conference Seminar (con't)

2:30 pm - 2:45 pm BREAK

2:45 pm - 4:30 pm Pre-conference Institute (con't)

Tuesday, September 24

8:30 am - 9:00 am Welcome - WI Department of Children and Families Transformation

9:00 am - 10:00 am Parents and Allies Working Together to Improve Child Welfare Systems

10:00 am - 10:15 am BREAK

10:15 am - 11:30 am Workshop A

11:30 am - 12:30 pm Lunch

12:30 pm - 1:45 pm Workshop B

1:45 pm - 2:00 pm BREAK

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Meeting Family Needs: A Multi-system Policy Framework - Plenary

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Resiliency Reconsidered - Closing Plenary

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Networking Reception

Agenda at a Glance

Wednesday, September 25

7:30 am - 8:30 am Breakfast

8:30 am - 8:45 am Welcome

8:45 am - 9:45 am From Lens to Mirror - Change Starts With Me - Plenary

9:45 am - 10:30 am Networking Activity - Plenary

10:30 am - 10:45 am BREAK

10:45 am - 12:00 pm Workshop C

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Workshop D

2:30 pm - 2:45 pm BREAK

2:45 pm - 3:45 pm Think of Us - Closing Plenary

3:45 pm - 4:00 pm Wrap up



S - 1

Lived Experience Support

Lived experience is essential for Wisconsin's Child Welfare transformation, which aims to support more children and families in-home with services. Lived experience stakeholders are a diverse group of individuals with various lived child welfare or youth justice experience. Come learn what is happening in Wisconsin and learn about the resources available to bring the voice of lived experience to your agency.

S - 2

AWAKEN: A Team-Based Practice for Conscious Decision-Making in Child Welfare

Taking action to disrupt the impact of bias on decision-making is an increasing priority in the child welfare system. Bias lives everywhere. It lives in each of us, the teams we work in, the organizations we work for, and the systems around us. It impacts our lives, communities, and workplaces. AWAKEN is a practice for conscious decision-making that provides actionable steps for child welfare teams working in fast-paced, emotionally charged environments, moving from automatic, bias-based thinking into values-based critical thinking.

S - 3

Integrating Restorative Practices and Peacemaking Circles in Child Welfare

In our time together, we will better understand the interplay between effective restorative practices, peacebuilding, and their role in relationship building; the 7-part Peacemaking Circle model (origins, types, applications, and learning /doing the process); our orientation around and perceptions of conflict and repair and how they can influence how we embrace or retreat from building relationships with community, self, and others; and the significance of us having influences that shape how we experience our identities, attachment to others, and our understanding of the world around us.

S - 4

Writing Winning Grant Proposals

Grant writing is an essential skill for building organizational and financial capacity. In this workshop we will dive into the world of grant writing and walk you through the process step by step for you to be successful. Participants can expect to learn the outline of a common grant proposal, where to look for funding, the most common grant writing mistakes and more! Join us for this interactive session facilitated by experienced UW-Madison Division of Extension Educators

Pre-Conference Seminars (con't)

S- 5

Parent Supporting Parents

Partnering with parents and youth who have experienced the child welfare system is essential in helping to transform the support families receive. Come here about the progress Wisconsin's Parents Supporting Parents model is making across the state. A workshop "Looking Beyond the Behavior to See the Underlying Need" is a part of the morning presentation. For more details on the workshop, please see the Whova app agenda with session descriptions.

Workshop A 9/24 10:15 am - 11:30 am

A - 1

Families are the Solution: Co-Designing with Parents to Advance CPS Systems Change

This session will provide an overview of the Rock County Families First Movement, a partnership between Rock County Human Services, Alia, and an empowered group of Black parents from Beloit, Wisconsin. The session will describe how parents who the CPS system has impacted courageously came together with CPS staff to co-design a vision for a new way forward to better meet the needs of Black families and the community as a whole and how they are currently taking steps to implement this vision.

A - 2

The Building Blocks to a Positive and Resilient Team!

A look at Outagamie County's approach to re-developing our orientation and onboarding process for Child Protection Staff to increase recruitment and retention. One of the challenges Outagamie saw pre- and post-COVID was the change in the number of individuals looking to delve into Child Protection work. Following COVID, we had a very high vacancy rate and, as a result, really looked at how to recruit and retain staff. We underwent a complete overhaul of how we orient and onboard staff to the wonderful work of Child Protection, as well as a plan for continued development. Our recruitment and retention have done a 180-degree shift, and we are fully staffed with workers expressing they feel supported and confident in their roles, which translates into staff that have strength-based engagement with our clients and positive child protection work.

Workshop A (con't)

A - 3

Restoring Rhythm

Learn trauma-informed, science-based, breath and gentle movement tools to down-regulate the nervous system, and increase your range of resilience. Connect with yourself and others in a fun, accessible community practice!

A - 4

National Resources for Advancing Practice for Permanency and Well-Being

Children who are adopted or in guardianship/kinship or foster care experience elevated risks for many challenges. Those serving our children and families want to be prepared given a focus on addressing behaviors through discipline and behavior modification. This presentation will focus the importance of professional competency and share FREE state of the art tools and resources designed to address this need.

A - 5

Parents Supporting Parents

Partnering with parents and youth who have experienced the child welfare system is essential in helping to transform the support families receive. Wisconsin's Parents Supporting Parents model is an evidence-based model aimed at empowering parents with lived child welfare experience as mentors to parents currently within the child welfare system. Hear from parents who are leading the way in building a child welfare system that promotes family well-being.

A - 6

Access Response Time Pilots

The Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) examined the data on response times to Access Reports across the state and found a wide variance in reports that received a same-day response. DSP is working with agencies to find ways of simplifying the response time decision-making process and increasing consistency across the state. Come learn about the how the two cohorts of agencies will pilot a response time decision-making process that is more straightforward to help standardize the decision at Access.

A - 7

Language Matters

“The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and the lightning bug.” - Mark Twain

The words used in systems drive our thoughts and actions about the people we serve. Learn how you can affect the system change you want to see by shifting our language.

B - 1

Parents and Allies Working Together to Improve Child Welfare Systems

The workshop will be an opportunity to ask questions, to learn about what is happening now with parent advocacy in Wisconsin and to discuss how parent advocacy might be expanded and supported in Wisconsin. Topics to be discussed include: what to do tomorrow, overcoming resistance to change, and what does parent leadership look like.

B - 2

Initial Assessment Improvement Project

Improvements to the Initial Assessment Process were released in June 2024. This workshop will give you the opportunity to reflect on the practice changes and discuss the new process that elevates family voice, emphasizes parent and caretaker engagement, helps families understand the CPS process, and aims to connect families to needed services.

B - 3

Think Differently About Outcomes: Moving From Evaluating to Learning

Join us to learn how to use the data we collect to support decisions, provide recommendations for practice, and gauge our progress. Evaluation focuses on determining a program's overall impact, while evaluative learning focuses on understanding how program components work to improve practices.

B - 4

Introduction to HOPE - Health Outcomes from Positive Experiences

This interactive workshop, you will learn about the Science of the Positive, how Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) drive healthy development, and how we can use PCEs to mitigate the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Participants will leave the session with ideas on how to implement what they learn in their work with children and families.



Workshop B (con't)

B - 5

Relational Permanency: The Role of Foster Parents In Supporting Child Relationships

Relational permanency for youth means having lifelong connections to caring adults, including at least one adult who will provide a permanent, parent-like connection. Participants will explore the concept of how to apply a relational permanency model to youth in foster homes and those who are reunified with their families of origin. Discover how shifting your mindset can create a community support model that helps youth thrive no matter their placement status. Join us and consider how you might support a lifelong commitment to a child and their family and how to help foster parents connect with siblings and like-kin members of a child's relationship circle.

B - 6

A Safety Science Approach to Quality and Safety in Congregate Care

How we share accountability and learn from adverse youth experiences is important. Mindful Organizing is a prosocial, safety-critical, teamwork practice that uses concrete strategies to learn and improve the quality of youth safety and well-being. In this breakout, learn how DCF Licensing is working to operationalize systems thinking practices alongside facilitated community peer-to-peer learning across congregate care providers.

B - 7

Anti-Human Trafficking Support for Youth

Sex trafficking happens every day in every corner of Wisconsin and the nation. Awareness and service navigation efforts are being delivered throughout Wisconsin with a variety of services including case coordination and referrals, case management, caregiver support services, multidisciplinary team facilitation, outreach services, and training and technical assistance. Join us in hearing about the navigation and support work happening in one of the programs, ROUTE (Resources & Opportunities to Uplift Trafficking Experiences).



C - 1

A System Ready to be Reimagined

Our future depends on our ability to give children the resources and opportunities they need to heal, develop, and thrive. The life outcomes of children in the child welfare system are much worse than their peers. We can fundamentally shift how the system works. Come hear how you can be a part of the transformation.

C - 2

Taking the Next Steps in My Progress

In this workshop, participants will be guided through introspective prompts, principles, and daily practiced cultivating their creativity to build a life filled with joy and purpose that advances justice in the world.

C - 3

Target Your Change Efforts to Improve Engagement of Non-Household Parents

This session will train you to think about change systematically using the ADKAR model (Awareness, Desire, Knowledge, Ability, and Reinforcement) to improve your ability to identify and engage non-household parents in child welfare practice. Are you aware of how many non-household parents are in the families you support? Why should you (i.e., desire) to engage those parents? What knowledge, tools, or guidance would help you succeed? How much practice and support will I need to make this change (i.e., ability)? What will help me reinforce this good practice? We will examine the lessons learned from the fourteen child welfare agencies who sent pilot teams comprised of child protective services (CPS) and/or youth justice (YJ) professionals and supervisors to the PDSA Collaborative to transform their agency's culture and practices to prioritize early, persistent, and continual efforts to identify, locate, contact, and engage non-household parents.



Workshop C (con't)

C - 4

In-Home Safety Planning Decision-Making: Bias, Risk Tolerance, and Mindful Organizing

Safety planning, especially in-home safety planning, is a safety critical function in child protection services work. In-home safety planning comes with risks, and when it works, it is in the best interests of children and their families. There are times when making the decision to safety plan in-home is clear. Other times, the answer doesn't seem quite as clear. Some professionals might make one decision, and others might make a different decision, and neither is sure that the decision made will result in safety. In those cases, we often feel like we are making our best guess combined with our best effort – this is where mindful organizing can help navigate bias and risk tolerance toward getting to the best decision. In the 2024 Applied Learning Communities for child welfare leaders across Wisconsin, participants learned skills and explored strategies to support decision-making when in-home safety planning.

C - 5

Supporting LGBTQ+ Children and Youth

This session will provide practical strategies and insights to support and affirm LGBTQ+ & BIPOC youth, particularly those navigating the foster care system. Highlights include inclusive practices, creating safe spaces, navigating challenges, and creating thriving identities. Join us in supporting a more inclusive, understanding, and empowering system for all children and youth.

C - 6

Shared Parenting

The connection between a child and their first family is a complicated and vital one. When foster families and CPS professionals find a way to provide shared or co-parenting with the first family, it is often in the best interest of the child. We will discuss the importance of shared parenting and strategies to implement it with the families you are working with.

C - 7

Kin-specific Licensing

In this session, you will hear from one of the authors of the national Kin-Specific Foster Home Approval Standards about the philosophy behind these recommendations and how to strive for equity for kin caregivers. You will also learn about how this intersects with the implementation of the Relative and Like-Kin Licensing process in Wisconsin.

D - 1

Family Resource Centers - Partnering with Child Welfare to Connect and Strengthen Families

Meeting the needs of families is a tough job that is impossible for an individual agency or organization to accomplish on their own. Family resource centers, whose purpose is to provide programming and resources to all families in their communities, can serve as strong partners for Child Welfare agencies. FRCs serve as welcoming hubs of services and opportunities designed to provide resources to strengthen all families at no or low cost. They do this in diverse ways, tuning in to the unique attributes of their service area(s) and taking a community focus that consists of reflecting and responding to the needs, cultures and interests of the communities and populations they serve by providing a tailored combination of classes and services specific to the families within their service area. This workshop will provide an overview of Family Resource Centers (FRCs) - what they do, where they are located in the state and how they strengthen families and communities. The panel will include representatives from local FRCs and the WI FRC Network. They will share about their FRCs and how partnering with Child Welfare agencies to support all families has strengthened their communities

D - 2

Strong Families, Thriving Children, Connected Communities (SFTCCC) - Empowering Communities and Innovative Strategies to Prevent Child Neglect

Child Neglect is preventable. Children thrive when they have regular interactions with responsive, caring adults. Families experiencing significant stressors related to financial insecurity, housing instability, or the impact of systemic and interpersonal trauma can be overloaded with stress, interrupting those interactions.

The SFTCCC community has worked over the past two years to build a shared understanding and identify priority issues within neglect prevention, which resulted in our four critical pathways. While learning will be ongoing, and new participants will always be welcomed, SFTCCC is building towards identifying, advocating for, and implementing specific policy and system solutions. Our next step is focusing on understanding the current state within the four critical pathways. This means exploring current trends, identifying innovative practices and policies within and outside of the SFTCCC community, and challenging assumptions about the current context and a potential future state.

Workshop D (con't)

D - 3

Meeting Family Needs: A Multi-system Policy Framework for Child and Family Well-being

Building off the preceding keynote address, Dr. Thomas will speak to the mismatch between child welfare's primary interventions and the needs of families who come into contact with the child welfare system. Data and evidence showcasing the relationship between poverty and child welfare system involvement will be shared. The session will provide a more in-depth exploration of the systems change components comprising the multi-system framework and specific promising strategies that help to operationalize the components. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in activities designed to apply the framework within their work and spheres of influence.

D - 4

Reframing Relative Resiliency Using the Structured Analysis Family Evaluation (SAFE) Tool

The Consortium for Children, owners of the Structure Analysis Family Evaluation (SAFE) standardized home study tool, are excited to bring their technical assistance and coaching to a broader audience during the Public Child Welfare Conference. Policy guidance from DCF related to the home study and licensing process will also be available during this session. The aim is for all child welfare professionals to understand the home study process better, allowing them to better prepare and support relatives in the foster care licensing process.

Non-relative foster parents usually spend years thinking about becoming a foster parent before starting the process. Relatives begin the process unexpectedly and during a time of crisis. The licensing process can be overwhelming, and home studies can feel invasive, which may cause some families to be hesitant or appear resistant when they are overwhelmed and struggling to understand the "why." This session is intended for all child welfare professionals who work in the Out-of-Home Care Continuum, including supervisors, licensors, family find, ongoing, intake, and youth justice professionals.



Workshop D (con't)

D - 5

Innovations in the Child Welfare System: Family Keys

One in ten children in foster care are away from their families due to housing instability. Family Keys is an innovative pilot approach supporting families so that they do not have to be separated due to housing challenges. This session will provide tips on how to partner with landlords, banks, and other community members to do what it takes to keep families together in these circumstances. Learn practical tips on how your community can take action to prevent unnecessary foster care placements, such as building new collaborations and identifying unique funding strategies so that WI can become the first state with zero family separations due to housing concerns.

D - 6

Influencing Change Through Advocacy

In this workshop, we will collectively create the roadmaps to influence the change you want to see in Child Welfare. Explore the power of your voice and leave with tangible strategies.

D - 7

Youth Crisis Stabilization Facilities: A Safe Place to Get Help

In a true systems of care approach, this workshop will give a brief overview of the crisis now model and how Wisconsin is responding to the needs of youth in crisis. An overview will be provided of Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 50, the administrative rule that establishes procedures for the Youth Crisis Stabilization Facilities (YCSFs). The audience will hear from each of the three YCSFs open in the state of Wisconsin regarding the specific services they provide and how to utilize this important program.

