



Family & Children's Center

Family Policy Board

February 1, 2021

Innovation **Hope** *Life-Changing*
Effective *Excellence*

Better Tomorrows Start With Us

partnering to improve lives

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Wisconsin Association of Family & Children's Agencies is the united voice for more than fifty member agencies and leaders in the human services field serving more than 250,000 individuals and families throughout Wisconsin.

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We promote public policy, best practice and partnerships that support our member agencies in pursuing their mission to improve the lives of children and families.



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www.fcconline.org

2021 Legislative & Biennial Budget Priorities

- Putting Family First
- Moving Forward on Mental Health
- Adopting Regulatory Reforms for Streamlined Services



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Putting Family First

- Invest in home visiting expansion and early care and education opportunities to strengthen and support families at the earliest stages of a child's development.
- Advance access to evidence-based services by funding targeted initiatives to support equitable access to Family First prevention services in all regions of the state.



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- Support increases in kinship care and foster care rates to continue growing family-based and local community options for children who can not safely remain at home.
- Support foster youth transition to adulthood by removing barriers to obtaining a driver's license.
- Return 17-year-olds to the youth justice system and adopt meaningful reforms to increase community-based resources for system-involved youth.



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Moving Forward on Mental Health

- Support Medicaid expansion to extend coverage and access for individuals up to 138% of FPL. In the midst of the pandemic, expanded coverage becomes even more essential.
- Target additional mental health resources to support students and school staff as they continue to experience heightened levels of pandemic-related depression and anxiety by increasing funding for school mental health initiative grants.



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- Support initiatives to remove mental health service access barriers including advancing insurance parity for teletherapy services.
- Increase Medicaid Day Tx rates to recover from stagnant rates & to adjust for recent changes to day treatment rules.



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- Support an increase in the clinical supervision grant program to grow the MH workforce
- Support expanded staff capacity & technology investments at DSPS to address delays & inefficiencies in the process for licensing behavioral health practitioners



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Adopting Regulatory Reforms for Streamlined Services

- Improve training tools and safety in youth congregate care settings by permitting the use of video recording in common areas
- Adopt liability reforms for private child placing agencies, GH & RCC's to reduce risk exposure & enable more providers to care for youth, esp. those placed out of state.
- Require DHS & DCF to recognize national accreditation when renewing out of home care licenses & clinic licenses



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