

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Instructions: [F-01922A](#)

Name of Governmental Body: Children Come First Advisory Committee		Attending: Carlton Frost, Tibbisum Rice, Amanada Huber, Rebecca Bell, Kenya Bright, Chuck Price, Jill Clopper, Georgette Teschner, Greg Gintz, Andrea Gugel, Heidi Roettger, Julie Bonner, Kathy Markeland, Michelle Lund, Mary Cerretti (for Phyllis Greenberger), Matthew Strittmater, Peggy Whitebird (for Erica Toman), Rebecca Green Blanks, Robert Kaminski, Scott Strong, Sherita McKnight (for Legardea Jackson), Nicole Wienkes, Emma McGovern, Angela, Clements, Jill Ellinwood	
Date: 1/27/2026	Time Started: 10:04am	Time Ended: 12.:02pm	Staff to Committee: Ann Kelley-Kuehmichel
Location: Microsoft Teams		Presiding Officer: Phil Robinson and Kia Kjensrud	

Minutes

1. Call to order
 - a. Phil Robinson called the meeting to order at 10:04am
 - b. Quorum attendance to proceed.
2. Welcome and introductions
 - a. Phil and Kia welcomed everyone to the January 27th CCFAC meeting.
3. Membership updates
 - a. Heather Yaeger filling spot for Lutheran Social Services left by Jill Chaffee
 - b. Bridgett Gonzalez Bader Foundation filling the philanthropic vacancy
 - c. Peggy Whitebird filling spot for Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewas left by Erica Toman
 - d. Carlton Frost filling spot for Department of Children and Families left by Jennifer McBain
 - e. Sherita McKnight filling spot for Owen's Place left by Legardea Jackson
 - f. Tibbisum Rice motions to approve memberships
 - g. Scott Strong seconds the motion to approve memberships
 - h. No discussion
 - i. Unanimous approval
 - j. Welcome new members
4. Good news check-in
 - a. Matt Strittmater mentions the good news about the federal funding received for the Rural Health Transformation Program and is excited to hear more about how the funding will be utilized.
 - b. Georgette Tescher shared a story of resilience and success.
5. Review of July and October 2025 minutes
 - a. October minutes reviewed
 - b. Greg Gintz motions to approve the October minutes
 - c. Emma McGovern seconds the motion to approve October minutes
 - d. No discussion
 - e. No opposition
 - f. Two abstentions
 - g. Motions carries, minutes for October approved
 - h. July Minutes reviewed
 - i. Tibbisum Rice motions to approve July minutes
 - j. Greg Gintz seconds the motion to approve July minutes

- k. No discussion
 - l. No opposition
 - m. One abstention\
 - n. Motions carries, minutes for July approved.
6. Spotlight: Nicole Wienkes, LPC Behavioral Health Unit Manager-Green Lake County DHHS
 - a. Nicole Wienkes shares her why in the work.
 - b. Phil shared the importance and history behind the spotlight. Importance in getting to know members outside of their roles and on a deeper level.
 - c. Subtle encouragement to consider being the spotlight and if interested reach out co-chairs or Ann Kelley-Kuehmichel.
 7. Subcommittee report
 - a. Neither co-chair of the subcommittee was available for the meeting today. They prepared and shared a summary update pertaining to progress thus far.
 - Subcommittee charter
 - Scott Strong motions to review and adopt the Subcommittee charter
 - Matthew Strittmater seconds the motion to review and adopt the subcommittee charter
 - Discussion- Kathy Markeland suggests clarifying the title of the subcommittee to include carrying out the CSOC strategic plan.
 - Unanimous approval
 - Motion is carried out to adopt the subcommittee charter.
 - Strategic plan priority report
 - No comments on the work of the Subcommittee shared as a summary.
 - Committee looks forward to the next steps of the subcommittee and suggestions/revisions brought to the April meeting.
 - Subcommittee meets February 13th
 8. Ad hoc committee to review preamble
 - a. Discussed a document created and drafted by Attorney David Carlson and hopes that it will be included as a preamble to the bylaws that were approved and adopted late last year.
 - b. Per the approval of an ad hoc group last October to review a draft prepared, co-chairs are requesting 3 members to meet, review, and prepare a document for the April full committee.
 - c. Ad hoc group includes, David Carlson, Scott Strong, Matt Strittmater, Rashaan Cherry, and Nicole Wienkes
 - d. Group will meet prior to the April meeting and come with a possible preamble for review.
 9. Discuss collaboration with Wisconsin Council on Mental Health regarding Wis. Stat. s. 15.07(5)(a) to (z) reimbursement advocacy
 - a. Co-chair Kia Kjensrud provided an update and commented on this item relates to discussion from the October meeting and the payment for those with lived experience for participation in meetings and reimbursement for travel etc. Kia mentioned that there was recommendation to reach out to the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) as a touchpoint to see if and what they may know about reimbursement. She unfortunately does not have much to report and has reached out to a WCMH and had not heard back. She emphasized the importance of this topic and there will continue to be discussion and follow up.
 - b. She recruited the help of new members if they know any thing that may help move this forward.
 10. Department of Health Services updates

- a. Youth Crisis Coordinator Elizabeth Rudy updated the committee on the increase in daily rate for the Youth Crisis Stabilization Facilities. She discussed the tremendous work done to make this happen and the benefits of supporting youth in their community and a diversion from the hospital care setting. She shared the Forward Health link: <https://www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/kw/pdf/2025-39.pdf>
- b. Ms. Rudy also reported PRTF: PRTF (DHS 45) scope of work was approved. The next step is a public hearing then rule writing with the advisory committee can begin. Stay updated about the status of the process [Administrative Rules | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)
- c. Kenya Bright provided a brief update on the Rural Health Transformation Program and shared the link: RHTP: The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has awarded Wisconsin \$203,670,005 for the first year of the Rural Health Transformation Program. [See the DHS plan for this funding.](#)

Events: If you have questions about a specific event below, please reach out to the presenting organization.

- February 4, 2026: [Raising Wisconsin's Children Conference](#) (Virtual)
- March 7, 2026: [Mental Health Summit](#) (Milwaukee)
- March 13, 2026: [Help and Hope Conference](#) (Racine)
- March 19-20, 2026: [Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Annual Conference](#) (Waukesha)
- April 10-11, 2026: [NAMI Wisconsin Annual Conference](#) (Appleton)
- April 13-14, 2026: [Wisconsin Maternal and Child Health Conference](#) (Wisconsin Dells)
- April 20-22, 2026: [Peer Recovery Conference](#) (Wisconsin Dells)
- April 27, 2026: [CommUnity Conference: Civic Health in Wisconsin and Beyond](#) (Madison)
- May 14-15, 2026: [Circles of Life Conference](#) (Stevens Point)
- May 19-21, 2026: [WPHA-WALHDAB Annual Public Health Conference](#) (Wisconsin Dells)
- June 15-17, 2026: [Prevent Suicide Wisconsin Annual Conference](#) (TBD/Virtual)
- August 5-6, 2026: [Wisconsin Substance Use Summit](#) (Green Bay)
- August 6-7, 2026: [HOPE Consortium Annual Conference](#) (Virtual)
- August 7-8, 2026: [Great Lakes Motivational Interviewing Conference](#) (Madison)
- August 10-11, 2026: [CESA 5 Mental Health and Behavior Summit](#) (Wisconsin Dells)

Call for presenters

- Prevent Suicide Wisconsin Conference: [Workshop proposals are due February 13, 2026.](#)
- Crisis Intervention Conference: [Workshop proposals are due February 13, 2026, for first consideration, with a final consideration deadline of February 27, 2026.](#)
- Wisconsin School Counselor Association Annual Conference: [Workshop proposals are due March 2, 2026.](#)

Trainings: The trainings below are managed by the Behavioral Health Training Partnership at UW-Green Bay. Send questions about these trainings to bhttp@uwgb.edu.

- January 9, 2026: [Acquired Brain Injury & Suicide Risk](#) (Virtual)
- January 14, 2026: [Diagnosing & Treating Autism & ADHD: Scientific Advancements and Best Practices](#) (Virtual)
- January 28-29, 2026: [Family Based Youth Suicide Risk Management Workshop](#) (Virtual)
- February 5, 2026: [Motivational Interviewing, Part One – Introductory](#) (Virtual)
- February 10-11, 2026: [Substance Use in Crisis Intervention](#) (Virtual)
- February 12, 2026: [Motivational Interviewing, Part Two – Advanced](#) (Virtual)
- February 13, 2026: [Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk in Correctional Populations](#) (Virtual)

11. Children's System of Care Strategic Plan and interconnections with Peer Support Wisconsin Administrative Code chapter DHS 72
 - a. Kenya Bright presented on Wisconsin Admin Code chapter DHS 72. Presentation powerpoint will be shared with committee.
 - b. Matt Strittmater notes that he is excited about this and requests advocacy for sustainability outside of CCS.

- c. Nicole Wienkes mentioned that specifics to opioid and stimulant use when there peer recovery is needed for alcohol use often not included.
 - d. Kathy Markeland notes it being a nice fit with the application in school based mental health 35 or 75 clinics.
 - e. Kenya noted the continuation of training and revisiting the alignment with Certified Peer Specialists and Peer Specialists. Outside of the required training that is not a lift of the employer they will need to provide orientation in the program the peer recovery coach is working. Kenya mentions more to come and that there is anticipation that Medicaid may release all info in April.
 - f. Jill Ellinwood clarified that the Medicaid rate in CCS and title will be clarified and that in the meantime title continues to be psychosocial rehabilitation worker.
 - g. Lynn Maday Bigboy shared the link to the general mailbox if there are further questions. DHSDCTS72@dhs.wisconsin.gov
12. Public comment
- a. No public comment
13. Announcements
- a. Karen Bittner of the DHS Children Youth and Family Section shared an open and posted position with the team. Link EXTERNAL LINK
<https://wisc.jobs/Pages/SearchResults.aspx?keywords=19828>
 - b. Kathy Markeland shared the WAFCA Continuing Education series for those not familiar. <https://www.wafca.org/continuing-education> \
 - c. Carrie Poser shared: WI Balance of State CoC has an annual conference Feb 10-12 in Appleton. Registration closes noon on Feb. 2nd. Registration is open for the 3rd Annual [Balance of State CoC Conference](#) STRONGER TOGETHER: Aligning Providers & Strategies to End Homelessness
Join us in Appleton at the Hilton Appleton Paper Valley
February 10-12, 2026
To register, click: <https://www.wiboscoc.org/2026-annual-wi-bos-conference.html>
*There is information on registration and the block of hotel rooms available
14. 2026 meeting dates: April 28th, July 28th, October 27th
15. Adjournment
- a. Jill Ellinwood motions to adjourn at 12:02pm
 - b. Robert Kaminski seconds the motion to adjourn
 - c. Meeting adjourns at 12:02pm

The purpose of this meeting is to conduct the governmental business outlined in the above agenda. The CCF Advisory Committee is established by [Wis. Stat. § 46.56](#) to support the development of a comprehensive service system of coordinated care for children who are involved in 2 or more systems of care. Information about the CCF Advisory Committee may be found at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/ccfac/index.htm>.

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Prepared by: Ann Kelley-Kuehmichel on 1/27/2026.

These minutes are in final form. They were presented and approved by the governmental body on: 4/28/2026