Trauma-Informed Care Efforts in Wisconsin

Psychological trauma is a pivotal force that shapes an individual's mental, emotional, and physical well-being. Because trauma stems from violence, abuse, neglect, disaster, terrorism and war, nearly every family is impacted in some way. Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) provides a new perspective where those providing the support shift from asking "What is wrong with you?" to "What has happened to you?" This change reduces the blame and shame that some people experience when being labeled. It also builds an understanding of how the past impacts the present, which effectively makes the connections that progress toward healing and recovery. TIC takes a collaborative approach, where healing is led by the individual and supported by the service provider. Together, in a true partnership, people learn from each other. There's greater respect, progress towards healing, and greater efficacy in services.

For nearly a decade, the Department of Health Services (DHS) has been offering trainings and advocating for a shift to a trauma-informed perspective. In 2007, DHS sponsored a Trauma Summit that featured Roger Fallot, a national expert, and Wisconsin citizens speaking about the value of trauma-informed organizations and their ability to transform treatment offered to those who have experienced trauma in their lives. In 2008, Beth Caldwell, another national expert, led a training for providers on reducing the use of seclusion and restraint.

That same year, DHS hired a Trauma Services Coordinator and initiated a TIC Advisory Committee that brought representatives from key state departments together to collaborate on increasing trauma-informed care across health, out-of-home care, corrections, education, and more in order to work towards creating TIC environments in service delivery. Since then, Wisconsin has worked toward creating TIC environments in service delivery across all systems.

Currently, Wisconsin has many initiatives and collaborative efforts across multiple state agencies that work on creating TIC environments. The following table is a summary of these efforts.

The state agency acronyms are as follows:
- Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board (CANPB)
- Department of Children and Families (DCF)
- Department of Health Services (DHS)
- Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Department of Public Instruction (DPI)
- Office of Children’s Mental Health (OCMH)
- Department of Workforce Development (DWD)
- Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC)

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<tr>
<th>Collaboration Table for 2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colors represent placement on the public health pyramid</td>
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<td><strong>Clinical:</strong> Interventions that are child and family specific</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Targeted:</strong> Approaches targeted at children and families in need</td>
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<td><strong>Universal:</strong> Approaches targeted at entire population</td>
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Legend:  
- Green = Universal  
- Peach = Targeted  
- Blue = Clinical
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<th>Project/Initiative</th>
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| Brighter Futures                         | - Prevent and reduce violence  
- Prevent and reduce substance use  
- Prevent and reduce child abuse and neglect  
- Prevent and reduce adolescent pregnancies  
Counties: Barron, Dane, Kenosha, Outagamie, Portage, Washington  
Tribe: Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa  
DCF (Lead), DHS | Ongoing                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Connections Count                        | - Engage families with children aged 0-5 at risk of experiencing abuse or neglect  
- Support these families through use of trusted members community who help them connect to resources to meet the family’s needs  
DCF (Lead), Fostering Futures Advisory Council | 2016-2017                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Family Foundations Home Visiting         | - Identify families at risk of abuse or neglect  
- Offer home visits focused on improving maternal and child health, parenting skills, and the child’s school readiness  
DCF (Lead), CANPB, DHS, DPI, OCMH | 2010-2016                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Governor’s Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) | - Assess the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs  
- Seek collaboration and coordination among all child development, child care, and early childhood education programs and services  
- Develop recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children in existing federal, state, and local child care and early childhood education programs including outreach to underrepresented and special populations  
- Develop recommendations regarding statewide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood educators in the state  
DCF, DPI (Leads), DHS, DOC, OCMH | Ongoing                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Leading Together                         | - Support programs for families  
- Develop a shared vision for family-led and family-supporting organizations in Wisconsin  
DHS (Lead), DCF, DPI, OCMH | Ongoing                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| **Mobilizing Action for Resilient Communities** | - Educate workplaces on the impact of adverse childhood experiences  
  - Teach and practice mindfulness principles  
  Locations: Three workplaces to be determined  
  OCMH (Lead), WEDC |
| **Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resilience Education)** | - Enhance school safety  
  - Improve school climates  
  - Increase capacity to identify warning signs of mental health problems among children and make appropriate referrals to mental health care  
  - Increase capacity of the state and local education agencies to connect children and youth with behavioral health issues with needed services.  
  School districts: Adams-Friendship, Ashland, and Milwaukee |
| **Safe Schools Healthy Students**          | - Promote early childhood social and emotional learning and development  
  - Promote mental and behavioral health  
  - Link families, schools, and communities  
  - Create safe and violent-free schools  
  Communities: Beloit, Menominee Nation, Racine |
| **Race to the Top**                        | - Reinforce YoungStar system  
  - Strengthen family engagement  
  - Create early childhood longitudinal data system  
  DCF (Lead), DHS, DPI, OCMH |
| **School Climate Transformation**          | - Support for Positive Behavioral Intervention System (PBIS)  
  - Develop a school-based mental health training  
  - Enhance supports for social and emotional development  
  Locations: 50 school-community teams  
  DPI (Lead) |
| **School Safety Research**                 | - Support bully prevention programming in middle schools  
  - Study the impact of PBIS in middle schools  
  DPI (Lead) |

**Note:** All projects have been active within the specified years.
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<td><strong>Child Psychiatry Consultation Program</strong></td>
<td>- Provide consultation to primary care clinicians on children’s mental health needs (grant awarded to the Medical College of Wisconsin)  &lt;br&gt; - Host training programs for primary care clinicians on children’s mental health needs (grant awarded to the Medical College of Wisconsin)  &lt;br&gt; <strong>Counties:</strong> Ashland, Bayfield, Florence, Forest, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Milwaukee, Oneida, Portage, Price, Sawyer, Taylor, Vilas, and Wood  &lt;br&gt; <strong>DHS (Lead)</strong>  &lt;br&gt; <strong>ongoing</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant</strong></td>
<td>- Train therapists in child-parent psychotherapy  &lt;br&gt; - Train parents, caregivers, and case workers in effects of trauma on children  &lt;br&gt; - Introduce trauma-informed care to the community  &lt;br&gt; <strong>Counties:</strong> Kenosha, Rock, and Waupaca  &lt;br&gt; **DHS (Lead), DCF, Fostering Futures, OCMH, Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health  &lt;br&gt; <strong>2014-2016</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fostering Futures</strong></td>
<td>- Established community partnerships to reduce or reverse the impact of adverse childhood experiences  &lt;br&gt; - Implement trauma-informed care across Wisconsin with a focus on ages 0-5  &lt;br&gt; **First Lady Tonette Walker (Lead), CANPB, DCF, DHS, DOC, DPI, OCMH  &lt;br&gt; <strong>ongoing</strong></td>
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<td><strong>In School Pregnant/Parenting Interventions, Resources and Education (InSPIRE)</strong></td>
<td>- Prevent young parents from dropping out of school  &lt;br&gt; - Connect this population to higher education  &lt;br&gt; - Teach positive parenting and child development  &lt;br&gt; <strong>Sites:</strong> Adams-Friendship School District, Bayfield School District, Beloit School District, Cooperative Educational Service Agency 3, Fond du Lac School District, Green Bay Area School District, Janesville School District, Madison Metropolitan School District, Menominee Area School District, Milwaukee Public Schools, Racine Unified School District, Walworth Educational Consortium Alternative High School, West Allis-West Milwaukee School District  &lt;br&gt; **DPI (Lead), DCF, DHS, UW-Extension, Wisconsin Technical College System  &lt;br&gt; <strong>2015-2017</strong></td>
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| **Care 4 Kids**                                        | • Strengthen quality of health care for children in foster care  
• Increase access to health care for this population  
• Improve timeliness of health care for this population  
• Improve physical and mental health outcomes for children  
• Promote improved resiliency  
• Create stronger natural support systems for children in foster care  

Counts: Kenosha, Milwaukee Ozaukee, Racine, Washington, Waukesha  

Ongoing  

DHS, DCF (Leads)                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| **Children’s Behavioral Health Initiative**                                                                                   | • Develop a more in-depth analysis of youth psychotropic prescribing practices  
• Increase education and awareness of evidence-based non-pharmaceutical interventions  

Ongoing  

DHS (Lead), DCF, OCMH                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| **Collective Impact**                                                                                                               | • Increase access to effective services  
• Promote trauma-informed care in child serving agencies  
• Increase child, family, and community resiliency  

Ongoing  

OCMH (Lead), CANPB, DCF, DHS, DOC, DPI                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| **Mental Health Training—State and Local Juvenile Justice Systems**                                                        | • Host train-the-trainer in 2016 for juvenile justice workers and mental health professionals  
• Support the 20 to 40 trainers who will participate in a train-the-trainer process  

2015-2016  

DOC (Lead), DCF, DHS, OCMH                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| **“Now is the Time” Healthy Transitions Grant (Project YES!)**                                                             | • Increase awareness about early intervention signs and symptoms for serious mental health concerns and identify action strategies to use when a serious mental health concern is detected  
• Develop effective services and supports for youth, young adults, and their families as they transition to adulthood  

Counts: Outagamie and Jefferson  

2014-2019  

DHS (Lead), DCF                                                                 |
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| **Permanent connections, Academics, Training and employment, Housing, and Social and emotional well-being (PATHS)** | ● Prevent homelessness among youth in, aged out, or at-risk of entering foster case.  
● Respond to homelessness among youth in, aged out, or at-risk of entering foster case  
Sites: Dane and Rock counties and a four-county consortium (Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan)  
2013-2015 |
| **Policy Academy on Justice Involved Youth with Behavioral Health Needs**          | ● Create a school-based diversion from juvenile justice on the local level  
● Participate in action planning to change policy on the national level  
Site: Rock County, Beloit School District  
2015-2016 |
| **Promise Grant**                                                                 | ● Increase educational attainment and credentials of youth receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI)  
● Increase employment among this population  
● Increase household income among this population including family members older than 15  
● Decrease reliance on Social Security payments  
● Decrease public benefits  
2013-2018 |
| **Systems of Care Transformation**                                                | ● Expand the comprehensive, individualized system of care for children with complex behavioral health needs  
● Support wraparound models of care for children with behavioral health issues  
Ongoing |
| **Youth Emergency Detention/Crisis Response**                                     | ● Examine root causes of Wisconsin’s high rates of emergency detention and hospitalizations  
● Provide recommendations to improve crisis response and reduce hospitalizations  
2015-2016 |