



**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
STAFF MEMORANDUM**

Memo No. 12

TO: SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON STRENGTHENING WISCONSIN FAMILIES

FROM: Laura Rose, Deputy Director

RE: Exchange of Client Information Between Information Systems

DATE: September 28, 2007

Memo No. 6 provided some background on current law relating to sharing information about clients involved in different service systems. The Memo suggested exploring options to increase information sharing abilities of child welfare and W-2 agencies. This Memo provides further information on this topic.

MAJOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS

There are three major information systems used by the Departments of Workforce Development (DWD) and Health and Family Services (DHFS) to manage the child support, W-2 and other economic support programs, and child welfare services. These systems are as follows:

CARES (Client Assistance for Reemployment and Economic Support)

The CARES information system provides information for the following programs: W-2; Medicaid; the Senior Care prescription drug assistance program; Food Share (formerly, the food stamp program); child care assistance; and the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) caretaker supplement program. These programs are in both DHFS and DWD and the CARES system is jointly managed by DWD and DHFS on a cost-shared basis (12% and 88%, respectively).

KIDS (Kid Information Data System)

The KIDS information system, housed in DWD, provides information for the child support collection and enforcement programs.

e-WISACWIS (Wisconsin Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System)

The e-WISACWIS information system, housed in DHFS, provides information for the administration of the child welfare system. The e-WISACWIS is required by federal law to be a statewide system, which requires child welfare programs in the counties to have access to each other's systems.

INFORMATION SHARING AGREEMENTS BETWEEN DHFS AND DWD

Currently, the following information sharing agreements are in place between DHFS and DWD:

Data exchange and system access agreement between DFHS and DWD: This agreement is described in the DHFS Division of Children and Family Services Memo 2006-19, dated September 19, 2006 (Enclosure 1). This agreement provides the parameters for exchange of information between KIDS and e-WISACWIS. The following data in KIDS may be accessed by DHFS, Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS), and child welfare agency staff:

- Contact information for parents or putative parents that involve current or likely out-of-home placements of children including such information as name, birth date, family relationship, address, and telephone.
- Demographic information in cases that have been referred to child support, including name, birth date, Social Security number, KIDS cases and personal identifying numbers, family relationship, address, and telephone.
- Certain case information for children in out-of-home placements that have been or could be referred to child support, including such items as paternity orders, child support orders, KIDS worker identification, county identifier, and payment information.

The following information in e-WISACWIS may be accessed by DWD Bureau of Child Support and child support agency staff:

- Demographic information in cases referred to child support by DCFS or a child welfare agency including name, birth date, Social Security number, e-WISACWIS case and personal identifying numbers, family relationship, address, telephone, and information on employer and insurance carriers.
- Certain case information for children in out-of-home placement referred to child support by a child welfare agency including placement type, e-WISACWIS worker identification number, county identifier, placement start and end dates, the child's Medical Assistance status, and payment information.

It should be noted that access to e-WISACWIS information is subject to confidentiality requirements that are outlined in DFHS/DCFS Memo 2007-03, dated February 26, 2007 (Enclosure 2). The confidentiality policy of the DHFS regarding access to e-WISACWIS is attached to Memo 2007-03, and the policy outlines the numerous state and federal laws governing confidentiality of the information relating to clients who have records in e-WISACWIS.

Master Customer Index (MCI): The MCI is an interface for sharing program information between DHFS, the Division of Health Care Financing, and DWD. The MCI is a central directory for creating common identifier for individuals who are receiving services under programs administered by both departments—for example, W-2 program services, through DWD, and Medicaid and Food Share, through DHFS.

CARES/child welfare data interface: Currently, there is not an interface between the CARES data system and the child welfare data system, but both DHFS and DWD personnel indicate that this type of interface is being explored. This would enable the CARES system to provide information about children going into out-of-home care, for example.

LR:wu

Enclosures