

# Child Maltreatment Prevention in Wisconsin

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Wisconsin Children's Trust Fund

Special Legislative Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect  
Reporting

July 12, 2012





# Child Maltreatment Prevention

Growing scientific evidence on early experiences of children and childhood brain development has placed greater emphasis on the importance of preventing child abuse and neglect.

Child maltreatment prevention includes any program, service, or intervention designed specifically to prevent the initial or repeat occurrence of any form of child abuse or neglect.

Strategies include center-based parenting interventions, social support interventions, economic interventions, public awareness campaigns, home visiting, early learning programs, and working with families reported to CPS.



What it will take: Investing in Wisconsin's future by keeping kids safe today. Child Maltreatment Prevention: Where We Stand and Directions for the Future. 2010



# The Children's Trust Fund's Mission

Promote the development of a sustainable, comprehensive prevention infrastructure that reflects research and promising practices in child abuse and neglect prevention. Through strategic partnerships and investments, CTF supports Wisconsin communities in the provision of services to prevent child abuse and neglect.





## The Children's Trust Fund's 2010-2015 Strategic Goals

1. Convene and unite key partners around a shared prevention agenda.
2. Identify, develop and promote best practices in child abuse prevention.
3. Promote adult and community responsibility to protect children from abuse and neglect.
4. Advocate for public policy that reflects the Children's Trust Fund's vision and mission.
5. Ensure the Children's Trust Fund is a high quality and high performing agency.





## The Children's Trust Fund's Statutory Charge (Wisconsin Statute 48.982)

- 1. Recommend to the Governor, the legislature and state agencies changes needed in state programs, statutes, policies, budgets and rules to reduce the problems of child abuse and neglect, improve coordination among state agencies that provide prevention services, promote individual, family, and community strengths, build parenting skills and provide community support for children and families.**
- 2. Promote statewide educational and public awareness campaigns and materials for the purpose of developing public awareness of the problems of child abuse and neglect.**





## The Children's Trust Fund's Statutory Charge (Wisconsin Statute 48.982)

- 3. Encourage professional persons and groups to recognize and deal with problems of child abuse and neglect.**
- 4. Disseminate information about the problems of and methods of preventing child abuse and neglect to the public and to organizations concerned with those problems.**
- 5. Encourage the development of community child abuse and neglect prevention programs through the administration of funds and awarding grants to organizations in Wisconsin.**





# The Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board

## 10 Agency/Legislature Appointees:

The Governor, or his designee – *Becky Kikkert, Policy Advisor*

The Attorney General or his designee – *Jill Karofsky, Executive Director, Office of Crime Victims Services*

The State Superintendent or his designee – *Sheila Briggs, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Academic Excellence*

The Secretary of the Department of Children and Families or her designee – *MaryAnn Lippert, Executive Assistant*

The Secretary of the Department of Health Services or his designee – *Kevin Moore, Executive Assistant*

The Secretary of the Department of Corrections or his designee – *Melissa Roberts, Legislative Liaison*

Senator appointed by Majority Leader – *Senator Glenn Grothman*

Senator appointed by Minority Leader – *Senator Julie Lassa*

Representative appointed by Majority Leader – *Representative Joel Kleefisch*

Representative appointed by Minority Leader – *Representative Donna Seidel*





# The Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board

## **10 Private Citizen Appointees:**

Nancy Armbrust, Board Member, Schreiber Foods, Inc.

Michael Bloedorn, Retired Deputy Director, Washington County Human Services Department

Dr. Barbara Knox, Medical Director, University Wisconsin Child Protection Program & Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UW School of Medicine and Public Health (Board Chair)

Dr. Jeffrey Lamont, Pediatrician, Marshfield Clinic

Sandra McCormick, President & CEO, World Services of LaCrosse

Jennifer Noyes, Associate Director of Programs & Management

Researcher, Institute for Research on Poverty, UW-Madison & Co-Director, Center on Child Welfare Policy and Practice, UW-Madison

Jane Pirsig, Executive Director, Aurora Family Services

Dimitri Topitzes, Assistant Professor, Helen Bader School of Social Welfare, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee







## Recent Research Findings

- CTF examined data on known risk factors for child maltreatment and identified a number of counties with high needs that are currently receiving very little state prevention funding.
- CTF and partners conducted a statewide scan of prevention programs and services in Wisconsin and found:
  - Families have access to very different services depending on where they live
  - The amount spent on prevention services per child varies from \$0 to \$100
  - 40% of programs reported using evidence-based strategies – only 5% are evidence-based





# Risk Factors Identified in Research

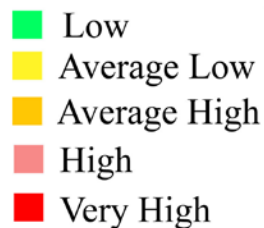
1. Family Situations:
  - a. Domestic Violence
  - b. Single Parents
2. Parent Characteristics:
  - a. Substance Abuse
  - b. Mental Health
  - c. Teen Parents
  - d. Low Educational Attainment (maternal)
3. Child Characteristics:
  - a. Low Birth Weight
  - b. Disability
  - c. Emotional/Behavioral Problems
4. Economic Circumstances:
  - a. Unemployment
  - b. Poverty



### Snapshot Overall Risk

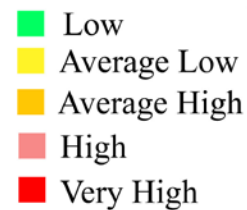
Legend:

- Low
- Average Low
- Average High
- High
- Very High



**5-year Overall Risk**

Low  
Average Low  
Average High  
High  
Very High





# Current Funding Priorities

***Family Resource Center Networks:*** provide funding for 9 FRCNs at \$150,000 each. CTF requires each funded agency to provide five core services:

- 1) community response – voluntary services for families reported to Child Protective Services but screened out or closed after investigation;
- 2) coordination of public benefits and economic supports ensuring that families can meet their basic needs and move towards self-sufficiency;





# Current Funding Priorities

- 3) evidence-based home visitation or coordination with existing evidence-based home visitation services;
- 4) Family Team Meetings – structured group discussions with informal supports that assist families in developing their action plans; and
- 5) cross-systems leadership aimed at improving coordination of services at the community level.





# Current Funding Priorities

## ***Project GAIN/Milwaukee Community Response:***

provide \$300,000 to the Social Development Commission to implement Project GAIN, a voluntary program aimed at addressing family economic needs as a means to prevent future involvement in child protective services. Project GAIN is the first randomized experimental evaluation in the country to test whether assisting families in building financial stability results in decreased subsequent contacts with CPS.





## Current Funding Priorities

***Child Sexual Abuse Prevention:*** provide \$90,000 to support Awareness to Action, a child sexual abuse prevention initiative which trains professionals, parents and other caregivers across multiple systems with a focus on adult and community responsibility. In partnership with the Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Fund, the initiative focuses on empowering youth and child serving agencies to improve internal policies, procedures and training related to keeping kids safe from sexual harm.





# Current Funding Priorities

***Safe Exchange and Supervised Visitation Centers:*** CTF supports five communities with supervised visitation and exchange grants (\$148,500) to support parental mediation, supervision of visitation where domestic violence and sexual abuse have occurred, and neutral drop-off and pick-up of children between parents with shared custody (often with a history of domestic violence).

***Positive Community Norms:*** Together with the CAP Fund, CTF is working with the Center for Health and Safety Culture at Montana State University to use a science-based process to develop an evidence-based social marketing campaign to address child maltreatment prevention in Wisconsin.

***Adverse Childhood Experiences:*** CTF provides financial support to include the ACE module in the annual Wisconsin Behavioral Risk Factor Survey.







# CTF Leadership in Emerging Areas

- Use of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) research to promote a public health approach/response to child maltreatment prevention.
- The relationship of poverty to child neglect and how economic interventions can prevent child maltreatment.
- Role of community and adults in keeping children safe. Use of social marketing techniques to better engage citizens.
- With limited resources, better targeting of services to families at high risk.
- Continual focus on accountability, evaluation and evidence.
- Fund development to support more research and evaluation to understand what programs work.





# Questions?

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