



# CAPITOL UPDATE

2021 VIRTUAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT  
MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup> & 12<sup>TH</sup>

# Items to Cover



- ▶ **Wisconsin's 2021-2023 State Budget as introduced by Governor Evers**
- ▶ **WAFCA's 2021-2022 Legislative Priorities**
- ▶ **Overview of WAFCA meetings with Legislators**
- ▶ **Bills of Interest**
- ▶ **Federal Updates**

# 2021-2023 Biennial Budget



- ▶ Large investments in areas that benefit children and families, including additional resources for:
  - ❖ Childcare
  - ❖ Caregivers
  - ❖ Housing
  - ❖ Mental health and substance use disorder services
  - ❖ An overhaul of the Youth Justice system
  - ❖ Medicaid expansion
- ▶ A focus on equity and addressing disparities
- ▶ Legalization of marijuana, Act 10 changes, minimum wage increase

- ▶ Childcare, Family, & Economic Support
  - ❖ Changes to Wisconsin Shares
  - ❖ Increases in Emergency Assistance
  - ❖ Expands Transitional Jobs
  - ❖ Creates an Internet Assistance Program
  - ❖ Increases funding for civil legal services

## ▶ Child Welfare & Youth Services

- ❖ Increases Children and Family Aids
- ❖ Funds an overhaul of child welfare worker training
- ❖ Provides funding for Family First initiatives, including prevention and in-home services
- ❖ Allocates dollars to support youth social, academic, and employment skills; expand the independent living program; and provide additional support for youth experiencing housing instability or homelessness

## ▶ Foster Care & Adoption

- ❖ Increases payments to kinship caregivers and foster parents
- ❖ Funds programs designed to enhance sibling connections
- ❖ Provides resources to assist with driver's education and licensing
- ❖ Expands adoption recruitment efforts in Milwaukee
- ❖ Dedicates funds to develop and support QRTPs

# DCF / DOC Intersect



## ▶ Youth Justice

- ❖ Provides funding to return 17-year-olds to juvenile court and increases Youth Aids
- ❖ Provides funding to support system improvements including community-based grants, residential services grants, expansion of training for youth justice staff, and hiring additional state staff to administer the programs
- ❖ Recommends sunseting long-term post dispositional placements in juvenile detention facilities in favor of community-based services or services in trauma-informed settings
- ❖ Recommends eliminating Type 1 juvenile correctional facilities and authorizing the department to operate SRCCCYs

# DOC & DOJ



- ▶ Expands access to Medication Assisted Treatment
- ▶ Provides expenditure and position authority to create and staff a behavior modification unit at Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility
- ▶ Expands the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion Program
- ▶ Allocates funds for a new program that supports expanding the capacity of behavioral crisis lines that provide an alternative to 9-1-1 for nonemergency behavioral health issues, and another program that supports community organizations that use evidence-based strategies to mediate conflicts, prevent retaliation and connect individuals to community support
- ▶ Funds the Nonviolent Offender Treatment Diversion Program (formerly a pilot)



- ▶ Adopts Medicaid expansion under the ACA
- ▶ Provides 40% funding increase for Medicaid MHSA services and child-adolescent day treatment
- ▶ Covers room and board for Medicaid residential substance use treatment
- ▶ Medicaid community health benefit (social determinants) and community health workers
- ▶ Invests in crisis services centers, facilities and training
- ▶ Expands caregiver supports and CLTS mandate
- ▶ Electronic health records grants for behavioral health

# DPI



- ▶ Increases general equalization aid and special education (\$1.3 billion)
- ▶ Returns to 2/3 funding
- ▶ Provides increases for school services staff (counselors, social workers, nurses, psychologists)
- ▶ 50% increase in the SMH Grant program
- ▶ Modifies SMH Grant to allow partnering with individual providers and telehealth

# 2021-22 Budget & Legislative Priorities



## Big Picture

- ▶ Investing in COVID recovery by supporting basic needs for families including economic supports, jobs and childcare with a focus on racial equity.
- ▶ Expanding mental health treatment access, including school-based mental health and growing our mental health workforce
- ▶ Implementing Family First Prevention Services Act to build the right supports and keep kids in families
- ▶ Reforming our youth justice system and increasing community-based services in all regions of the state

# 2021-22 Budget & Legislative Priorities



## Putting Family First

- ▶ **Prevention Services.** Invest \$12 million annually in FFPSA Prevention Services and enable providers to pivot services toward more community-based supports and to improve the continuum of care in all regions of the state.
- ▶ **Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP).** Allocate \$1.9 million to fund Milwaukee County QRTP grant and nursing assistance/training resources for providers of residential services for children and youth with complex trauma and mental health needs in Wisconsin's child welfare system.
- ▶ **Child Youth and Family Aids.** Increase support for county CYF Aids by \$15 million over the biennium.
- ▶ **Youth Justice.** Return 17-year-olds to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. Increase Youth Aids by \$20 million over the biennium.

# 2021-22 Budget & Legislative Priorities



## Moving Forward on Mental Health

- ▶ **Medicaid mental health and substance use and child/adolescent day treatment rates.** Support \$41 million increase in Medicaid mental health and substance use and day treatment rates.
  - ▶ Medicaid day treatment rate has not been raised since 2009. More than 80% of children in day treatment programs are enrolled in Medicaid.
  - ▶ WAFCA member agencies serve a disproportionate share of the Medicaid eligible population. It is difficult to compete for qualified therapists when an agency's primary purchaser is Medicaid.
- ▶ **School Mental Health Collaboration Grants.** Increase annual collaboration grant funding by \$3.5 million annually to expand school mental health services to more students across the state.

# 2021-22 Budget & Legislative Priorities



## Mental Health Workforce

- ▶ **Licensure of Mental Health Professionals.** Approve new staff positions at DSPS to address delays and inefficiencies in the process for licensing behavioral health practitioners.
- ▶ **Clinical Supervision Grants for Mental Health Treatment Trainees.** Expand the investment in clinical supervision grants to double the current grants from \$500,000 annually to \$1 million.

# Legislative Advocacy

- ▶ Focus on legislators in your home district ([Who are my legislators?](#))
- ▶ Advocacy Tips ([Helpful Hints for Advocating with State Legislators...](#))
  - Schedule meeting in district or meet online (many legislators open to this option)
  - Engage authentically and learn about your legislator's priorities/interests
  - Tell your story and make a clear request
  - Build credibility by saying "I don't know" and following up
  - Say "thank you"

**WAFCA CHALLENGE:** Find your state legislative districts and enter them in your Member Profile on the [WAFCA website!](#)

**1**

HELLO  
my name is  
**Kathy Markeland**  
Wisconsin Association of Family & Children's Agencies  
Admin

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This is one of the great features of our new website. As a WAFCA member you can manage your own information to keep it up to date on your areas of interest, edit your current contact information, change your password, subscribe to newsletters, and more. You can also manage your profile information, keeping your profile current and accurate.

Got questions or suggestions? Contact us at [info@wafca.org](mailto:info@wafca.org). We're here to help!

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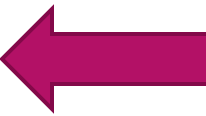
[mystifying Obsessive disorder](#)  
Category: WAFCA CE Training

[Member Discussion](#)  
Category: WAFCA Interest Groups

Upcoming Events

Thu Mar 11, 2021  
[Leadership Summit 2021 - Day 1](#)  
Category: WAFCA Conferences

Fri Mar 12, 2021  
[Leadership Summit 2021 - Day 2](#)  
Category: WAFCA Conferences



Madison Wisconsin 53704

United States

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Interest Groups

- Adoption
- Birth to Three
- Case Management
- Crisis Services
- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- Employee Assistance Programs
- Home Visiting and Parent Education
- Housing
- Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment
- Migrant and Refugee Services
- Out-of-Home Care
- Quality Improvement and Outcomes
- Runaway and Homeless Services
- Services for Older Adults
- Services for People with Disabilities
- WAFCANet E-News
- Clinical Supervisor Community of Practice

Title

Associate Director

Web Address

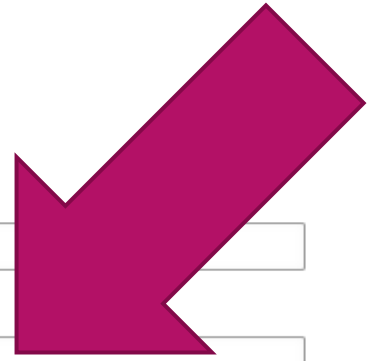
Web Address

WI Assembly Dist

48

WI Senate Dist

16





# Opportunities to Testify - JFC

- ▶ Electronically: Submit comments online at [www.legis.wisconsin.gov/topics/budgetcomments](http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/topics/budgetcomments) or by email to [budget.comments@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:budget.comments@legis.wisconsin.gov)
- ▶ Friday, April 9, 2021 10am-5pm Joint Finance Committee official hearing at UW-Whitewater, Whitewater, WI
- ▶ Wednesday, April 21, 2021 10am-5pm Joint Finance Committee official hearing at The Hodag Dome, Rhineland, WI
- ▶ Thursday, April 22, 2021 10am-5pm Joint Finance Committee official hearing at UW-Stout, Menomonie, WI
- ▶ Wednesday, April 28, 2021 10am-5pm Joint Finance Committee official virtual hearing (registration details TBA)

# Legislative Activity & Bills of Interest



- ▶ Governor Evers has signed the first six bills of the 2021-22 session, including a bill providing COVID liability protections to businesses, schools, and other entities, and another bill federalizing the state's tax code to exempt federal PPP loans
- ▶ WAFCA engaging on budget related items and various bills related to foster care and adoption, including the bill that would permit DCF to certify QRTPs
- ▶ WAFCA anticipates former adoption bills resurfacing and has consulted members in preparation for working with Rep. Dittrich's office
- ▶ WAFCA is an active member of the Raise the Age Coalition
- ▶ WAFCA will be involved in the Medicaid Telehealth Advisory Committee

# Federal Updates



## Alliance/COA American Rescue Plan Highlights (3.10.21)

- ▶ State and local relief package (allowance for supporting small businesses and nonprofits)
- ▶ Expands PPP eligibility to larger nonprofits
- ▶ Extends subsidy of unemployment benefit costs incurred by nonprofits
- ▶ Paid leave credits under FFCRA extended through Sept 2021
- ▶ SAMHSA grant increases
- ▶ Behavioral health workforce education and training
- ▶ MIECHV, CAPTA and FVPSA increases
- ▶ Incentivizes states to expand Medicaid by increasing the FMAP.
- ▶ Option to expand Medicaid eligibility to pregnant women for 12 months postpartum.
- ▶ Extends eviction moratorium to Sept 2021 and provides rental and mortgage assistance
- ▶ Raises EITC, expands child tax credit and Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit

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