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# Newsletter

ISSUE SEPTEMBER 2024

## WI Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board Updates

Providing you with the latest news and updates from the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board



Welcome to the Prevention Board newsletter. This issue is focused on some newly published information on parental stress and loneliness. We are also in the process of releasing competitive funding opportunities for SFY26-28.

## From the Field

### Why Routines are Good for Children

With the onset of a new school year, it is not uncommon to hear parents discussing how to “get back into the routine” with children. Research shows that routines, or predictable, established patterns of daily activities, such as morning, mealtime, reading, and bedtime routines, have many benefits for children and families. Routines are brain builders. They strengthen children’s ability to think, problem solve, and self-regulate. This, in turn, benefits the functioning of the family as a whole and reduces conflict with parents by

control, which builds confidence and self-reliance. Plus, routines help children understand the process of organization so that they can draw on and apply those skills themselves as they mature. As parents and kids contemplate a new beginning with the start of a new school year, it is a great time for them to also establish some new routines.

### Third Spaces = Social Connections

As follow-up to the 2023 [Surgeon General's advisory](#) on the epidemic of loneliness, the Institute for Family recently released a light paper summarizing the advisory and highlighting some next steps. [Combating the Epidemic of Loneliness in The United States: Creating More Connected Communities](#) highlights three possible next steps. The strategy most connected to our work is “creating spaces and opportunities for individuals and families to create anchors of connections”.

The Institute for Family uses the term “third spaces.” This term, originating from sociologist Ray Oldenburg, was featured in a [Today Show segment](#) on well-being. The Prevention Board is planning on creating a series of briefs on the topic of connecting third spaces to Family Resource Centers and other community organizations that could be anchors for social connections.

### Parents Under Pressure

The Surgeon General recently released an Advisory on the Mental Health & Well-Being of Parents. The 35 page report and a short video on the topic are available the [Office of the Surgeon General website](#).

The report provides explanation, data and examples of the current state of parental stress. It acknowledges the importance of attending to that stress by indicating, “The work of parenting is essential not only for the health of children but also for the health of society.” The advisory ends with a call to action, providing suggestions of what employers, individuals, communities, our systems and parents themselves can do to help reduce the damaging levels of stress.

Not surprisingly, the advisory includes significant content on parental isolation and loneliness and the impact of social media.

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33%

of parents reported high levels of stress in the past month compared to 20% of other adults.



## Call for Reviewers:

The Prevention Board is gearing up for the SFY26-28 funding cycle. The goal is to release new funding opportunities shortly for funding that will begin on July 1, 2025. As part of our competitive funding process, applications must be reviewed and scored by independent reviewers. We attempt to have small teams review the applications that include parents/caregivers and Family Support professionals.

The Prevention Board staff provide reviewers with a rating sheet, instructions, and guidance. While reviewing applications does take time, there are also a lot of benefits to reviewers, including the opportunity to be – part of the decision-making process and insight into writing future funding applications. To learn more about how you can become a reviewer, visit the Prevention Board website at <https://preventionboard.wi.gov/Pages/Funding/Reviewers.aspx>

Or, if you already know that you are interested, simply fill out the form of interest: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3CSHBHY>

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## Celebrate Children Foundation

The Celebrate Children Foundation is a nonprofit organization established to support the Prevention Board. The Foundation has an endowment generated by the Celebrate Children Foundation specialty license plate. The Foundation was one of the first specialty license plates in Wisconsin.

Purchase Your Plate and make a difference in the lives of families and children across Wisconsin. Each purchase and renewal of a Celebrate Children plate contributes funds to the Celebrate Children Foundation. To learn more visit <https://www.celebrate-children.org/license-plate-campaign>



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## Funding Opportunities:

The Prevention Board will be releasing several funding opportunities. All competitive funding opportunities are posted on our [website](#). You can also sign up to receive funding notifications.

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