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CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

Prevention Board

Newsletter

ISSUE JUNE 2025

WI Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board Updates

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



I want to start the newsletter with a reflection and thank you for Family Strengthening Month. We had the opportunity to hear from Dr. Cynthia Osborne of the Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center, who presented evidence-based policies identified by her team at Vanderbilt University as effective investments in ensuring children thrive from the very start. Learn more about the 5 Years of Progress on the Prenatal-to-3 [Roadmap](#) and see how Wisconsin measures up on our own [Wisconsin Roadmap](#).

Research: Connecting families with resources

Pediatricians and family doctors can play a key role in positively impacting children and families to prevent child maltreatment by connecting families with community supports, especially when a family is lacking the necessary resources or supportive relationships to create a safe and nurturing environment for their child(ren). In Wisconsin local Family Resource Centers are an often-overlooked asset for assisting pediatricians to address the needs of families and children in their practice.

Family Resource Centers (FRCs) are community or school-based organizations that serve as welcoming hubs, offering services and opportunities aimed at strengthening families, enhancing

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cultures, and interests of the families and communities they serve. FRC services, resources, and activities utilize a strengths-based approach toward families, incorporating the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework into all aspects of their work.

FRCs have great potential to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect due to their community-wide reach and comprehensive services. They are most often located in family-friendly spaces such as schools, libraries, or parks. Services commonly provided by FRCs include parent education, child development activities, and assistance with basic needs. In addition, FRCs seek to connect families to other local resources and services, beyond just their own, to ensure that families' varied needs can be met.

FRCs also support families by offering direct access to essential goods and services or by assisting families in identifying and navigating other available sources of support. In many cases, FRCs distribute tangible items such as infant and toddler essentials like diapers, formula, clothing, toys, or car seats.

Below is a list of available agencies and online portals that can support clinics in connecting families to resources in Wisconsin:

- [Family ResourceCenters](#)
- [211 Family andChild Search](#)
- [Well Badger Resource Center](#)
- [Help Me Grow Wisconsin](#) (currently available in 17 counties mainly in the eastern WI)
- [Wisconsin Wayfinder: Children's Resource Network](#) (supports for families of children with delays, disabilities, special health care needs, and mental health conditions)

References:

Stirling J, Gavril A, Brennan B, et al; American Academy of Pediatrics, Council on Child Abuse and Neglect. ThePediatrics Role in Preventing Child Maltreatment: Clinical Report. Pediatrics.2024; 154(2):e2024067608

Celebrate Children Foundation

The Celebrate Children Foundation received two generous, unexpected donations in May. We would like to thank OakwoodVillage Prairie Ridge Spiritual Life Committee and Dianne Murray.

We would also like to thank Shelia's Nail Studio in Madison. Shelia offered a blue pedicure special in April for Family Strengthening Month. She had 23 clients participate.

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LEARN A DANCE MOVE

Ask a neighbor to teach your child a move from when they were young.



From the Field: Family Resource Center materials

The Prevention Board partnered with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the Institute for Child and Family Well-Being to implement an innovative research study of Wisconsin families and family resource centers called the Strong and Stable Families Study. The initial project was designed with two primary aims: (1) Identify protective factors that reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect; and (2) Explore the impact of Wisconsin's FRCs. Partnering with Thriving Wisconsin and 18 FRCs located throughout the state, baseline survey data was collected between November 2021- July 2023 from 646 families with children who received support from an FRC and 1,488 families with children in the general state population. Some key takeaways from that research include the following:

- FRCs serve a diverse population statewide
- FRCs serve families across the socio-economic spectrum
- FRC families frequently engaged in parenting, parent-child interaction, and child enrichment activities. Many also received help accessing community resources and meeting basic needs
- Most participants rated their FRC experience favorably, with 85% of those connected to an FRC indicated they were either very or extremely satisfied.

These and other findings from phase one of this study can be found in an issue brief, [Strengthening Wisconsin's Family Resource Centers](#).

Last fall, the Prevention Board was awarded an [Advancing Healthier Wisconsin grant](#) to complete a second phase of the study. Data collection for phase 2 was launched in October 2024 and will

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Information on the unique role and landscape of FRC services in and in Wisconsin can be found here: [FamilyResource Centers: Critical Resource for Wisconsin Families](#).

Reference:

Mersky, J. P., et al. (2025). Advancing the Study of AdverseAdult Experiences: A Validation Study of the Adult Experiences Survey. *Journalof Family Violence*. 1-13. Advance online publication:<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10896-025-00817-0>



Resources:

Summer Family Strengthening Messaging materials

As the school year comes to a close, we start to think about summer. Summertime in Wisconsin is a time for family fun and adventure. Still, filling the unstructured days of summer can also be stressful and overwhelming for both parents and kids.

The Prevention Board's Family Strengthening resources include, family strengthening messaging on summertime and a My Summer Badge activity booklet for families.

Visit our website for the resources: <https://preventionboard.wi.gov/Pages/OurWork/April.aspx>

Summer Reading Programs

The Dept. of Public Instruction has information on summer reading programs. See their resources on [It's Not Too Early to Start Encouraging Summer Reading!](#)

Updated 988 Promotional Tools Now Available

New social media posts, static and animated ads, billboards, posters, videos, and more are now available from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). The refreshed creative

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provides community partners with engaging tools to reach a variety of audiences, raise awareness, and promote the safety and effectiveness of the 988 Wisconsin Lifeline, Wisconsin's 988Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. Link for tools: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/crisis/988.htm#toolkit>

You can also contact dhsdcts@dhs.wisconsin.gov for help in tailoring the promotional tools to your needs.

Resources from the Institute for Human Services

41% of parents say that most days they feel so stressed they cannot function, and 48% report their stress is overwhelming compared to 20% and 26% of other adults. This immense stress can impact caregiving and increase the risk of AHT. Supporting parents with resources and strategies for managing stress is crucial for preventing harm to infants.

To learn more, check out the US Surgeon General's report at: [Parents Under Pressure: The U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory on the Mental Health and Well-Being of Parents](#)

[Learn more about AHT and download new resources for parents and professionals from our updated page](#)

Budget Update:

The Joint Committee on Finance has started its action on the budget. Their [budget resources](#) are available for public viewing. The committee has not yet taken the Prevention Board budget under consideration. However, the Governor proposed \$5 million to support FRCs. The legislature could include the full amount in their budget, a lower amount, or no funding at all.



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