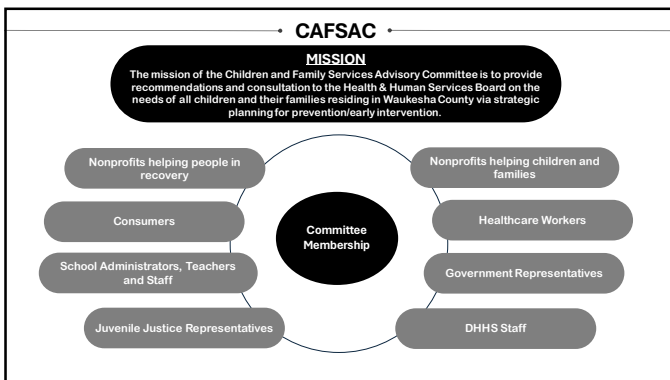


**Children and Families
Services Advisory
Committee**

Waukesha County Board Presentation
Presenters
Maura McMahon
Jessica Trauth

1



2

**Mental Health
CHIP Goal
Improved access
to Mental Health
services and
increased
knowledge of MH
resources**

- Higher number of mental illness indicators correlate with more complex child protective cases - 55% of open Ongoing CPS cases involving mental health issues in July 2022 (Waukesha DHHS staff presentation at CAFSAC mtg)
- Data from Waukesha Co YRBS spell out- 2021 high school
 - > 1 in 7 students (15%) have seriously considered suicide
 - > 2 out of 3 female students reported problems with anxiety
 - > 62% of LGBTQ+ students reported problems with depression
- According to the Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health 2022 Report, the recommended ratio of Community-based mental health professionals is 250 youth: 1 clinician. The current ratio in Wisconsin is 440:1

3

**Substance Use
CHIP Goal**

People who use or are in recovery have access to life saving interventions and stable housing

- High school students are struggling with substance use issues
 - > 23% of students currently use alcohol
 - > 25% report they have tried vaping
 - > 17% have tried marijuana (Waukesha Co YRBS- 2021 high school)
- In 2023, of the 289 caregivers screened into services, 25% presented with alcohol or other drug abuse concerns.
- Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Protocol signed in September 2023– 21 referrals (through February 24)
- Parents and caregivers living with Substance Use needs are associated with children missing school. Attendance is critical to more than academic success in school.
- Students who feel connected to their school also have better mental health. Currently 3% of youth in Waukesha County report feeling disconnected.

4

Basic Needs
Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Provide assistance to families in order to prevent housing instability / homelessness

- In the 2022-2023 school year, Waukesha School District 253, or 2.1% of students, were considered homeless by the McKinney Vento Definition. In the county there are 379 students considered homeless. Of those 7 are unsheltered and 38 are unaccompanied youth. *
- The July 2023 Homeless Count indicated there were 95 people in homeless or DV shelters and 27 unhoused individuals in Waukesha County *
 - > 7 of the unhoused adults had been involved in the Child Welfare system when they were minors.
- According to County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2023 there are 16,736 (10%) housing cost burdened families in Waukesha County. 5% of the households in the county live in poverty .

5

Benefits of Prevention and Early Intervention

Continue to fund Birth to 3

- Multi-faceted due to long terms costs – mental health, physical health, criminal justice, education, economy, housing, workforce
- Services/supports for caregivers – children learn from their family – increase protective capacities and skills
- According to a Casey Foundation Study families with randomized home visits had a 44% reduction in maltreatment investigations and calls for support
- 2022 California study (Economics and Child Abuse) – return on investment
 - > For every \$1 spent on early intervention /prevention = \$2.92 to \$16.84 savings

6

Flexible Funding

Creating opportunities and provide financial support for agencies to expand, continue, or implement programming that meets the qualification standards for FFPSA.

FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT (FFPSA)

- Allows States to use Title IV-E fund for prevention services
- Goal is to keep children safely at home and out of foster care
- Maximum of 12 months of services
- Services can include in-home parent, skill-based programs, such as parenting skills training, parent education and individual and family counseling –
- Program must be evidence-based curriculum and have components of trauma informed care

7

Summary

For us to have a healthy community, our children have to be healthy and thriving, and their caregivers and adults in the community need be healthy, well, and whole!

Be an Advocate for Healthy Children and Families in Waukesha County

☆ Support for:

- ✓ Mental Health and Substance Misuse services for youth and families
- ✓ Early Intervention Programs
- ✓ Community based resources
- ✓ The expansion of Medicaid to continue to support CLTS and CCS.
- ✓ Flexible funding to preserve and stabilize families including assistance to prevent homelessness
- ✓ Agencies to create and sustain programming that meets FFPSA standards

Prevention and Early Intervention are needed at all levels.

8