

**Children and Families  
Services Advisory  
Committee**

DHHS Board Presentation, April 27, 2023

Presenters  
Jessica Trauth, The Women's Center, CAFSAC Co-Chair  
Adele Revoy, Elevate Inc., CAFSAC Chair

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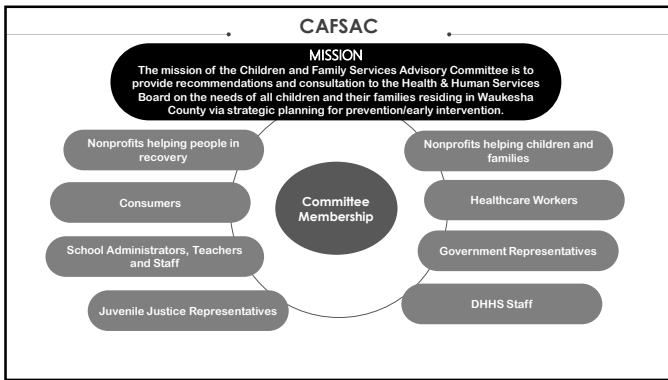
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**Work Force Challenges**

CAFSAC members working on these solutions:

- Job Fair for just non-profits
- Collective training model partnership among agencies

- A ripple effect from lack of providers in one area can affect other areas within the community
- Shortage of qualified people and significant problems during the interview process
- Lack of staff capacity to help support graduate student interns and there is not financial compensation for the students
- Problems with retaining staff - taking positions outside of human service fields
- Need to recruit outside of Waukesha County because of expensive living or lack of housing in Waukesha County
- Not enough transportation options for workers to get to work

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**Mental Health Issues**

High School Students and Families  
 \* CHIPP priority \*  
 Importance of Prevention and Early Intervention

- Agencies have waitlists for services (child, adult, family) – can't hire providers as indicated on previous slide (ripple effect)
- Very little culturally specific, LGBTQ+, trauma specific, male providers – any marginalized groups having difficulty finding providers that meet their needs
- 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- 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
- Mental Health Providers 1:390 for Waukesha County (County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2022)
- Affects the homeless population who struggle in shelters or become transient

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**Substance Abuse Issues**

High School Students and Families  
 \* CHIPP priority \*  
 Importance of Prevention and Early Intervention

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)

Caregivers are also struggling with substance abuse issues

- Higher number of substance abuse indicators correlate with more complex child protective cases
  - 63% of open Ongoing CPS cases reporting substances abuse issues in July 2022 (Waukesha DHHS staff presentation at CAFSAC mtg)
- Can be a factor when students are truant – caregivers unable to get them to school

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**Benefits of Prevention and Early Intervention**

Continue to fund Birth to 3 programs

- 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
- 2022 California study (Economics and Child Abuse) - return on investment
  - For every \$1 spent on early intervention /prevention = \$2.92 to \$16.84 savings

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**Out-of-Home Care Shortages**

**Create a Professional Foster Parent (PFP) demonstration project**

**Create pilot intensive residential care (IRC) facilities**

[Both endorsed by WI County Human Service Association]

- Children with complex behaviors require higher levels of care with caregivers who have the skills to manage the child's behavior
- Shortage of foster placements that provide intensive residential care services for children with problem behaviors resulting in children being placed out-of-state
- Foster parents get paid when they have a child in care, not for the time they put into becoming trained and maintain the professional skills needed to care for children with complex behaviors
- Lack of available respite care for foster parents

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**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

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**Affordable Housing / Homelessness**

Work with apartment developers to build homes that can be used as subsidized housing.

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

- Waitlist for housing vouchers / subsidized housing
  - Landlords not willing to take vouchers
- Many families are at risk of losing housing – causes great instability in families
- % of students are homeless – directly impacts their ability to succeed in school
- On the night of January 26, 2022 there were 151 homeless individuals in Waukesha County
  - 90 single persons
  - 61 people in 17 families
  - 4 youth who were also parents
- In the 2018/2019 school year Waukesha County had 395 students who met the federal definition of homeless. In comparison, Ozaukee had 42 and Washington had 158. In the 2019/2020 there were 350 students.
- Affordable Housing Single income earners who are below fed poverty level (but were at the top dollar amount) fair market rent for a 2 bedroom is over 96% of income earned (or more than the income earned). Additionally, it would be over 56% of income for a single parent of 2 children.

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**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 funding for:**

- ✓ Mental Health and Substance Misuse services for youth and families
- ✓ Support for early intervention programs such as Birth to 3
- ✓ Advocate for additional placement resources for youth
- ✓ 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.

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