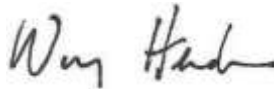


To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator
DCF Area Administrators
Child Placing Agency Directors
Child Welfare Agency Directors
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors
Group Home Providers
Tribal Social Service/Indian Child Welfare Directors
Private Child Placing Agencies
Residential Care Center Providers
Shelter Care Providers
Tribal Chairpersons

From: Wendy Henderson
Administrator



Re: **April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month**

PURPOSE

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and with its upcoming arrival, we invite you to partner with us to create a plan for action. Each year the Department of Children and Families collaborates with the Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Board and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin/Prevent Child Abuse Wisconsin to create a Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month Toolkit. The toolkit is designed to promote and strengthen child abuse and neglect recognition and prevention efforts throughout the state. We hope that providing this well in advance will help you prepare for and launch April prevention month activities aimed at raising awareness of child maltreatment and its prevention in your community. It is likely that communities will still be feeling the impact of COVID-19 in April, to that end, we have identified activities that can be done virtually to raise awareness.

BACKGROUND

April was first declared "Child Abuse Prevention Month" by presidential proclamation in 1985. Across the nation, organizations and citizens dedicated to supporting children and families used this time to stress the importance of working together to prevent child abuse. Wisconsin's 2020 Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month Toolkit is designed to help raise awareness of the signs of maltreatment and to offer guidance in creating a plan for action. Making a difference for a child may be as simple as offering words of support or lending a hand at a critical time.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

The 2021 Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month Toolkit stresses the importance of using a positive and proactive approach to educate and enlist the aid of others in confronting this challenging social problem. It offers ideas for simple activities that can be held virtually and

tailored to fit local communities' needs, and implemented not only during the month of April, but throughout the year.

The 2021 Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month Toolkit is available online at:

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/prevention/pdf/preventabusemonth.pdf>.

Child abuse and neglect prevention is a community responsibility. Please join with us in creating a 2021 plan for action!

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Policy Initiatives Advisor
Division of Safety and Permanence
(608) 422-6896

MEMO WEB SITE: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>

LINKS: 2021 Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month Toolkit
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/prevention/pdf/preventabusemonth.pdf>

COVID-19 Supplement for the 2021 Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month Toolkit
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/prevention/pdf/preventabusemonth-supp.pdf>