Division of Safety and Permanence   DSP Informational Memo Series 2023-01i
January 18, 2023

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: Putting Families First Data Dashboard

PURPOSE
This memo announces the release of the Putting Families First Data Dashboard.

BACKGROUND
The Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) created the Putting Families First Data Dashboard in response to county and tribal feedback requesting a publicly accessible, transparent, and aesthetically pleasing source of county specific digestible data. Its intended purpose is to share with local stakeholders, to identify trends, and to inform decisions. This dashboard highlights data relevant to Putting Families First, particularly data regarding keeping children in-home or placed in family settings. This dashboard transparently represents the racial/ethnic disproportionality of Wisconsin's child welfare system.

Research has clearly shown that certain racial and ethnic groups are over-represented in the child welfare system. This is true in Wisconsin, as well as across the nation. There are various contributing factors to racial disparities in the child welfare system. Some of these factors may be internal to the system (i.e. resource availability), or may be related to factors outside of the child welfare system (poverty). Further information on this important topic can be found here: https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/racial_disproportionality.pdf

Because there is not one cause of over-representation in the child welfare system, it is vital to have conversations locally about ways to support equity for families at multiple stages of child welfare involvement. This data can play a key role in supporting these conversations.

INFORMATION SUMMARY
The Putting Families First Data Dashboard provides detailed information on screen-in/screen-out numbers, removals/discharges, open placements, and racial disparity. The dashboard is anticipated to be used by the state and local child welfare agencies to analyze county performance, identify potential service needs/gaps, assist data-informed decision-making, and support a less intrusive system involvement approach. It can be publicly accessed through the Child Welfare Reports and Dashboards site and the data can be viewed by specific county or statewide. Hover-over text, information buttons on each tab, and the option to download PDFs promote transparency and accessibility.

To encourage locally relevant information, all dashboards are filterable by county.

All counts are of children that experienced each intervention.

Screening & Placements Tab
This tab provides calendar year trend line screen-in/screen-out data on all Child Protective Services (CPS) reports on one chart and trend line child removals, discharges, and out-of-home care population numbers on another.

Example usage in practice: allows agencies to compare the connection between their screen-in and removal rates to analyze variations.

Current Open Placements Tab
This tab provides the percentage of children by placement setting type in currently open placements. It includes a breakdown of whether the placement was with a relative.

Example usage in practice: allows agencies to compare the placement stability of family vs non-family settings to promote and set goals for family setting placements.

Racial Disparity Overview Tab
This tab provides the current racial and ethnic make-up in Wisconsin according to the US census. It is further broken down by the following levels of system involvement for the most recently completed calendar year:

- CPS Report Occurred
- Initial Assessment Conducted
- A Substantiated Finding
- Unique Child Removals into Out-of-Home Care
- Unique Child Placements in a Residential Care Center, Group Home, or Shelter Facility
- A Youth Justice Referral and Intake Process was Initiated
- A Youth Justice Delinquency Petition was Filed

Example usage in practice: this information can be used locally in child welfare agencies and by external partners to support conversations about the ways all community members can support families, prevent further child welfare system involvement, and reduce system disparities.

Disclaimer: Data for less populated counties may see small differences amplified in these figures due to the small sample size. In an effort to provide transparency regarding racial disparity data, DCF is releasing this information despite the small sample size. In counties with

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a small sample size, it is particularly important to have conversations locally about what the racial disparity data may have to say about local practice.

A child's Native American status is determined based on race, ethnicity, or status related to the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) status. This includes children who are tribal members, eligible for membership, and whose membership is pending. The percentage of Native American children includes all Native American children, including those under tribal court jurisdiction who have their care paid for by the county through a 161 agreement. Please note that these data sets include children who may be under a tribal court jurisdiction. For children eligible for tribal membership, placements into OHC can be made through tribal courts.

To protect the identity of children and families, all data is presented in aggregate as percentages. For more information about how DCF calculates disparities, please contact DCFCWRA@wisconsin.gov.

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Bureau of Compliance, Research, & Analytics
Child Welfare Research and Analytics Section
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MEMO WEB SITE: https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy

Attachment Links: Putting Families First Dashboard:
https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/family-first/data-dashboard
Putting Families First Dashboard Guide:
https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/familyfirst/dashboard-guide.pdf

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