Division of Safety and Permanence   DSP Informational Memo Series 2023-22i

October 30, 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
                Private Child Placing Agencies
                Residential Care Center Providers
                Shelter Care Providers
                Tribal Chairpersons

From: Wendy Henderson
                Administrator

Re: **Safety Planning Guide for Natural Supports**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to notify child welfare agencies of the Safety Planning Guide for Natural Supports which is now available on the Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System (WCWPDS) website. The memo also provides a description of how this resource was created, who the intended audience is, and how Natural Supports and Child Protection Service (CPS) professionals can use this newly available resource.

BACKGROUND

In an effort to continue enhancing our state's priority of keeping more children home with their family, WCWPDS and Department of Children and Families (DCF) partnered together to create a training for formal safety services providers. A total of 16 training sessions for formal providers were offered and was well attended between 2021 and 2022. During 2022, it was determined similar information should be created and made available to support a family's natural supports, e.g., friends, relatives or other informal community supports, who are engaged by CPS professionals and caregivers, and who are involved to provide services identified on protective plans and/or safety plans. For the purpose of this training material, these individuals are considered "Natural Providers" regardless of their professional training or educational experience.

The content of this resource was informed by multiple stakeholders around the state. Input about the training content came from local child welfare agency supervisors and direct practice

Putting Families First

CPS professionals, the Inter-tribal Child Welfare Directors Committee, and multiple individuals with lived experience, including relative caregivers.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

This resource was created with the understanding that Natural Supports have limited free time and questions that need to be answered in real time or as soon as possible. Natural Supports are able to experience the resource in its entirety with content covered in four distinct chapters, but are not required to do so, and can instead easily access specific content areas when and as often as needed.

The user experience for this resource was optimized to be viewed on a phone or tablet but can also be viewed on a desktop computer. Natural Supports will be able to access this resource by navigating to the WCWPDS website or by scanning a QR code, which can be printed as "QR code cards" by agency staff for use in the field, that will take an interested person directly to the appropriate webpage. The QR code cards are available to view or print from DCF website. The QR code cards can also be printed on demand through Document Sales. Printable versions of this resource will be made available for those who prefer hard copies and/or do not have access to the necessary technology.

To support agencies, DCF has created a one-page info graphic that is intended to help direct practice CPS professionals present the resource to families. The info graphic contains an overview of the content, background of the training, and talking points to use with families.

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

Attachments:

DCF Training Website: https://wcwpds.wisc.edu/safety-planning-guide-for-natural-supports/
Full Training Page: https://media.wcwpds.wisc.edu/Natural-Supports/Modules/natural-supports/story.html

Printable Materials: https://media.wcwpds.wisc.edu/Natural-Supports/docs/Safety-Guide-for-Natural-Supports-with-Appendices.pdf

DCF Webpage: https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/safteyplanningguide

Informational Graphic: https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/publications/pdf/5659.pdf

Printable QR Codes: https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/safety/pdf/ns-printable-qr-cards.pdf

Document Sales: https://docsales.wi.gov/Home.aspx?content=HowToOrder