

Lived Experience Overview

Presented by

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Lived Experience Journey

Lived experience expertise supports advocacy, education, and training to an array of internal and external stakeholders. Their voice provide a new lens into child welfare and youth justice. Their input is included and infused to help improve programs, policies, support workforce as well as contribute to legislation that serve children, youth and families.

Lived Experience voice is essential to **Putting Families First**.



Why engage those with Lived Experience?

- An essential action in transforming our child welfare system.
- [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families Information Memorandum. 8/01/2019](#)
 - Critical to listen and integrate family and youth voice to strengthen efforts
 - Engaging lived experience must occur at multiple levels
 - Acting on the information provided can reshape the child welfare system to truly strengthen families in communities



Why engage those with Lived Experience?

- “Engage, empower and utilize family and youth voice in all aspects of child welfare to drive case planning and system improvement.”
- Capacity Building Center for States – [Diversifying the Child Welfare Workforce with Lived Expertise](#)
 - Creates a culture of inclusion
 - Better outcomes at individual, program/initiative, and agency levels
 - Reduces disparities in child welfare systems





Youth Advisory Council (YAC)

- Youth ages 16-26 with lived experience in the Child Protective Services system
- 7 regional YACs and 1 statewide YAC
- Regional YACs meet monthly
- Statewide YAC meets 5 times per year: February, May, July (fun meeting), September, and November
- Regional YAC advisor contact information:
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/youthservices/pdf/yac-advisors.pdf>





Youth Leadership Team (YLT)

- Youth ages 14-21 with lived experience in the Youth Justice system
- Currently, one YLT group across the state
- Meets 4 times per academic year:
 - October, January, March and May



Relative Caregiver Stakeholder Group

- Relative caregivers of a minor child(ren)
 - Those involved in the child welfare system
 - Those who are caring for their relatives informally
- Meets quarterly & as needed
- Accomplishments:
 - Creation of a state-wide relative caregiver navigator website: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/kinship/navigator>
 - Families Like Mine annual conference
 - KIN-Facts resource guide
 - Assist with shifting the child welfare system's language with the goal of **Putting Families First**



Parent Leaders Stakeholder Group

- Parents who were actively engaged in Wisconsin's Child Protective Services
 - Mothers and Fathers across Wisconsin
 - Case Diversity – Adoption, TPR, Out of Home Care, Youth Justice
- Meets Monthly
 - <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/family-first/lived-experience>
- Accomplishments:
 - Consist input to include Lived Experience voice on internal bill analysis form
 - Responsible for recommendation of the Parent Information Project
 - Ongoing involvement on DCF initiatives such as Safety Revisions and Initial Assessment Process



Lived Experience in ACTION
Parent Supporting Parents



Parents Supporting Parents

Evidence based model

Empowers parents with lived child welfare experience as mentors to parents currently within the child welfare system



Parents Supporting Parents

Innovation Zones

Rock County, Jefferson County,
Wellpoint, Eau Claire

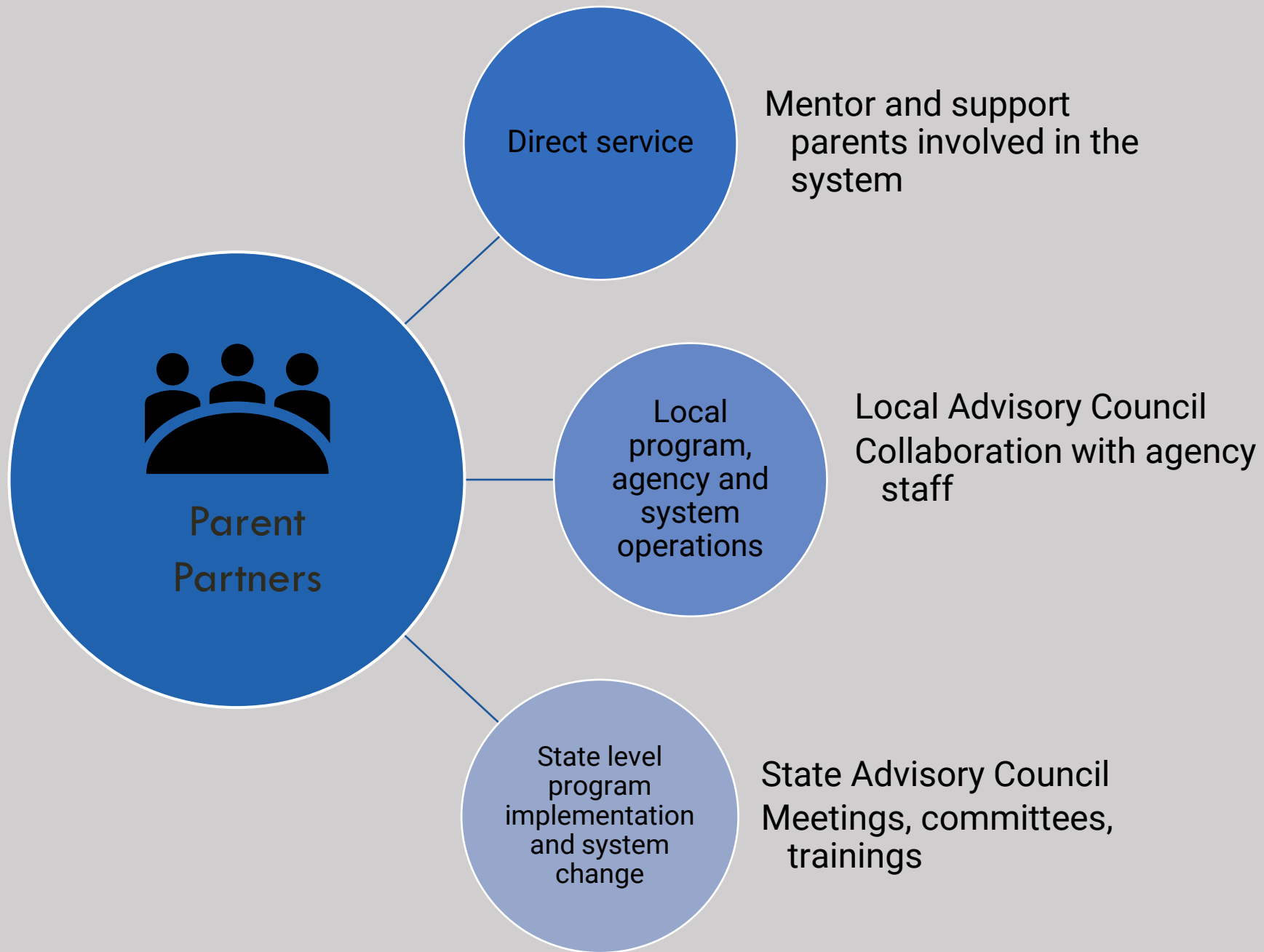
Evaluation

University of Nebraska – Lincoln

New Application Coming Spring 2023

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/parents-supporting-parents>





Readiness of engaging Lived Experience (LE) Partners

- Discussions with staff around LE
- Willing to take recommendations from those with LE
- Level the playing field – sharing power
- Be clear about purposeful and action engagement
- Consistent Communication
- Supportive feedback that supports including recommendations into practices



DCF Building on Lived Experience



Support all Lived Experience Stakeholder Groups – Capacity Building, Resources, Connections



Formalize stability and training opportunities – Lived Experience Academy



Clear feedback loop & ongoing LE metrics working within DCF both internal and external



Coordinate with county Lived Experience efforts



Identify ways to ensure Lived Experience input is sustainable



Move from information gathering to co-design sharing power



