

John Angeli

This committee is charged with Strengthening Wisconsin Families via the lens of child welfare and W-2 coordination.

The W-2 program has a lineage going back to 1956 to focus on Social Services and families being required to seek employment under the Social Security Act. TANF is the successor to tradition.

This philosophy was formalized by the 1971 Amendments to the Social Security Act that emphasized a partnership between Social Services (Separate Administration Unit/SAU) and the Employment Actor as equal partners.

This emphasis on Social Service was dropped with the 1996 welfare reform.

The reduction of the welfare caseload 1996-2002 impacted families that had fewer Social Services needs. Their resiliency permitted them to enter the workforce without extensive Social Service supports. Many of those who remain on the caseloads in 2007 need additional Social and family supports to strengthen their families, reduce family stress and lay the foundation for more successful families.

This committee can make recommendations for state legislation that will result in improved outcome for W-2 families and those in need of additional Social Services including those who are involved in the child welfare system.

This will require a shift in TANF dollars if these recommendations are to be budget neutral. There is a 30 year history of experience and research to support a shifting of TANF dollars to:

1. Support Social Worker's positions to coordinate and deliver services to those families.
2. Establish standards for coordination and collaboration based on twenty years of experience of the SAU concept in the WIN/JOBS programs.
3. Develop an expanded delivery system based on the Denver Inventory Model of incrementally moving these families towards economic self-sufficiency through the delivery of relevant Social Services.
4. Establishing an evaluation program to measure and then modify this approach as a model delivery system as the final step in welfare reform.

A key part of this effort will include working with families involved with the child welfare system, measure the effectiveness of the delivered Social Services and measure and modify the successful approaches.

TANF has paid for therapists to work with participants and a comprehensive program to intervene in multi-family intergeneration sexual abuse cycles. This approach will simply build on some of those successes.

GRANT DSS

Jon Angeli

PREAMBLE

"All parents cherish their children's future."—John F. Kennedy June 1963

Wisconsin believes in the strengths and capabilities of healthy families. The legislative goal is to develop and provide a State system that will engage, empower and support frail families. Wisconsin will take the lead in addressing the cause of frail families and discontinue throwing money at the symptoms. We will tackle the tough issues and give our children the opportunity to gain the skills necessary to meet their full potential and their right to pursue happiness.

To achieve these goals, the State legislature will amend present law to accomplish the following:

- Establish a three person council to develop the philosophy and lead the implementation of the Strengthening Families program.
- In developing the Strengthening Families program, the Council will consult and incorporate good practices from successful leaders in the following areas:
Fatherhood initiatives, work programs, poverty culture experiences and community volunteer coordination.
- Establish a State required training curriculum, for all staff in the Strengthening families program. The training will embrace the Family Systems philosophy and incorporate the principles of attachment and brain development concerning children and the anguishing effects these issues have on their parents.
- Establish two State funded pilot projects through a selection process to implement the Strengthening Families program.
- Funding will be appropriated by requiring a __ % cut from all State contracts that provide Children and Family services. The funding will be used for a dual purpose; 1) to implement the two pilot Strengthening Families projects and 2) as incentive funds to promote statewide use of the elements found in the Strengthening Family program. To obtain the incentive money, these organizations must show how they have incorporated the Strengthening Families philosophy in their organizations or staff has obtained the programs required training or implemented a system whereby they have incorporated an effective integration of W-2 and CPS staff to deal with families together.

GRANT D.S.S

Jon Angeli

Cause vs. Symptoms

In reading the latest literature on the subject of the solutions for assisting parents/ families in becoming stronger/ healthier there is two common themes. First of all it is difficult to find germane solutions and secondly they are attempting to deal with the problem's symptoms not the cause or issues that created the problem or crisis situation.

Case in Point: Child abuse/neglect is only a symptom of the parent's frustration at there inability, not unwillingness, to provide for the basic physical and emotional developmental needs of their children.

Family systems philosophy defines the root cause of any problem as "**the function of the symptom**". Getting at the root cause or the **function of the symptom** is the foundation for creating the solution.

Below is a brief outline of the tools and delivery system that can be used to find that **function of the symptom**.

Core tools

- A. Knowledge/training to use family system practice
- B. Target families at risk
- C. Family engagement/empowerment
- D. Finding and using family **strengths/assets** instead of **deficit/disease** models
- E. Using attachment and brain development techniques
- F. Create fatherhood initiatives to bring fathers back as co-parents
- G. Incorporate workforce attachment for self-reliance
- H. Develop common family/community values/agendas
- I. Instill community leadership

Delivery system

- 1. Universal screening for referrals
- 2. Home visitation to understand and engage families where they live
- 2. Target at risk families
- 3. Expand services to children through age 12
- 4. Develop a core of specialists that understand the real meaning of help. Such as: Family Liaisons, Family Development Specialists, Family Liaison Coordinators, Community Liaisons and County Development Liaisons.
- 5. Build community support through families, family/community support of families, and family of communities. To allow the community to provide on-going support.

GRANT
D.S.S.