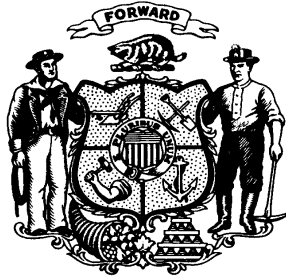


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November 5, 2007

DRAFT

Mr. Kevin Hayden, Secretary
Department of Health and Family Services
Post Office Box 7850
Madison, WI 53707-7850

Dear Secretary Hayden:

On behalf of the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families, I respectfully request that the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) provide comprehensive family systems theory within the department's child welfare training curricula. The Special Committee approved this request at its final meeting which was held on Monday, November 5, 2007.

As described by Jon Angeli, a public member of the committee, family systems theory establishes a common language, facilitates and engages struggling families, and utilizes tools such as empowerment, community connections, and economic participation. It promotes and enhances integration of all children and family service providers to coordinate and mobilize their resources to strengthen our Wisconsin families.

The Special Committee believes family systems theory would be an effective means to promote a unified approach to families across state agencies. In addition to a recent meeting with selected staff members of DHFS and the Legislative Council, Mr. Angeli recently met with Department of Workforce Development staff to discuss the inclusion of family systems theory as part of its staff training curricula.

Since the Special Committee has concluded its deliberations, arrangements may be made directly with Mr. Angeli for additional information on the manner in which family systems theory could be emphasized in the child welfare training curricula. Mr. Angeli recently retired as director of the Grant County Department of Social Services. His contact information is as follows:

Mr. Jon Angeli
253 So. Harrison Street
Lancaster, WI 53813
608-723-6686
jrangeli@tds.net

Thank you for your cooperation with this request.

Sincerely,

Representative Steve Kestell,
Chair, Special Committee on
Strengthening Wisconsin Families

SK:ty

cc: Reginald Bicha, Administrator, Division of Children and Families, DHFS
Dianne Jenkins, Office of the Secretary, DHFS