



Kids Matter Inc.
Rebuilding Childhoods. Fostering Futures.

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Assumptions Based on Experience

1. This is not your parent's child welfare system.
2. Nearly all youth in foster and kinship care have experienced a trauma.
3. The needs of medically fragile infants and the needs of teens are not the same.
4. We need to partner with the community.
5. High rates of turnover and lack of placements for youth are a very great challenge in Milwaukee, so our recommendations address these chronic issues.

Recommendations from Kids Matter Inc.

1. Recommendation One. Develop a Bill of Rights for Wisconsin Youth and Families – starting with children and families in the child welfare system.
2. Recommendation Two. Code of Ethics for case management staff.
3. Recommendation Three. Encourage and support the development of core competencies among case management staff rather than creating a career ladder funded by taxpayers.
4. Recommendation Four. Develop contracting standards that allow dollars to track kids and families as they are today, with today's needs, rather than contract for services that are fixed, and often to an economy and family structure that no longer exists.
5. Recommendation Five. Develop peer-support among caregiving families.