



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
STRENGTHENING
WISCONSIN FAMILIES

[2009 SENATE BILL 210 AND 2009 ASSEMBLY BILL 296;
2009 SENATE BILL 211 AND 2009 ASSEMBLY BILL 297; AND
2009 SENATE BILL 212 AND 2009 ASSEMBLY BILL 298]

July 27, 2009

RL 2009-05

Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families

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PART I

KEY PROVISIONS OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families recommends the following bills to the Joint Legislative Council for introduction in the 2009-10 Session of the Legislature.

[Note: These bills have been introduced in both houses as companion legislation. For clarity, this report refers to them in the singular form as “the bill.”]

2009 Senate Bill 210 and 2009 Assembly Bill 296, Relating to Children and Their Families Who Are Involved in Two or More Systems of Care and Making an Appropriation

The bill, relating to children and their families who are involved in two or more systems of care, and making an appropriation, does the following:

- Expands the coverage of the integrated services program (ISP) under current law to include children who are involved with multiple systems of care, as well as their families, and changes the name of the program to the coordinated services team (CST) initiative to reflect the expansion of the program’s focus, and changes the terms “integrated services,” “integrated service plan,” and “interdisciplinary team” to “coordinated services,” “coordinated services plan of care,” and “coordinated services team,” respectively.
- Includes tribes as entities that may administer a CST initiative.
- Amends the definition of CST to emphasize the process by which the child’s family, service providers, and informal resource persons work together to respond to the needs of the child and family, rather than by describing the characteristics of the individuals on the team.
- Expands the required and optional representatives that serve on the coordinating committee in a county or tribe.
- Expands the duties of the coordinating committee.
- Creates the role of initiative coordinator, and defines the initiative coordinator’s duties.
- Increases the annual appropriation to the Department of Health Services (DHS) to provide grants to counties for CST initiatives by \$1,466,000 in general purpose revenue.

2009 Senate Bill 211 and 2009 Assembly Bill 297, Relating to Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Grants

The bill, relating to child abuse and neglect prevention grants, makes the following changes to the Family Foundations program:

- Provides that a private agency may participate in the program.
- Deletes the provision requiring funding to be distributed to six rural counties, three urban counties, and two Indian tribes.

- Permits Milwaukee County to apply for grant funds to provide home visitation and case management services.
- Requires counties, private agencies, and Indian tribes that receive a grant to agree to match at least 25% of the grant amount annually in funds or in-kind contributions.
- Deletes the current formula for determining the amount of a grant in excess of the minimum \$10,000 grant amount and instead requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to determine the amount of a grant in excess of \$10,000 based upon the number of Medical Assistance (MA)-funded births in the county, the area in which the private agency is providing services, or the reservation of the tribe.

2009 Senate Bill 212 and 2009 Assembly Bill 298, Relating to Requiring Notice to Relatives When a Child is Taken Into Custody and Disclosure of Information to Relatives for the Purpose of Facilitating a Relationship or Placement

The bill, relating to requiring notice to relatives when a child is taken into custody and disclosure of information to relatives for the purpose of facilitating a relationship or placement, requires that a juvenile court order the county department or, in Milwaukee County, DCF to conduct a diligent search in order to identify and provide notice to all adult relatives of the child within 30 days after the temporary custody hearing. The bill also requires that notice be provided to any adult who is related to the child but is not an “adult relative,” as defined in the bill, and to any family friend, if that adult or friend is recommended as a placement option by the parent.

In addition, the bill requires that a child’s permanency plan include a statement of what efforts were made to comply with the notification requirements. Lastly, the bill creates an exception to the confidentiality of agency and child abuse and neglect records so that the county department or DCF may disclose information to a relative of a child who is placed outside his or her home only to the extent necessary to facilitate the establishment of a relationship between the child and the relative or placement of the child with the relative.

PART II

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Assignment

The Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families is a statutory committee created by 2005 Wisconsin Act 467. The committee will be in existence until its sunset date of December 31, 2010. During its existence, the committee is charged with studying the following:

- Ways to increase awareness of the importance of families in society and resolving social issues.
- The establishment of a state council to improve coordination among state agencies of programs that affect families; to set priorities for state agencies based on community and family needs; to consolidate funding for programs and services that affect families; and to encourage local communities to form local collaborative entities to coordinate, decrease duplication of, and streamline the delivery of services provided by public and private entities to families, children, and youth.
- Ways to target public moneys for family services and not individuals.
- Existing laws relating to strengthening families.
- Ways in which the results from the scientific study of attachment and brain development can be incorporated into public schools, day care centers, and homes.
- Child support and custody issues involving fathers, for the purpose of ensuring that fathers are appropriately engaged in the lives of their children.
- Changes to state agency rules, policies, guidelines, and procedures to strengthen families, reduce reliance on social service professionals for family support, and maximize community support for families.
- Identification of qualities held by successful Wisconsin families and recommendation of legislation to support those qualities.
- Changes to the state tax code to strengthen families and provide incentives to engage in family-supporting activities and services.
- Proposed legislation to create a reconciliation council that would seek to bridge cultural and religious differences among different cultural and religious groups.
- Identification of support of private sector initiatives to strengthen families.
- Ways in which local government services can be performed by volunteer groups of individuals and ways in which saved moneys currently spent for these services by local governments can be allocated to the volunteer groups.
- Health care.

The Joint Legislative Council established the Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families for 2008-10 and appointed the Co-Chairpersons by an April 9, 2008 mail ballot. For 2008-10, the committee was directed to develop recommendations to advise the new DCF on the administration of programs administered by the new department, to promote the integration of family services formerly administered by multiple departments.

Membership of the 2008-10 Special Committee, appointed by June 9, 2008 and January 8, 2009 mail ballots, consisted of two Senators, two Representatives, and 10 public members. A list of committee members is included as *Appendix 3* to this report.

Summary of Meetings

As of the March 26, 2009 meeting of the Joint Legislative Council, the Special Committee had held eight meetings in Madison on the following dates:

August 12, 2008	November 14, 2008
August 25, 2008	December 4, 2008
September 26, 2008	January 26, 2009
October 16, 2008	March 3, 2009

The committee has continued to meet and work on additional recommendations subsequent to the Joint Legislative Council meeting and any additional recommendations will be described in a separate report.

At the August 12, 2008 meeting, the committee discussed its scope of study, and committee members exchanged ideas about what the committee should focus on. Committee members also discussed a timeline for the committee.

At the August 25, 2008 meeting, the committee heard testimony from the following representatives of DCF:

- Secretary Reggie Bicha
- Lisa Patrick, Administrator, Division of Prevention and Service Integration
- Dan Harris, Administrator, Division of Early Care and Education
- Ron Hunt, Administrator, Division of Enterprise Solutions
- Julie Kerksick, Administrator, Division of Family and Economic Security
- Cyrus Behroozi, Administrator, Division of Safety and Permanence

At the September 26, 2008 meeting, the committee heard testimony about local coordination and collaboration from Gerald Huber, Human Services Director, La Crosse County; and Dan Naylor, Coordinated Services Team Specialist, White Pine Consulting Service, Inc.

At the October 16, 2008 meeting, the committee heard testimony from Jane Penner-Hoppe, DCF; Dick Schlimm, Executive Director, Wisconsin Community Action Program; Dr. Howard Garber, President, Milwaukee Center for Independence; and Mike D'Amato, Wisconsin Director, and Cheye Calvo, Director of Expansion, The SEED School Initiative. The committee discussed WLC: 0125/1, relating to children with severe disabilities or who are involved in multiple systems of care, or both, and their families.

At the November 14, 2008 meeting, the committee heard about home visitation from Jack Tweedie, Group Director, Children and Families Program, National Conference of State Legislatures; and Audrey Laszewski, Project Director, The Early Years Home Visitation Outcomes Project of Wisconsin. The committee also heard testimony from Jane Penner-Hoppe and Kimmie Collins, DCF, and discussed WLC: 0125/2, relating to children who are involved in multiple systems of care and their families, and discussed drafting instructions relating to home visitation grants.

At the December 4, 2008 meeting, the committee heard testimony from Kimmie Collins and Jane Penner-Hoppe, DCF; and Rick Lockwood, Family Finding Project Coordinator, Children Service Society of Wisconsin. The committee discussed relative finding programs, including programs in other states. The committee voted to recommend that the following bill drafts be recommended for introduction by the Joint Legislative Council in the 2009-10 Legislature:

- WLC: 0125/2, relating to children who are involved in multiple systems of care and their families.
- WLC: 0303/2, relating to child abuse and neglect prevention grants.

At the January 26, 2009 meeting, the committee heard testimony from Jane Penner-Hoppe and John Touhy, Deputy Administrator, Division of Safety and Permanence, DCF. The committee discussed WLC: 0383/1, relating to requiring notice to relatives when a child is taken into custody; and WLC: 0346/2, relating to creating a family policy board and requiring counties to provide prevention resources.

At the March 3, 2009 meeting, the committee heard testimony from Dr. Jack Westman, President, Wisconsin Cares, Inc.; Mary Anne Snyder, Executive Director, Children's Trust Fund; and Lisa Patrick, Administrator, Division of Prevention and Service Integration, DCF, regarding WLC: 0346/3, relating to creating a family policy board and requiring counties to provide prevention resources. The committee also heard testimony regarding child welfare services from Sue Conwell, Executive Director, Kids Matter, Inc.; Cyrus Behroozi, Administrator, Division of Safety and Permanence, DCF; and Jonathan Boyd, Darryl Sanders, and Erika Steward, Milwaukee Youth Advisory Council. The committee voted to recommend that WLC: 0383/4, relating to requiring notice to relatives when a child is taken into custody and disclosure of information to relatives for the purpose of facilitating a relationship or placement, be recommended for introduction by the Joint Legislative Council in the 2009-10 Legislature.

PART III

RECOMMENDATIONS INTRODUCED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

This part of the report provides background information on, and a description of, the bills as recommended by the Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families.

2009 Senate Bill 210 and 2009 Assembly Bill 296, Relating to Children and Their Families Who Are Involved in Two or More Systems of Care and Making an Appropriation

Background

Under current law, s. 46.56, Stats., governs the ISP for children with severe disabilities. A “child with severe disabilities” is defined as follows:

An individual who has not attained 18 years of age and whose mental, physical, sensory, behavioral, emotional or developmental disabilities, or whose combination of multiple disabilities meets all of the following conditions:

1. Is severe in degree.
2. Has persisted for at least one year or is expected to persist for at least one year.
3. Causes substantial limitations in the child’s ability to function in the family, the school or the community and with the child’s ability to cope with the ordinary demands of life.
4. Causes the child to need services from two or more service systems.

The ISP began in 1989. As of September 2008, 18 counties operated ISPs. The statute requires a county that operates an ISP to establish a coordinating committee comprised of representatives from multiple systems of care. The coordinating committee must prepare interagency agreements that participating organizations in the ISP agree to follow in creating and operating the ISP. The interagency agreement’s components are also outlined by statute. The ISP must have one or more service coordination agencies. The service coordination agency must identify a service coordinator for each child with severe disabilities who participates in the program. Referrals into the ISP may come from many different types of public agencies or organizations, or from the child or the child’s family. A treatment team is developed which includes representatives of all service providers working with the family, as well as the family members and the child.

In 2002, the Department of Health and Family Services developed a request for proposals for counties to develop CST initiatives. The CST model is based on the ISP model of integrated services for children and families with multiple needs. As of October 1, 2008, 33 counties and two tribes operate CST initiatives.

The committee received testimony about the effectiveness of CSTs in providing resources to children who receive services from multiple systems of care and their families. The committee also received testimony about how CSTs build a strong foundation for collaboration in providing resources to families. Modifications to current law were recommended to expand the use and availability of CSTs.

Description

The bill makes several changes to s. 46.56, Stats. Specifically, the bill does the following:

- Expands the ISP's coverage to children who are involved with multiple systems of care, as well as their families, and changes the name of the program to the CST initiative.
- To reflect the expansion of the program's focus, changes the terms "integrated services," "integrated service plan," and "interdisciplinary team" to "coordinated services," "coordinated services plan of care," and "coordinated services team," respectively.
- Includes tribes as entities that may administer the CST initiative.
- Provides funding to begin to phase in the remaining counties and tribes that do not currently operate either an ISP or a CST initiative, to enable these counties and tribes to establish the CST initiative.
- Amends the definition of CST to emphasize the process by which the child's family, service providers, and informal resource persons work together to respond to the needs of the child and family, rather than by describing the characteristics of the individuals on the team.
- Expands the required and optional representatives that serve on the coordinating committee in a county or tribe. The coordinating committee is the entity that:
 - Prepares interagency agreements for the creation and operation of a CST initiative.
 - Assesses how the CST initiative relates to other service coordination programs operating at the county, tribal, or local level.
 - Assists the administering agency in developing the application for CST funding.
 - Reviews determinations by the service coordination agency regarding program eligibility, appropriate family resources, and funding of services.
- Expands the duties of the coordinating committee to include:
 - Establishing operational policies and procedures.
 - Ensuring quality, including adherence to core values as adopted by the state advisory committee.
 - Developing a plan for orientation of new coordinating committee members and CST members to the CST process.
 - Identifying and addressing gaps in services.
 - Ensuring client and partner agency satisfaction.
- Creates the role of initiative coordinator, and defines the initiative coordinator's duties, which are to:
 - Bring together parents and staff from agencies and organizations to comprise the coordinating committee, and support their activities.

- Work with the coordinating committee to maintain and support agency participation as established in the interagency agreement.
 - Work with the coordinating committee and service coordination agency to receive and review referrals.
 - Work with the coordinating committee and service coordination agency to assure service coordination for all groups working with the child and the child's family.
 - Guide the development of CSTs working with the child and the child's family to ensure compliance with the basic principles of the CST initiative's core values.
 - Review plans of care.
 - Assist the coordinating committee and family teams in establishing consistent measures for initiative development, implementation, evaluation, and monitoring of the project and outcomes.
 - Facilitate public education and awareness of issues and programming for families and children.
 - Ensure ongoing support and training related to the CST process to families, service coordinators, and providers.
 - Provide support to service providers in developing strategies to enhance existing programs, to increase resources, and to establish new resources.
 - Ensure that local and state agencies submit data and reports in an accurate and timely manner.
- Increases the annual appropriation to DHS to provide grants to counties for CST initiatives by \$1,466,000 in general purpose revenue.

2009 Senate Bill 211 and 2009 Assembly Bill 297, Relating to Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Grants

Background

Under current law, DCF distributes grants for the prevention of child abuse and neglect under a program commonly referred to as "Family Foundations." DCF may distribute this funding to six rural counties, three urban counties, and two Indian tribes.

The amount of funding that each county (other than a county with a population of 500,000 or more; currently, only Milwaukee County) or Indian tribe receives in excess of the \$10,000 minimum grant amount is based on the number of births funded by MA in that county or in the reservation of the tribe in proportion to the number of MA-funded births in all counties and the reservations of all tribes selected to participate in the program. Milwaukee County's grant award is based on 60% of the number of MA-funded births in that county in proportion to the number of MA-funded births in all counties and the reservations of all tribes selected to participate in the program.

Except for Milwaukee County, the grant funds may be used for a home visitation program for first-time parents who are eligible for MA and to support the cost of case management. In all counties and tribes, grants may also be used to provide intervention services and flexible funds to participating

families for appropriate expenses. DCF is required to provide technical assistance and training to programs receiving a grant.

The committee received testimony about the various models of home visitation programs across the state and funding for those programs, including through the Family Foundations program. The committee also received testimony about the beneficial outcomes for those who participate in home visitation programs. Modifications to current law relating to the Family Foundations program were recommended to better reflect current best practices and to remove obstacles to efficient operation of programs.

Description

The bill makes the following changes to current law:

- Provides that a private agency may participate in Family Foundations.
- Deletes the provision requiring funding to be distributed to six rural counties, three urban counties, and two Indian tribes.
- Deletes references to Milwaukee County so that Milwaukee County may use grant funds to provide home visitation and case management services.
- Requires counties, private agencies, and Indian tribes that receive a grant to agree to match at least 25% of the grant amount annually in funds or in-kind contributions.
- Deletes the current formula for determining the amount of a grant in excess of the minimum \$10,000 grant amount and instead requires DCF to determine the amount of a grant in excess of \$10,000 based upon the number of MA-funded births in the county, the area in which the private agency is providing services, or the reservation of the tribe.
- Provides that if a family with a child identified as being at risk of abuse or neglect has been continuously receiving home visitation program services for not less than 12 months, those services may continue to be provided until the child reaches three years of age, regardless of whether the child continues to be eligible for MA.
- Requires that DCF give favorable consideration in the application process for a grant to a county, private agency, or Indian tribe that submits a joint application.
- Requires a county, private agency, or Indian tribe, when applying for a grant, to provide information on how the applicant's home visitation program incorporates practice standards and critical elements that have been developed for successful home visitation programs by a nationally recognized home visitation program model and that are acceptable to DCF.
- Requires a private agency that applies for participation in Family Foundations to submit documentation with the grant application that demonstrates that the application is supported by a county and that a county will collaborate with the private agency in providing services.
- Requires DCF to evaluate the availability of home visitation programs in the state and determine whether there are gaps in home visitation services. DCF must then cooperate with counties, private agencies, and Indian tribes providing home visitation programs to address any gaps identified.

- Requires each county, private agency, and Indian tribe providing a home visitation program to collect and report data as required by DCF, using forms prescribed by DCF.
- Requires each county, private agency, and Indian tribe providing a home visitation program to develop a plan for evaluating the effectiveness of its program for approval by DCF. The bill sets forth outcomes that must be tracked and measured. The evaluation must be used to improve the quality and outcomes of the home visitation program.
- Provides that training provided by DCF to counties, private agencies, and Indian tribes participating in the program may not be limited to a particular home visitation model. Requires the training to include training regarding basic skills, uniform administration of screening and assessment tools, the issues and challenges that families face, and supervision and personnel skills for program managers. The training may also include training on data collection and reporting.
- Requires DCF to cooperate with the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board to ensure that employees and managers of home visitation programs receive training and other services to develop and maintain competencies in providing home visitation services to families.

2009 Senate Bill 212 and 2009 Assembly Bill 298, Relating to Requiring Notice to Relatives When a Child is Taken Into Custody and Disclosure of Information to Relatives for the Purpose of Facilitating a Relationship or Placement

Background

Under the Children's Code, a child may be placed with a relative when the child is taken into temporary custody, as a disposition, or as a permanent placement. In addition, in a child's dispositional order for a child in need of protection or services (CHIPS) proceeding, if there is no less drastic alternative for a child than transferring custody from the parent, the judge must consider transferring custody to a relative whenever possible. The agency preparing a permanency plan for a child must also include in the plan a statement as to the availability of a safe and appropriate placement with a fit and willing relative of the child and, if a decision is made not to place the child with an available relative, a statement as to why placement with the relative is not safe or appropriate. Finally, before DCF, a county department, or a child welfare agency may place a child for adoption, that agency must consider the availability of an adoptive placement with a relative of the child who is identified in the permanency plan or otherwise known by that agency.

Federal law 42 U.S.C. s. 671 (a) (29), effective October 7, 2008, requires that within 30 days after the removal of a child from the custody of the parent or parents of the child, the state must exercise due diligence to identify and provide notice to all adult grandparents and other adult relatives of the child (including any other adult relatives suggested by the parents), subject to exceptions due to family or domestic violence, that does all of the following:

- Specifies that the child has been or is being removed from the custody of the parent or parents of the child.
- Explains the options the relative has under federal, state, and local law to participate in the care and placement of the child, including any options that may be lost by failing to respond to the notice.
- Describes the requirements to become a foster family home and the additional services and supports that are available for children placed in such a home.

- If the state has elected the option to make kinship guardianship assistance payments, describes how the relative guardian of the child may subsequently enter into an agreement with the state to receive the payments. Wisconsin does not currently provide kinship guardianship assistance payments.

Current Wisconsin law also requires that DCF, the county department, or the licensed child welfare agency (“agency”) that is assigned primary responsibility for providing services to a child placed outside the home prepare a written permanency plan for the child if certain conditions are met.

Finally, under current law, records maintained by an agency under the Children’s Code and child abuse and neglect records are confidential and may be disclosed only under exceptions set forth in current law.

The committee received testimony about provisions of the federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act relating to notice to the adult relatives of a child when a child is placed out of the home. The committee also received testimony about the Family Finding program at the Children Service Society of Wisconsin. Modifications to current law were recommended to implement the relative notification provisions of the federal act and to provide an exception to the confidentiality of agency and child abuse and neglect records for the purpose of facilitating a relationship or placement with a relative.

Description

This bill modifies current law relating to temporary custody hearings under the Children’s Code. Under the bill, the juvenile court must order the county department or, in Milwaukee County, DCF to conduct a diligent search in order to identify and provide notice to all adult relatives of the child within 30 days after the temporary custody hearing unless the child is returned to his or her home within that time period. The bill, for purposes of notification, defines “adult relative” as the child’s grandparent, great-grandparent, aunt, uncle, or sibling who has attained 18 years of age. The bill also requires the county department or DCF to additionally notify any adult who is related to the child but is not an “adult relative,” as defined in the bill, if that adult is recommended as a placement option by the parent. Under the bill, the county department or DCF must also notify a family friend who is identified by the child’s parent as a placement option. The county department or DCF may not provide notice to an individual if the county department or DCF has reason to believe that it would be dangerous to the child or to the parent if the child were placed with that individual.

The bill requires the notice to include all of the following:

- A statement that the child has been removed from the custody of the child’s parent.
- A statement that the child may need a temporary or permanent placement outside of his or her home and an explanation of how the individual may request having the child placed with him or her.
- An explanation of the programs and services that may be available to the individual if the child is placed with him or her including foster care payments, kinship care payments, assistance with health care needs, child care assistance, and nutrition assistance.
- A description of the types of expenses the individual may incur if the child is placed in his or her home and whether and when the individual may be reimbursed for those expenses.
- An explanation of how to receive notice of future proceedings relating to the child if the individual provides contact information to the county department or DCF within the time specified in the notice.

The bill also provides that, at the temporary custody hearing, if the parent is present, he or she must be requested to provide the names of three relatives or family friends who are adults that the parent would like the court to consider as placement options for the child. If the parent is not present at the hearing, the county department or DCF must make a reasonable effort to request that information from each parent.

The bill also requires a child's permanency plan to include a statement of what efforts were made to comply with the notification requirements in the bill and to notify relatives and adult family friends who have been identified by the child's parent or the child as potential placements for the child.

Finally, the bill creates an exception to the confidentiality of agency and child abuse and neglect records so that the county department or DCF may disclose information to a relative of a child who is placed outside his or her home only to the extent necessary to facilitate the establishment of a relationship between the child and the relative or placement of the child with the relative.

Committee and Joint Legislative Council Votes

WLC: 0125/2, LRB-1912/2, and WLC: 0383/4 were recommended by the Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families to the Joint Legislative Council for introduction in the 2009-10 Session of the Legislature.

Special Committee Vote

The Special Committee voted to recommend WLC: 0125/2, LRB-1912/2, and WLC: 0383/4 to the Joint Legislative Council for introduction in the 2009-10 Session of the Legislature. The vote on the drafts were as follows:

- WLC: 0125/2, relating to children who are involved in multiple systems of care and their families, and making an appropriation: Ayes, 8 (Rep. Kestell; Sen. Schultz; and Public Members Albers, Angeli, Burgess, Erdmann, Ray, and Westman); Noes, 0; and Absent, 6 (Sen. Taylor; Rep. Grigsby; and Public Members Fields, Howard, Rosenberg, and Tittl).
- LRB-1912/2, relating to child abuse and neglect prevention grants: Ayes, 8 (Rep. Kestell; Sen. Schultz; and Public Members Albers, Angeli, Burgess, Erdmann, Ray, and Westman); Noes, 0; and Absent, 6 (Sen. Taylor; Rep. Grigsby; and Public Members Fields, Howard, Rosenberg, and Tittl).
- WLC: 0383/4, relating to requiring notice to relatives when a child is taken into custody and disclosure of information to relatives for the purpose of facilitating a relationship or placement: Ayes, 8 (Sen. Taylor; Rep. Kestell; Sen. Schultz; and Public Members Albers, Angeli, Erdmann, Rosenberg, and Westman); Noes, 0; and Absent, 6 (Rep. Grigsby; and Public Members Burgess, Fields, Howard, Ray, and Tittl).

Joint Legislative Council Vote

At its March 26, 2009 meeting, the Joint Legislative Council voted as follows on the recommendations of the Special Committee:

Sen. Miller moved, seconded by Sen. Schultz, that the following three drafts recommended by the Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families, be introduced by the Joint Legislative Council:

1. *WLC: 0125/2, relating to children who are involved in multiple systems of care and their families, and making an appropriation.*
2. *LRB-1912/2, relating to child abuse and neglect prevention grants.*
3. *WLC: 0383/4, relating to requiring notice to relatives when a child is taken into custody and disclosure of information to relatives for the purpose of facilitating a relationship or placement.*

The motion passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes, 22 (Sens. Risser, Coggs, Darling, Decker, Fitzgerald, Harsdorf, Kreitlow, Miller, Robson, Schultz, and Wirch; and Reps. Schneider, Ballweg, Black, Berceau, Fitzgerald, Kaufert, Nelson, Pocan, Sheridan, Staskunas, and Vos); Noes, 0; and Absent, 0.

Joint Legislative Council

[Joint Legislative Council Members Who Selected and Appointed Committee and Its Membership]

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MICHAEL HUEBSCH

Speaker
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This 22-member committee consists of the majority and minority party leadership of both houses of the Legislature, the co-chairs and ranking minority members of the Joint Committee on Finance, and 5 Senators and 5 Representatives appointed as are members of standing committees.

Joint Legislative Council

[Current Joint Legislative Council Members Receiving Committee Report]

Co-Chair

FRED A. RISSER

Senate President

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This 22-member committee consists of the majority and minority party leadership of both houses of the Legislature, the co-chairs and ranking minority members of the Joint Committee on Finance, and 5 Senators and 5 Representatives appointed as are members of standing committees.

Strengthening Wisconsin Families

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STUDY ASSIGNMENT: The committee is directed to develop recommendations to advise the new Department of Children and Families on the administration of programs administered by the new department, to promote the integration of family services formerly administered by multiple departments.

14 MEMBERS: 2 Senators, 2 Representatives, and 10 Public Members.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF: Anne Sappenfield, Senior Staff Attorney, and Jessica Karls, Staff Attorney; and Julie Learned, Support Staff.

Committee Materials List

(Copies of documents are available at www.legis.state.wi.us/lc)

Recommendations to the Joint Legislative Council (March 26, 2009)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results of the March 26, 2009 Meeting. • Proposed Report to the Legislature 2009-05, Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families (March 18, 2009). • WLC: 0125/2, relating to children who are involved in multiple systems of care and their families, and making an appropriation. • LRB-1912/2, relating to child abuse and neglect prevention grants. • WLC: 0383/4, relating to requiring notice to relatives when a child is taken into custody and disclosure of information to relatives for the purpose of facilitating a relationship or placement. 				
March 3, 2009 Meeting	Notice	Agenda	Audio	Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WLC: 0346/3, relating to creating a family policy board and requiring counties to provide prevention resources. • WLC: 0383/2, relating to requiring notice to relatives when a child is taken into custody. • WLC: 0383/3, relating to requiring notice to relatives when a child is taken into custody. • Document, <i>A Plan to Strengthen Wisconsin Families Through a State Family Policy Board</i>, proposed by Wisconsin Cares, Inc., submitted by Public Member Jack Westman. • Document, <i>The Status of the Family in Wisconsin State Government, Fragmentation and Discontinuity</i>, submitted by Public Member Jack Westman. • Letter, from Rick Lockwood, Family Finding Program Coordinator, to Senator Taylor and Representative Kestell, Co-Chairs of the Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families, regarding recommended amendment to SFAM08 Notification of Relatives (WLC: 0383/1). • Testimony of Susan Conwell, J.D., Executive Director, Kids Matter Inc. • Memorandum, <i>Comments on WLC: 0383/2 and 0346/3</i>, from Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf, Senior Legislative Associate, Wisconsin Counties Association (March 2, 2009). • Memorandum, from Jerry Huber, Human Services Director, Human Services Department, La Crosse County. • Letter from Christine M. Calpin, Acting Associate Commissioner, Children's Bureau, Department of Health and Human Services, to Reginald Bicha, Administrator, Wisconsin Division of Children and Family Services (February 4, 2008). • Document listing responses to issues raised by the Special Committee, submitted by the Department of Children and Families. • Document, <i>Comparison between the Family Policy Board and the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board</i>, submitted by the Department of Children and Families (January 5, 2009). • Testimony of Mary Ann Snyder, Executive Director, Children's Trust Fund. 				
January 26, 2009 Meeting	Notice	Agenda	Audio	Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WLC: 0346/2, relating to creating a family policy board and requiring counties to provide prevention resources. • WLC: 0383/1, relating to requiring notice to relatives when a child is taken into custody. • Handout, <i>History of the Wisconsin Family Policy Board Proposal</i>, submitted by Public Member Jack Westman. • Memorandum from Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf, Senior Legislative Associate, Wisconsin Counties Association, <i>Comments on WLC: 0383/1 and 0346/2</i> (January 22, 2009). • Handout, <i>Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board's Position on the Family Policy Board Proposal</i>, submitted by the Wisconsin Children's Trust Fund (January 21, 2009). • Handout, <i>2009 Building Bridges to Economic Success Fact Sheet</i>, submitted by Jane Penner-Hoppe, Department of Children and Families. • Press Release, <i>Governor Doyle Announces Creation of Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care</i>, submitted by Jane Penner-Hoppe, Department of Children and Families. • Family to Family, Tools for Rebuilding Foster Care, submitted by Public Member Jon Angeli. 				
December 4, 2008 Meeting	Notice	Agenda	Audio a.m. Audio p.m.	Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memo No. 5, <i>Coordinated Services Teams Initiative and the Coordinating Committee Under WLC: 0125/2</i> (November 25, 2008). 				

- [Enclosure](#), *Structure of a CST Initiative*.
- [Memo No. 6](#), *Other States' Laws Relating to Relative Finding and Kinship Navigator Programs* (November 26, 2008).
- [WLC: 0303/1](#), relating to Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Grants.
- [Handout](#), *12 Critical Elements of Successful Home Visiting Programs*, submitted by Pence Revington, UW-Extension, Family Living Specialist (October 1, 2007).

November 14, 2008 Meeting

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- [WLC: 0125/2](#), relating to children who are involved in multiple systems of care and their families, and making an appropriation.
- [Memo No. 4](#), *WLC: 0125/2, Relating to Children Who Are Involved in Multiple Systems of Care and Their Families* (November 7, 2008).
- [Document](#), *Evidence-Based Programs to Prevent children from Entering and Remaining in the Child Welfare System: Benefits and Costs for Washington*, submitted by Public Member Mary Jo Tittl (July 2008).
- [Article](#), *American Humane Association Wins Grant for National Quality Improvement Center on Differential Response in Child Protective Services*, submitted by Public Member Jon Angeli.
- Materials related to home visitation cost benefits:
 - [Letter](#) from Stephanie Lee, Washington State Institute for Public Policy (August 5, 2008).
 - American Journal of Evaluation [article](#), *Don't Throw Out the Baby With the Bath Water, A Novel Way of Evaluating Outcomes in the Healthy Families America Programs*, by Stacey R. Kessler, Montclair State University, and Ashley Nixon and Carnot Nelson, University of Southern Florida (September 2008).
 - [Report](#), *Home Visitation in 2005: Outcomes for Children and Parents*, by Deanna S. Gomby, PhD., M.S. (July 18, 2005).
 - [Chart](#), *Cost/Benefit Resources for Prevention and Home*, by Lynn A. Karoly (2001).
 - [Memo](#), from Kathryn Harding, Lisa Schreiber, Ben Tanzer, & Jim Hmurovich, Prevent Child Abuse America, *New WSIPP Cost Study on Child Welfare Programs* (August 15, 2008).
 - [Document](#), *Investment in Parents as Teachers: Results for Children, Families and Communities*.
 - [Letter](#) to Stephanie Lee, Steve Aos, Marna Miller, Washington State Institute for Public Policy (June 30, 2008).
 - [Report](#), *The Washington State Institute for Public Policy Cost Benefit Study and the Cost Benefit of Healthy Families Florida*, submitted by Terry J. Rhodes, D. Min., Director of Research, Evaluation and Systems, Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida.
 - [Report](#), *Benefits and Costs of Prevention and Early Intervention Programs for Youth*, Washington State Institute for Public Policy (July 2004; updated September 17, 2004).
 - [Document](#), *Evidence-Based Programs to Prevent Children From Entering and Remaining in the Child Welfare System: Benefits and Costs for Washington*, Washington State Institute for Public Policy (July 2008).
- [Presentation](#) from Audrey Laszewski, Project Director for the Early Years Home Visitation Outcomes Project of WI, *Key Talking Points* (November 14, 2008).
- [PowerPoint presentation](#) from Jack Tweedie, National Conference of State Legislatures, *Home Visiting Programs as Investments: Benefits, Costs and Returns*.

October 16, 2008 Meeting

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- [Memo No. 3](#), *Current Law Related to Home Visitation Program Grants* (October 9, 2008).
- [WLC: 0125/1](#), relating to children with severe disabilities or who are involved in multiple systems of care, or both, and their families, and making an appropriation.
- [Letter](#) to Governor Jim Doyle, regarding the inclusion of 2007 Assembly Bill 700 in the Executive Budget Bill (October 1, 2008).
- [Listening Sessions](#), submitted by Jane Penner-Hoppe, Department of Children and Families.
- [National Home Visiting Programs' Shared Vision Statement](#), submitted by Public Member Mary Jo Tittl.
- PowerPoint presentation, [The SEED School of Wisconsin](#), by Michael D'Amato, Wisconsin Director, The SEED School Initiative.
- [Selected Media Stories](#), The SEED School of Wisconsin, by Michael D'Amato, Wisconsin Director, The SEED School Initiative.
- [Handout](#), dated October 15, 2008, by Michael D'Amato, Wisconsin Director, The SEED School Initiative.
- Document, [Wisconsin Coalition for a Public Boarding School](#), submitted by Michael D'Amato, Wisconsin Director, The SEED School Initiative.
- Document, [Poverty Matters. Facing Poverty in Wisconsin](#), submitted by Dick Schlimm, Wisconsin Community Action Program.
- [Handout](#), submitted by Public Member Jack Westman.
- Materials submitted by the Milwaukee Center for Independence (MCFI):
 - [Report](#) on Children with Disabilities, *Addressing a Growing Epidemic*.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Resolution, supporting the MCFI's charge, mission and report. ○ Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article, <i>Young and in Need</i> (March 27, 2008). ○ Handout, JSONline article, <i>Editorial: Enabling the right help</i>. ○ Report, <i>Children with Disabilities: A hidden health care crisis</i>, Findings of the Children's Task Force of the Milwaukee Center for Independence. ○ 2007 Senate Joint Resolution 105, relating to expressing support for the Milwaukee Center for Independence. 				
September 26, 2008 Meeting	Notice	Agenda	Audio	Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Memo No. 2, <i>2007 Assembly Bill 700, Relating to Children with Severe Disabilities or Who Are Involved in Multiple Systems of Care, or Both, and Their Families</i> (September 18, 2008). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enclosure to Memo No. 2, 2007 Assembly Bill 700, relating to children with severe disabilities or who are involved in multiple systems of care, or both, and their families. ● Presentation handout by Gerald Huber, Human Services Director, La Crosse County, <i>Building Our Village for Families</i> (September 26, 2008). ● Presentation handout by Dan Naylor, CST Specialist, White Pine Consulting Services, Inc. 				
August 25, 2008 Meeting	Notice	Agenda	Audio	Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Document, <i>Beyond Ideology, Politics, and Guesswork: The Case for Evidence-Based Policy, Revised 2008</i>, submitted by Public Member Jon Angeli. ● Document, <i>Wisconsin Supporting Families</i>, submitted by Public Member Jon Angeli. 				
August 12, 2008 Meeting	Notice	Agenda	Audio Audio 2	Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Memo No. 1, <i>Overview of the Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families and the Department of Children and Families</i> (August 5, 2008). ● Handout, <i>Evidence-Based Programs to Prevent Children from Entering and Remaining in the Child Welfare System: Benefits and Costs of Washington</i>, Washington State Institute for Public Policy, submitted by Public Member Jack Westman (July 2008). ● Power Point Presentation, distributed by Public Member Mary Jo Tittl (August 7, 2008). ● Document, <i>The One Hundred Billion Dollar Man, The Annual Public Costs of Father Absence</i>, submitted by Public Member Terence Ray. ● Article, <i>State Uniting Social Services at Single Sites</i>, submitted by Public Member Jon Angeli. ● Policy Brief No. 24, <i>Family Strengthening Writ Large: On Becoming a Nation that Promotes Strong Families and Successful Youth</i>, submitted by Public Member Jon Angeli (December 2007). ● 2007 Foundation for Child Development Report, <i>The Foundation for Child Development Child and Youth Well-Being Index (CWI), 1975-2005, with Projections for 2006</i>, submitted by Public Member Mary Jo Tittl. 				