



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
STRENGTHENING
WISCONSIN FAMILIES

[2009 SENATE BILL 568 AND 2009 ASSEMBLY BILL 822;
2009 SENATE BILL 569 AND 2009 ASSEMBLY BILL 823;
2009 SENATE BILL 570 AND 2009 ASSEMBLY BILL 824; AND
2009 SENATE BILL 571 AND 2009 ASSEMBLY BILL 825]

March 19, 2010

RL 2009-13

Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families

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March 19, 2010

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PART I

KEY PROVISIONS

OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Joint Legislative Council recommends the following bills 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 568 and 2009 Assembly Bill 822, Relating to Extended Juvenile Court Jurisdiction for Certain Foster Youth Under the Age of 21 Years

The bill, relating to extended juvenile court jurisdiction for certain foster youth under the age of 21 years, permits certain foster youth who are in foster care when they reach the age of 18 years to request an agency to petition the court assigned to exercise jurisdiction under the Children’s Code and the Juvenile Justice Code (juvenile court) to extend juvenile court jurisdiction until the foster youth reaches 21 years of age.

2009 Senate Bill 569 and 2009 Assembly Bill 823, Relating to Training for Foster Parents

The bill, relating to training for foster parents:

- Requires foster parent training to be completed before the first child is placed with a foster parent and on an ongoing basis.
- Requires foster parent training to be available to kinship care relatives.
- Specifies topics that must be covered in the training.

2009 Senate Bill 570 and 2009 Assembly Bill 824, Relating to Creating Expectations for Foster Children and Foster Parents and Requiring the Exercise of Rule-Making Authority

The bill, relating to creating expectations for foster children and foster parents and requiring the exercise of rule-making authority, requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to create expectations for foster children and foster parents by rule. The bill provides that a written copy of the expectations must be given to each foster child and foster parent and must be explained orally.

2009 Senate Bill 571 and 2009 Assembly Bill 825, Relating to Creating a Family Policy Board and Requiring Counties to Provide Prevention Resources

The bill, relating to creating a family policy board and requiring counties to provide prevention resources, renames the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board as the Family Policy Board and expands its membership. The bill sets forth the duties and responsibilities of the Family Policy Board.

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 11 public members. A list of committee members is included as *Appendix 3* to this report.

Summary of Meetings

As of the date of this report, the Special Committee has held 11 meetings in Madison. The first eight meetings are summarized in RL 2009-05, *Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families* (July 27, 2009). The last three meetings were held on the following dates:

April 2, 2009
July 15, 2009
August 13, 2009

At the April 2, 2009 meeting, the committee discussed WLC: 0416/1, relating to creating bills of rights for foster children and foster parents; WLC: 0417/1, relating to training for foster parents; and WLC: 0424/P1, relating to extended court jurisdiction for certain foster youth under the age of 21 years.

The committee also heard testimony from Paul Stuiber, Deputy State Auditor for Program Evaluation, and Dean Swenson, Program Evaluation Director, Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB), relating to legislative audits regarding the child welfare system.

John Tuohy, Deputy Administrator, DCF, discussed the drafts before the committee and DCF's response to the LAB audits.

The committee also held a public hearing on issues related to the child welfare system in Milwaukee County, foster care, and training for foster parents. The testimony from the public hearing included testimony on the following issues:

- Bills of rights for foster children and foster parents.
- Training for foster parents, including the training provided by the Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership for Professional Development.
- Training for foster children.
- Extending foster care to age 21.
- Stabilizing education for foster children, including coordination and collaboration between the child welfare system and the school system.
- Other models of education for children, including boarding schools.
- Requiring experience as a foster parent before becoming a treatment foster parent.
- Recognition of siblings as relative caregivers.
- Employment of foster children, including summer employment.
- Personal experiences with the child welfare system in Milwaukee County.

At the July 15, 2009 meeting, the committee received an update from DCF. Dick Schlimm, Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board, discussed the board's concerns regarding a bill draft to create a family policy board.

The committee discussed WLC: 0434/1, relating to training for child welfare case workers, and WLC: 0346/3, relating to creating a family policy board and requiring counties to provide prevention resources.

At the August 13, 2009 meeting, the committee received an update from DCF.

The committee discussed WLC: 0346/3, relating to creating a family policy board and requiring counties to provide prevention resources; WLC: 0416/2, relating to creating bills of rights for foster children and foster parents; 0417/3, relating to training for foster parents; and WLC: 0424/1, relating to extended court jurisdiction for certain foster youth under the age of 21 years. There was consensus to make changes to the drafts and to include them in a mail ballot for committee members.

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 and introduced by the Joint Legislative Council.

2009 Senate Bill 568 and 2009 Assembly Bill 822, Relating to Extended Juvenile Court Jurisdiction for Certain Foster Youth Under the Age of 21 Years

Background

Under current law, a juvenile court order placing a child in foster care terminates when the child reaches 18 years of age.

The committee received testimony from former foster youth and from professionals who work with foster youth that extending foster care for young adults leaving the foster care system would be very beneficial to youth who chose to exercise that option.

Description

The bill permits certain foster youth who are in foster care when they reach the age of 18 years to request an agency to petition the juvenile court to extend juvenile court jurisdiction until the foster youth reaches 21 years of age.

The bill defines a foster youth as a person who is a resident of this state, is under 21 years of age, and reached the age of 18 while placed in a foster home or other out-of-home placement under a juvenile court order.

Under the bill, a foster youth may submit a request for extended juvenile court jurisdiction to the agency primarily responsible for providing services under the foster youth's dispositional order. If the agency determines that the foster youth may be eligible for extended court jurisdiction, the agency must petition the juvenile court to extend jurisdiction. The juvenile court may extend jurisdiction if the juvenile court finds that one of several conditions are met, such as that the youth is completing secondary education, is enrolled in a postsecondary institution, or is employed for at least 80 hours per month. The order for extended juvenile court jurisdiction terminates when the foster youth reaches 21 years of age or when the juvenile court finds that specified conditions are met.

The bill has an effective date of October 1, 2010.

2009 Senate Bill 569 and 2009 Assembly Bill 823, Relating to Training for Foster Parents

Background

2009 Wisconsin Act 28, the Biennial Budget Act, requires that all foster parents complete training in the care and support needs of foster children. DCF is required to monitor compliance with the training requirements and promulgate rules prescribing the training.

The committee received testimony from former foster youth regarding the need for training of foster parents. Committee members discussed the specific topics that the training should include and the need for training to be ongoing.

Description

The bill requires foster parent training to be completed before the first child is placed with a foster parent and on an ongoing basis. The training must be available to kinship care relatives. In addition, the training must include training in parenting skills; teaching and encouraging independent living skills; issues that may confront foster parents; child abuse and neglect prevention; the proper use of foster care payments; the availability of resources for foster parents in the local community; and other topics, as determined by DCF.

2009 Senate Bill 570 and 2009 Assembly Bill 824, Relating to Creating Expectations for Foster Children and Foster Parents and Requiring the Exercise of Rule-Making Authority

Background

The committee received testimony from former foster youth that they would like child welfare professionals and foster parents to recognize certain rights of foster children. Committee members concluded that foster parents should also have their expectations of the child welfare system set forth in the statute.

Description

The bill requires DCF to create expectations for foster children and foster parents by rule. Under the bill, a foster child or foster parent must receive a written copy of the applicable expectations in his or her primary language, if possible. The expectations must also be explained orally using language or means that ensure that the child or foster parent understands the meaning of the expectations. For a foster child, the oral explanation must also use language or means that are appropriate to the child's age and developmental level. The copy of the expectations given to a foster child or foster parent or materials accompanying the copy of the expectations must include relevant community-specific contact information and other information.

2009 Senate Bill 571 and 2009 Assembly Bill 825, Relating to Creating a Family Policy Board and Requiring Counties to Provide Prevention Resources

Background

Under current law, the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board is responsible for administering grants and other efforts for preventing child abuse and neglect.

Committee members discussed the merits of having a board with broader representation and with the broader mission of encouraging state and local coordination and collaboration to promote thriving families.

Description

This bill renames the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board as the Family Policy Board and expands its membership and duties. Under the bill, the board is chaired by the governor or lieutenant governor.

The board is required to promote the coordination of resources for families in order to achieve several goals, including children who are healthy and ready for school and families that are economically self-sufficient and in which children are safe. The board must also establish a policy for the state agencies with membership on the board that highest priority should be given to promoting thriving families and healthy children through the provision of comprehensive, integrated resources based on community and family needs. The board is also required to make recommendations to the governor and the legislature relating to changes needed in state programs, policies, and funding levels to improve the coordination of programs that affect families; to set priorities for state agencies based on community and family needs; to consolidate funding; and to encourage communities to form local collaborative entities consisting of public and private providers to coordinate the provision of resources. The board is required to submit a report of its recommendations to the appropriate legislative standing committees and the governor by September 1 of each even-numbered year. Finally, the board must establish a system of communication between the board and local collaborative entities in order to more effectively provide resources for families, and identify requirements for counties to report to state agencies with membership on the board and instances in which those reporting requirements could be consolidated or eliminated.

The bill also requires DCF to assist counties in developing programs, policies, and resources that prevent delinquency, child abuse and neglect, mental illness, alcohol or other drug dependency, developmental disability, mental infirmity, and other forms of mental or social maladjustment (prevention resources). In addition, the bill requires counties to provide, either directly or through community agencies and within limits of available funding, prevention resources.

Committee and Joint Legislative Council Votes

WLC: 0346/4, WLC: 0416/3, WLC: 0417/4, and WLC: 0424/2 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. These drafts subsequently became LRB drafts LRB-3558/1, LRB-3559/1, LRB-3560/1, and LRB-3561/1.

Special Committee Vote

The Special Committee voted by a mail ballot, dated August 21, 2009, to recommend WLC: 0346/4, WLC: 0416/3, WLC: 0417/4, and WLC: 0424/2, to the Joint Legislative Council for introduction in the 2009-10 Session of the Legislature. The vote on the drafts were as follows:

- WLC: 0346/4 [LRB-3561/1], relating to creating a family policy board and requiring counties to provide prevention resources, passed by a vote of Ayes, 10 (Sens. Taylor and Schultz; Rep. Kestell; and Public Members Albers, Angeli, Burgess, Howard, Rosenberg, Tittl, and Westman); Noes, 3 (Rep. Grigsby; and Public Members Erdmann and Montgomery); and Not Voting, 2 (Public Members Fields and Ray).
- WLC: 0416/3 [LRB-3560/1], relating to creating expectations for foster children and foster parents and rule-making, passed by a vote of Ayes, 13 (Sens. Taylor and Schultz; Rep. Kestell and Grigsby; and Public Members Albers, Angeli, Burgess, Erdmann, Howard, Montgomery, Rosenberg, Tittl, and Westman); Noes, 0; and Not Voting, 2 (Public Members Fields and Ray).
- WLC: 0417/4 [LRB-3559/1], relating to training for foster parents, passed by a vote of Ayes, 13 (Sens. Taylor and Schultz; Reps. Kestell and Grigsby; and Public Members Albers, Angeli, Burgess, Erdmann, Howard, Montgomery, Rosenberg, Tittl, and Westman); Noes, 0; and Not Voting, 2 (Public Members Fields and Ray).
- WLC: 0424/2 [LRB-3558/1], relating to extended court jurisdiction for certain foster youth under the age of 21 years, passed by a vote of Ayes, 13 (Sens. Taylor and Schultz; Reps. Kestell and Grigsby; and Public Members Albers, Angeli, Burgess, Erdmann, Howard, Montgomery, Rosenberg, Tittl, and Westman); Noes, 0; and Not Voting, 2 (Public Members Fields and Ray).

Joint Legislative Council Vote

At its February 24, 2010 meeting, the Joint Legislative Council voted as follows on the recommendations of the Special Committee:

Co-Chair Schneider moved, seconded by Sen. Schultz, that the following three drafts recommended by the Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families, be introduced en masse:

1. **LRB-3558/1**, relating to extended juvenile court jurisdiction for certain foster youth under the age of 21 years.
2. **LRB-3559/1**, relating to training for foster parents.

3. **LRB-3560/1**, relating to creating expectations for foster children and foster parents and requiring the exercise of rule-making authority.

The motion passed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes, 21 (Sens. Risser, Darling, Decker, Fitzgerald, Harsdorf, Kreitlow, Miller, Robson, Schultz, and Wirch; and Reps. Schneider, Ballweg, Berceau, Black, Fitzgerald, Kaufert, Nelson, Pocan, Sheridan, Staskunas, and Vos); Noes, 0; and Absent, 1 (Sen. Coggs).

*Co-Chair Schneider moved, seconded by Rep. Berceau, that **LRB-3561/1**, relating to creating a family policy board and requiring counties to provide prevention resources, be introduced by the Joint Legislative Council. The motion passed on a roll call vote of Ayes, 14 (Sens. Risser, Decker, Fitzgerald, Kreitlow, Miller, Robson, Schultz, and Wirch; and Reps. Schneider, Berceau, Nelson, Pocan, Sheridan, and Staskunas); Noes, 6 (Sens. Darling and Harsdorf; and Reps. Ballweg, Fitzgerald, Kaufert, and Vos); and Absent, 2 (Sen. Coggs and Rep. Black).*

[Rep. Black noted that had he been present, he would have voted "Aye."]

Joint Legislative Council

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

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Co-Chair

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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]

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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

Senator Lena Taylor, Co-Chair
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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.

15 MEMBERS: 2 Senators, 2 Representatives, and 11 Public Members.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF: Anne Sappenfield, Senior Staff Attorney, and Jessica Karls-Ruplinger, 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 Legislature					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to the Legislature 2009-13, <i>Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families</i>. • 2009 Senate Bill 568 and 2009 Assembly Bill 822, relating to extended juvenile court jurisdiction for certain foster youth under the age of 21 years. • 2009 Senate Bill 569 and 2009 Assembly Bill 823, relating to training for foster parents. • 2009 Senate Bill 570 and 2009 Assembly Bill 824, relating to creating expectations for foster children and foster parents and requiring the exercise of rule-making authority. • 2009 Senate Bill 571 and 2009 Assembly Bill 825, relating to creating a family policy board and requiring counties to provide prevention resources. 					
Recommendations to the Joint Legislative Council (February 24, 2010)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Report to the Legislature 2009-13, <i>Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families</i> (February 8, 2010). • LRB-3558/1, relating to extended juvenile court jurisdiction for certain foster youth under the age of 21 years. • LRB-3559/1, relating to training for foster parents. • LRB-3560/1, relating to creating expectations for foster children and foster parents and requiring the exercise of rule-making authority. • LRB-3561/1, relating to creating a family policy board and requiring counties to provide prevention resources. 					
August 21 Mail Ballot					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results of the August 21, 2009 mail ballot. • WLC: 0346/4, relating to creating a family policy board and requiring counties to provide prevention resources. • WLC: 0416/3, relating to creating expectations for foster children and foster parents and rule-making. • WLC: 0417/4, relating to training for foster parents. • WLC: 0424/2, relating to extended court jurisdiction for certain foster youth under the age of 21 years. 					
August 13, 2009 Meeting		Notice	Agenda	Audio	Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document, <i>Core Team Key Action Areas Priority Strategies and Key Partners Based on Report out Recommendations from May 4-5, 2009 Summit Based on June 4, 2009 Core Team Meeting</i>, submitted by the Department of Children and Families. • Document, <i>Building Bridges to Family Economic Success Workgroup Recommendations and Group Leaders</i>, submitted by the Department of Children and Families. • Document, <i>Comments on bill drafts scheduled for August 13, 2009 meeting of the Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families</i>, submitted by Public Member Jack Westman. • Chart, <i>Wisconsin Cares, Inc., Staffing Considerations for a Family Policy Integration Board</i>, submitted by Public Member Jack Westman. • Document, <i>Through a New Lens: Toward a Fundamental Reframing of "the Client", Turning Crisis into Opportunity for Systems Change in Human Services</i>, submitted by Public Member Jon Angeli. 					
July 15, 2009 Meeting		Notice	Agenda	Audio	Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testimony submitted by Richard Schlimm, Chair, Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board (July 15, 2009). • Foster Parent Handbook, submitted by Kimmie Collins, Legislative Liaison, Department of Children and Families: http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/memos/num_memos/DSP/2008/2008-05handbookredirect.pdf. • Information about the Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center, submitted by Kimmie Collins, Legislative Liaison, Department of Children and Families: http://www.wifostercareandadoption.org/. • WLC: 0416/2, relating to creating bills of rights for foster children and foster parents. • WLC: 0417/2, relating to training for foster parents. • WLC: 0424/1, relating to extended court jurisdiction for certain foster youth under the age of 21 years. • WLC: 0434/1, relating to training for child welfare case workers. • WLC: 0346/3, relating to creating a family policy board and requiring counties to provide prevention resources. 					

April 2, 2009 Meeting	Notice	Agenda	Video	Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by Julie Brown, Director, Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership for Professional Development. • Milwaukee County Child Welfare: Program Issues (report 06-1) http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lab/reports/06-1Full.pdf, submitted by Paul Stuiber and Dean Swenson, Legislative Audit Bureau. • Milwaukee County Child Welfare: Finances and Staffing (report 06-2) http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lab/reports/06-2Full.pdf, submitted by Paul Stuiber and Dean Swenson, Legislative Audit Bureau. • State of Wisconsin Single Audit, 2007-08 (report 09-5) Page 55 discusses the overpayment issue referenced. http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lab/reports/09-5full.pdf, submitted by Paul Stuiber and Dean Swenson, Legislative Audit Bureau. • Testimony from Dean Swenson, Program Evaluation Director, Legislative Audit Bureau. • Document, Recommendations from Frontline Providers, submitted by Co-Chair Lena Taylor. • WLC: 0424/P1, relating to extended court jurisdiction for certain foster youth under the age of 21 years. • WLC: 0416/1, relating to creating bills of rights for foster children and foster parents. • WLC: 0417/1, relating to training for foster parents. • Report, <i>Review of Turnover in Milwaukee County Private Agency Child Welfare Ongoing Case Management Staff</i>, prepared by Connie Flower, Jess McDonald, and Michael Sumski (January 2005). 				
Report to the Legislature				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to the Legislature, <i>Strengthening Wisconsin Families</i> (July 27, 2009). • 2009 Senate Bill 210 (2009 Assembly Bill 296). • 2009 Senate Bill 211 (2009 Assembly Bill 297). • 2009 Senate Bill 212 (2009 Assembly Bill 298). 				
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, <i>Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families</i> (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). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enclosure, <i>Structure of a CST Initiative</i>. • Memo No. 6, <i>Other States' Laws Relating to Relative Finding and Kinship Navigator Programs</i> (November 26, 2008). • WLC: 0303/1, relating to Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Grants. • Handout, <i>12 Critical Elements of Successful Home Visiting Programs</i>, submitted by Pence Revington, UW-Extension, Family Living Specialist (October 1, 2007). 				
November 14, 2008 Meeting	Notice	Agenda	Audio	Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WLC: 0125/2, relating to children who are involved in multiple systems of care and their families, and making an appropriation. • Memo No. 4, <i>WLC: 0125/2, Relating to Children Who Are Involved in Multiple Systems of Care and Their Families</i> (November 7, 2008). • Document, <i>Evidence-Based Programs to Prevent children from Entering and Remaining in the Child Welfare System: Benefits and Costs for Washington</i>, submitted by Public Member Mary Jo Tittl (July 2008). • Article, <i>American Humane Association Wins Grant for National Quality Improvement Center on Differential Response in Child Protective Services</i>, submitted by Public Member Jon Angeli. • Materials related to home visitation cost benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Letter from Stephanie Lee, Washington State Institute for Public Policy (August 5, 2008). ○ American Journal of Evaluation article, <i>Don't Throw Out the Baby With the Bath Water, A Novel Way of Evaluating Outcomes in the Healthy Families America Programs</i>, by Stacey R. Kessler, Montclair State University, and Ashley Nixon and Carnot Nelson, University of Southern Florida (September 2008). ○ Report, <i>Home Visitation in 2005: Outcomes for Children and Parents</i>, by Deanna S. Gomby, PhD., M.S. (July 18, 2005). ○ Chart, <i>Cost/Benefit Resources for Prevention and Home</i>, by Lynn A. Karoly (2001). ○ Memo, from Kathryn Harding, Lisa Schreiber, Ben Tanzer, & Jim Hmurovich, <i>Prevent Child Abuse America, New WSIPP Cost Study on Child Welfare Programs</i> (August 15, 2008). ○ Document, <i>Investment in Parents as Teachers: Results for Children, Families and Communities</i>. ○ Letter to Stephanie Lee, Steve Aos, Marna Miller, Washington State Institute for Public Policy (June 30, 2008). ○ Report, <i>The Washington State Institute for Public Policy Cost Benefit Study and the Cost Benefit of Healthy Families Florida</i>, submitted by Terry J. Rhodes, D. Min., Director of Research, Evaluation and Systems, Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida. ○ Report, <i>Benefits and Costs of Prevention and Early Intervention Programs for Youth</i>, Washington State Institute for Public Policy (July 2004; updated September 17, 2004). ○ Document, <i>Evidence-Based Programs to Prevent Children From Entering and Remaining in the Child Welfare System: Benefits and Costs for Washington</i>, Washington State Institute for Public Policy (July 2008). • Presentation from Audrey Laszewski, Project Director for the Early Years Home Visitation Outcomes Project of WI, <i>Key Talking Points</i> (November 14, 2008). • PowerPoint presentation from Jack Tweedie, National Conference of State Legislatures, <i>Home Visiting Programs as Investments: Benefits, Costs and Returns</i>. 				

October 16, 2008 Meeting	Notice	Agenda	Audio	Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memo No. 3, <i>Current Law Related to Home Visitation Program Grants</i> (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): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Report on Children with Disabilities, <i>Addressing a Growing Epidemic</i>. ○ 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 1 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. 				