



*Office of Children's  
Mental Health*

State of Wisconsin

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Scott Walker, Governor  
Elizabeth Hudson, Director

DATE: October 23, 2014

TO: Representative Joan Ballweg, Chair  
Legislative Steering Committee on Supporting Healthy Early Brain Development

FROM: Elizabeth Hudson, Director  
Office of Children's Mental Health

RE: Policy Priorities for Supporting Healthy Early Brain Development

CC: Rachel Letzing, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council

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Thank you for allowing the Office of Children's Mental Health (OCMH) to weigh in on policy priorities created by the Legislative Steering Committee on Supporting Healthy Early Brain Development (LSCSHEBD).

The following information outlines the OCMH's frameworks for supporting the social and emotional health of children and families. As you will see under the *Populations-Based Workforce* section, several LSCSHEBD policy proposals resonate with the mental health agenda we are forwarding in Wisconsin, e.g., trauma-informed and pyramid model consultants, parent peer specialists, and supportive and skilled child-serving workforce.

Our second highlighted framework, *A Public Health Approach*, provides you with our three goals:

- (1) increase resilience,
- (2) decrease toxic stress and
- (3) increase access to effective Children's Mental Health Services

Under each goal we have highlighted in red the primary policy recommendations we would recommend advancing. As you will find, we have attached a more detailed data integration proposal for our top priority, but would be pleased to create similar proposals for the other two red highlighted priorities.

Again, we appreciate being included in this important effort and thank you and the committee for your attention and leadership in this area.