



Department of Children and Families - Fiscal Update

WHSFMA Conference
May 3, 2017
John Tuohy, DCF Regional Operations

Tightening Our Belts





Topics for DCF Presentation

- Child Care Updates
- Child Welfare Updates
- Youth Justice Updates
- Client Fees
- Provider Reserves
- Questions



Child Care Updates





Child Care Updates

My WI Child Care (aka Parent Pay)

- Statewide EBT implementation completed in April 2017.
- Counties no longer responsible for making payments to child care providers.
- Child care benefits loaded prospectively into client EBT account for the authorized provider.
- If client switches child care provider in mid-month, need hardship reason to get more benefits for that month.
- Child care providers cannot have client account #s or PINs.

2016 Child Care Admin. Contract Closeout

- Have enough underspending to cover overspending, working on the deob/reob process.



Child Care Updates

Child Care Policy Changes

- Annual eligibility period implemented Fall 2016, no more SMRFs.
- Annual authorizations start Fall 2017, contingent on statutory changes in 2017-19 state budget bill.
- Clients will have 3 month period to find new employment.
- DCF will centralize child care provider background checks, timing is contingent on statutory changes in state budget bill and when DCF can take on workload.
- Counties must do at least one unannounced monitoring visit for certified providers annually.

Child Welfare Updates



Child Welfare Updates

- Child welfare items in 2017-19 budget bill:
 - \$5 million annual increase in Children and Families Allocation starting in CY 2018.
 - Additional funds for In-Home Safety Services, \$989k in SFY 2018 and \$1.92 million in SFY 2019.
 - \$2 million additional funds for services to human trafficking victims in SFY 2019.
 - Foster care rate increases, 2.5% in 2018 and 2019.
 - \$247k increase to Tribal High Cost Fund.
 - Refundable tax credit for youth aging out of foster care.



Child Welfare Updates

Program Initiatives

- In-Home Safety Services program modified for 2017 to fund counties on a slot basis.
- Human Trafficking: Specialized RCC for victims opened in February 2017. DCF will pay for some beds. Regional hub service grant in Northeast region starts mid 2017. More regional hub service grants will follow.
- DCF working with WCHSA and residential care providers to develop more placement options.
- Continued regionalization of Independent Living services.
- Legislation for regional CPS investigations.
- Child and Family Services Review – comprehensive federal review will take place in 2018.



Youth Justice Updates





Youth Justice Updates

Youth Justice Allocations

- No change to Youth Aids funding in 2017-19 budget.
- Youth Aids and Community Intervention Program funding formulas remain the same.

Youth Justice Services

- DCF released Youth Justice Strategic Plan.
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/yj/pdf/yjplan.pdf>
- DCF workgroups on assessment, training, and data.
- WCHSA workgroup on juvenile corrections services.
- 17 year old first offender legislation still possible.



Client Fees



Client Fees

DHS 1 Administrative Rule

- DHS is repealing and recreating the administrative rule.
- County workgroup made recommendations in march 2017, DHS working on the new rule language.
- Once the old DHS 1 rule is repealed, DCF will not be able to use the old rule.
- DCF is studying options to develop a separate rule applicable to children and family programs, or whether guidance can be done via policy memo.

Non-profit Provider Reserves



Provider Legislative Proposal

- WAFCA provider association worked with DCF and DHS to develop new proposal for retained earnings. Will pursue as 2017-19 budget amendment.
- Providers will be permitted to retain up to 5% annually for retained earnings. DCF must develop administrative rule with DHS and DOC.
- 10% cumulative limit will be repealed and providers will be allowed to co-mingle reserves.
- Purchased will have 6 months to claim excess earnings once notified by provider.
- Purchasers can still negotiate the per unit rate.



Questions?

