

Foster Parent Training Committee Fact Sheet

- The Foster Parent Training Committee, a subcommittee of the Wisconsin Child Welfare Training Council, was established in March 2005, in order to study and make recommendations about training for foster, treatment foster and adoptive parents in Wisconsin.
- The three short-term goals of the Foster Parent Training Committee were to determine (1) What is the status of foster parent training in Wisconsin? (2) What training should all foster parents in Wisconsin receive? and (3) What resources would be needed to provide the training?
- The Foster Parent Training Committee gathered and looked at research from around the nation and surveyed Wisconsin counties, tribes, private licensing agencies and foster parents in order to develop a baseline of data.
- There was an 82% response rate by county agencies to one of the major data collection efforts of the committee in determining the status of foster parent training in Wisconsin. Of the 59 counties responding to the survey, 45 (or 76%) mandate training, averaging 30 hours, for all new foster homes. Twenty-eight of the 59 counties (or 47%) mandate ongoing training, averaging 10 hours annually, for all re-licensed foster homes.
- One of the primary challenges for the committee was to determine how training to foster parents could be provided by all sizes of agencies around the state, since some license one home per year and others hundreds.
- Based upon all of the information collected, the Foster Parent Training Committee recommended to the Wisconsin Child Welfare Training Council that three levels of training for foster and treatment foster parents be considered: (1) pre-placement – completed prior to or after licensure but before first placement; (2) foundation – completed within 24 months of initial licensure; and (3) ongoing – completed in each succeeding two-year re-licensing period.
- The Wisconsin Child Welfare Training Council did NOT recommend mandating foster parent training, rather it supported the Foster Parent Training Committee's ongoing work to finalize the content and develop training curriculum for pre-placement and foundation foster parent training. The pre-placement curriculum will be closely aligned with the licensing process, and the foundation curriculum will use the current PACE curriculum as its bedrock.
- The Foster Parent Training Committee will develop a recommended pre-placement and foundation foster parent training curriculum, in multiple delivery modalities, that will adhere to the six fundamental goals of foster parent training as well as identify specific objectives for each level. Agencies may choose to continue their current training curriculum and practice (such as require their foster parents to complete all of the pre-placement and foundation training prior to first placement in the home) or follow recommendations of the committee.
- Once developed, the Foster Parent Training Committee will continue to evolve the pre-placement and foundation training curriculum with statewide input.
- In addition to working on the development and evolution of pre-placement and foundation foster parent training content and curriculum, the Foster Parent Training Committee will research and develop a plan for supporting the provision of ongoing training for foster and treatment foster parents.
- With the passage of Act 293 requiring first-time adoptive parents to receive training, the Foster Parent Training Committee's role and membership has been expanded to study and make recommendations on the adoptive parent training requirement.
- The Foster Parent Training Committee will also provide advisement to DCFS staff on revisions to Numbered Memos and Administrative Rules specific to foster, treatment and adoptive parent training.
- Finally, the Foster Parent Training Committee will continue to research the resources necessary to provide the pre-placement, foundation and ongoing training.