



# CHIPS Pilot Update

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CHIPS Parent Attorney Training  
Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020



# Brief Overview

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- 2017 Wisconsin Act 253
- 5 County Pilot Program - Brown, Outagamie, Winnebago, Racine, and Kenosha Counties
- Creates right to counsel for parents facing new CHIPS filings as of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021

# Goal of CHIPS Pilot

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- Provide high-quality representation to parents during pre- and post-disposition CHIPS hearings
  - Increase the chances of success - relative placements & tailored conditions
  - Reduce the number of termination proceedings
  - Increase speed & placement permanency

# Training

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- Today
- Ongoing training through Google Hangouts - working on a way to include private bar in those trainings

# Resources & Collaborations

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- Brief and Motion Bank
- National Collaborations:
  - ABA Center for Children and the Law
  - Center for Family Representation - New York
  - Washington State Office of Public Defense - Parents Representation Team
- Local Collaborations - SPD Staff working with Children's/Juvenile Court workgroups

# Successes

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- Change in allegations
- Increased understanding of process by parents
- Consent decree as opposed to formal disposition order
- Reunification
- Placement with relative

# Challenges and Frustrations

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- Delays in Appointment of Counsel
- Navigating advocacy of clients with case workers
- Challenges to the status quo
- High number of cases in some counties

## A Message from Mimi Laver

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Resources from ABA Center on Children & the Law:

Biannual conferences - Week of April 18, 2021

Parent Listserv

[www.familyjusticeinitiative.org](http://www.familyjusticeinitiative.org)

National Reunification Month - every June

# What is High Quality Parent Representation?

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- Four Cornerstone Framework
  - Visiting & Family Time
  - Placement
  - Services
  - Conferences
- Washington and New York Studies

# Four Cornerstones - Family Time

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- Quantity and Quality Matters
- Will be a repeating theme
- Regular and quality family interaction is a marker for increased chance of reunification.

# Four Cornerstones - Placement

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- Is child only placed out of home due to safety concerns?
- Is a fit and willing relative or like kin available to care for the child?

# Four Cornerstones - Services

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- Is the family getting the services it needs to allow for safely reunifying family?
- Are the conditions in the dispositional order tailored to the family?

# Four Cornerstones - Conferences

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- Is the parent engaged in the case planning process for reunifying the family?
- Does the parent feel agency over their family?

# How can you help?

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- Engage in High Quality Parent Representation practices
- Reach out with questions or concerns

Thank you for helping us bring families back together!