

# Human Services Day at the Capitol

April 13, 2021



WISCONSIN COUNTIES ASSOCIATION

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









# Human Services Day at the Capitol

April 13, 2021



WISCONSIN COUNTIES ASSOCIATION

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



# Welcome



## LANCE PLIML

- ➔ Chair, WCA Board of Directors
- ➔ Wood County Board Chair





# Welcome



## **DIANE CABLE**

---

- ➔ President, Wisconsin County Human Services Association
- ➔ Eau Claire County Human Services Director



# Today's Agenda



April 13, 2021

- Welcome and Introductions
- Guest Speakers
- Legislative Briefing
- Adjourn





# Guest Speaker



## **EMILIE AMUNDSON**

- ➔ Secretary
- ➔ Wisconsin Department of Children and Families



# Guest Speaker



## **KAREN TIMBERLAKE**

- ➔ Interim Secretary
- ➔ Wisconsin Department of Health Services







# Human Services Day at the Capitol

Issues for the Day  
April 13, 2021








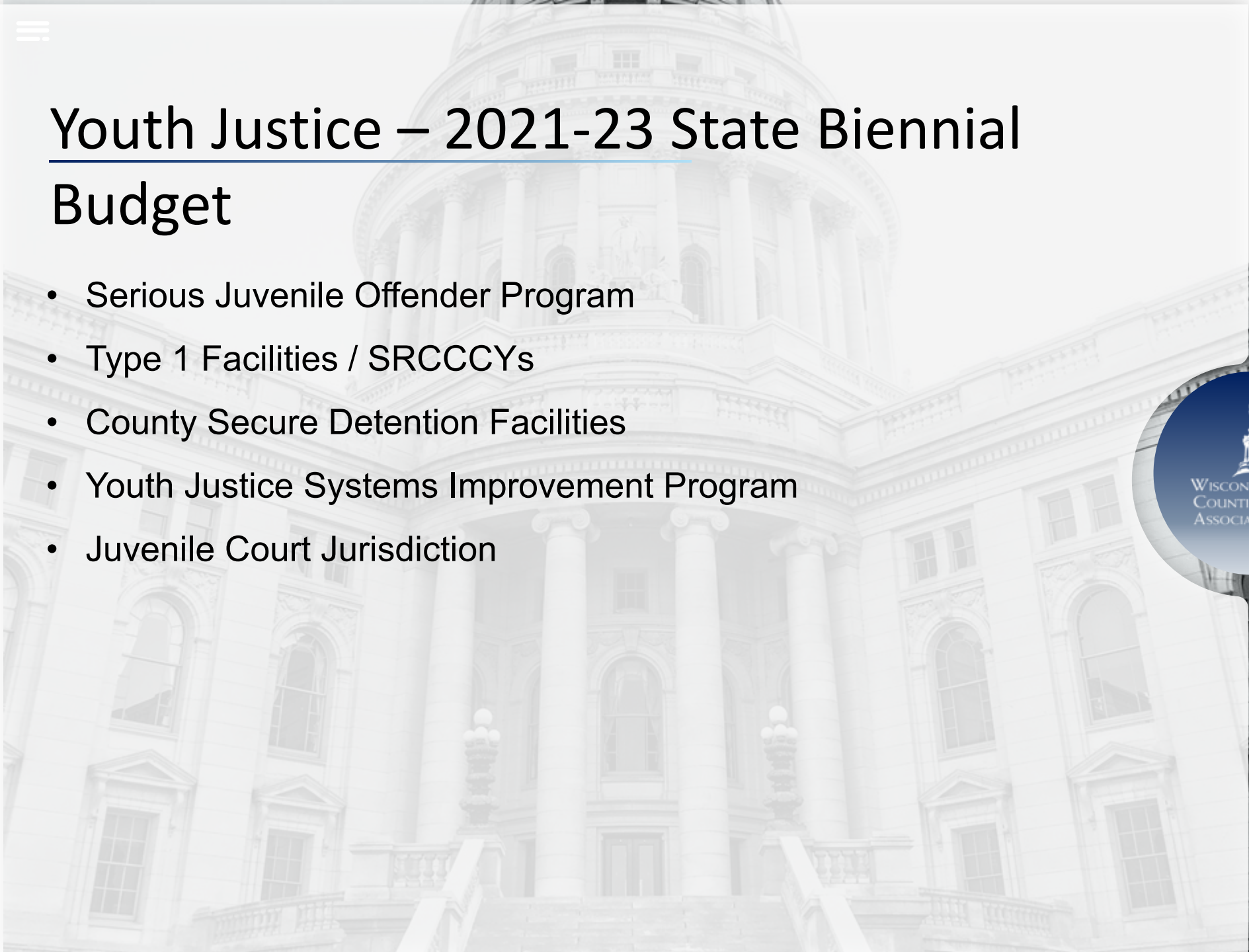
# Youth Justice



Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf  
Deputy Director of Government Affairs







# Youth Justice – 2021-23 State Biennial Budget

- Serious Juvenile Offender Program
- Type 1 Facilities / SRCCCYs
- County Secure Detention Facilities
- Youth Justice Systems Improvement Program
- Juvenile Court Jurisdiction





# Serious Juvenile Offender Program

---

- Program eligibility:
  - If a juvenile is 14 years of age or more and has been adjudicated delinquent for committing a delinquent act that is equivalent to certain Class A, B, or C felony offenses
  - The juvenile is 10 years of age or more and has been adjudicated delinquent for attempting or committing first-degree intentional homicide or for committing first-degree reckless homicide or second-degree intentional homicide
- State funded – counties have no financial responsibility for a juvenile placed in the SJO program





# Governor's Budget

---

- Eliminates the serious juvenile offender program as an available disposition, effective July 1, 2021
- Transfers responsibility for future young offenders to counties
- Replaces the SJOP with an extended juvenile jurisdiction (EJJ) blended sentencing model, beginning July 1, 2022
- Allocates \$5,327,500 GPR in FY22 and \$13,529,700 GPR in FY23 to counties to serve the former SJO population





# Requested Action

---

- Oppose the transfer of responsibility for former SJO youth to counties
- Support further discussion between counties and the state with regard to changes to the youth justice system, including the development of a community-based infrastructure to serve justice-involved youth





# Talking Points

---

- Counties need sufficient time to plan, obtain appropriate staffing, ensure appropriate placement options, etc. for such a change
- Infrastructure for serving these youth in the community does not currently exist
- Until appropriate placement options are created, this provision amounts to no more than a transfer of fiscal responsibility for placements in Lincoln Hills
- The policy change could take effect without the transfer of responsibility





# Type 1 Facilities / SRCCCYs

- The Governor's budget:
  - Eliminates state-run Type 1 facilities
  - Allows both counties and the state to operate secured residential care centers for children and youth (SRCCCYs)
- Removes the July 1, 2021 closure date for Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake
  - Closes when all youth have been transferred to a suitable replacement facility
- Removes rate-setting authority from the Legislature and vests it in DOC







# Requested Action

- Oppose the elimination of statutory daily rates







# Talking Points

---

- Rates could change throughout the year
- Rates likely to increase to over \$1,000 per day from the current \$615 per day
- Disproportionate impact on counties





# County Secure Detention Facilities

- The Governor's budget:
  - Eliminates county 365/180 programs
  - Effective one year after the closure of Lincoln Hills
- Current law: limits the number of youth that may be served in a 365/180 program
  - Tied to current law date in which Lincoln Hills is to close
  - July 1, 2021





# Requested Action

---

- Oppose the elimination of county 365/180 programs
- Remove the following language from Wis. Stat. 938.22 (2) (d) 2.: *After July 1, 2021, the number of juveniles that may be housed at a juvenile detention facility under subd. 1. is limited to the number that is equal to the average daily population of juveniles housed under subd. 1., rounded up to the nearest whole number, of the juvenile detention facility between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2021...*





# Talking Points

---

- Loss of needed bed space
- State replacement facility for Lincoln Hills is 32 beds. Where will youth be housed?
- With Lincoln Hills not closing on July 1, 2021 it is no longer appropriate to limit the number of 365/180 beds







# Youth Justice Systems Improvement Program

---

- The Governor's budget:
  - \$230,000 in FY22 and \$10,837,900 in FY23
  - Community-based grants, residential service grants, and training system improvements
- Support Governor's proposal
- Begins to build community capacity for serving justice-involved youth







# Juvenile Court Jurisdiction

- 17-year-old legislation
- Budget raises the age of adult court jurisdiction to 18 years of age, effective for acts committed on the day after publication
- Sum sufficient appropriation funded at \$10 million
- Position: support but effective date issues







# Talking Points

- Need time to staff and build community-based resources
  - Asking for a July 2022 starting date
- Need clarification on when funding is available compared to starting date







# Child Welfare



Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf  
Deputy Director of Government Affairs





# Family First Prevention Services Act

- Federal law adopted in February 2018
- Focus: keep families intact by reducing the number of children in foster care and building more family-based environments for children who cannot remain safely in their homes
  - Provide preventive services that help families at risk stay together through the use of evidence-based services
- Funding model: modifies how states claim Title IV-E funding
  - Only QRTPs eligible for reimbursement
  - Need a state law change to define and add certain requirements to comply with federal law







# Children and Family Aids

- State and federal funds provided to counties to fund child welfare services
- Current allocation: \$101,359,373
- Even after the significant increase received last budget, the need for additional investment remains



# Subsidized Guardianship

- Permanency option for youth in the child welfare system
- Child welfare agencies are required to offer to all providers who are eligible to receive it
- Used when termination of parental rights (TPR) or parental reunification are not viable options

## Benefits

- Maintains a monthly payment
  - Similar to a foster care payment
- Medicaid eligibility continues
- No need for a TPR order



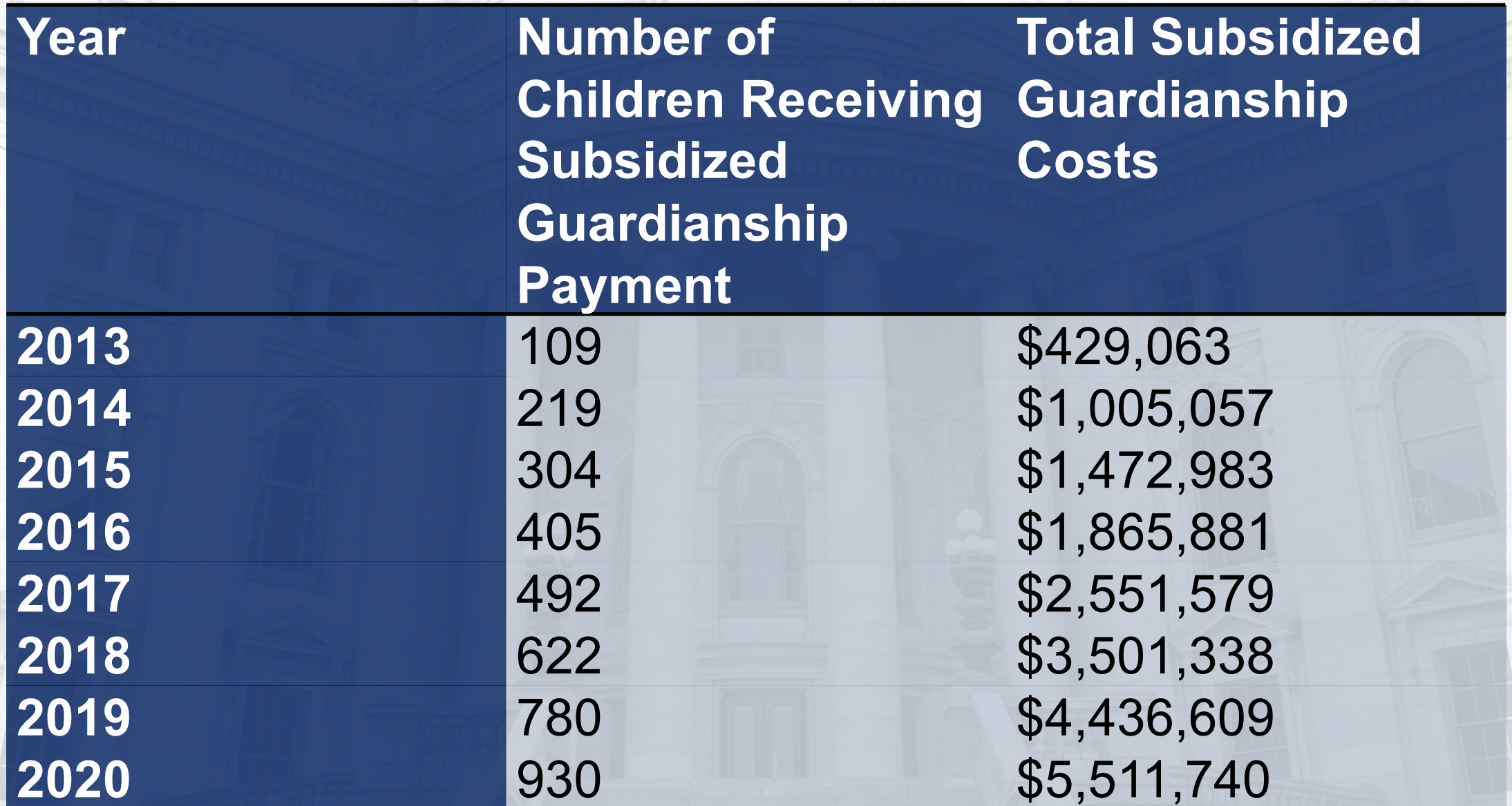


# Subsidized Guardianship

---

- Subsidized guardianship payments are made from each county's Children and Family Aids allocation
- At the time the program was created, counties were told it would be cost neutral
  - That is not the case; county costs continue to rise
  - If youth adopted, payments from the Children and Family Aids allocation would stop
    - If a special needs adoption, payment comes from the Adoption Assistance Program
  - Payment amounts continue to compound





<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Children Receiving Subsidized Guardianship Payment</b>	<b>Total Subsidized Guardianship Costs</b>
<b>2013</b>	109	\$429,063
<b>2014</b>	219	\$1,005,057
<b>2015</b>	304	\$1,472,983
<b>2016</b>	405	\$1,865,881
<b>2017</b>	492	\$2,551,579
<b>2018</b>	622	\$3,501,338
<b>2019</b>	780	\$4,436,609
<b>2020</b>	930	\$5,511,740



# Governor's Budget

---

- The Governor's 2021-23 state biennial budget proposal makes several positive investments in the child welfare system:
  - A \$5 million increase in FY22 and a \$10 million increase in FY23 in the Children and Family Aids allocation
  - Modifications to current law to conform to the Family First Prevention Services Act
  - A \$12,342,700 investment in in-home prevention services
  - \$200,000 to provide training for congregate care providers
  - \$1,000,000 in FY22 and \$500,000 in FY23 for child welfare new worker training
- In 2020, counties spent \$5,511,740 on subsidized guardianship payments







# Requested Action

---

- Support the Governor's proposal
- Transfer payment responsibility for subsidized guardianships to the state in a manner similar to the adoption assistance program





# Talking Points

---

- FFPSA

- If Wisconsin is not in compliance with the FFPSA by September 29, 2021, a significant amount of federal funding will be lost
  - \$8 million
- Counties receive federal IV-E funds as part of their Children and Family Aids allocation. Those funds are used to provide critical child welfare services, including child abuse and neglect assessments, out-of-home placements, reunification services including parenting classes, etc.
- During the 2019-21 state budget process counties successfully made the case for increased child welfare funding; failure to reach timely compliance with the FFPSA requirements will take us a step backwards

Note: There is separate legislation on this provision as well.







# Talking Points

---

- Children and Family Aids
  - The system is still underfunded
  - Staff to caseload ratios still remain high and out-of-home placement costs still weigh heavily on county budgets
  - Counties likely to pay higher rates for placements in QRTPs.





# Talking Points

---

- Subsidized Guardianship
  - Consistent with the payment structure for other permanency options
  - Once a subsidized guardianship is established, the case is essentially closed
    - Child welfare workers cease to work with the family
  - Counties must dedicate funds that would have been previously redirected to other child welfare needs to subsidized guardianship payments







# Mental Health Services



Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf  
Deputy Director of Government Affairs

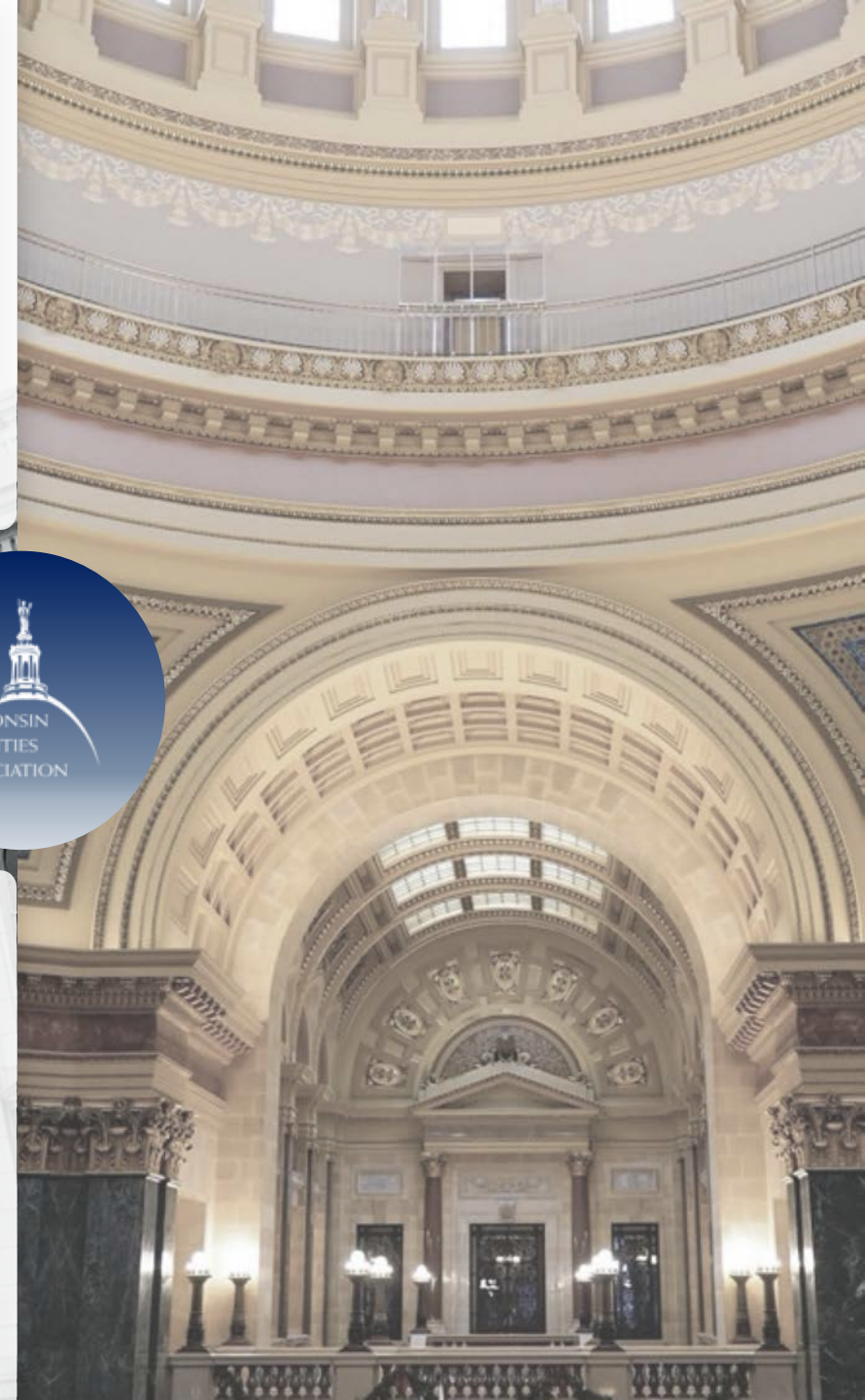




# Mental Health Crisis Services

---

- Counties have the primary responsibility for the well-being, treatment, and care of persons with mental illness and substance use disorders
- Counties can provide services directly or contract for services
- Services must be provided in the least restrictive environment

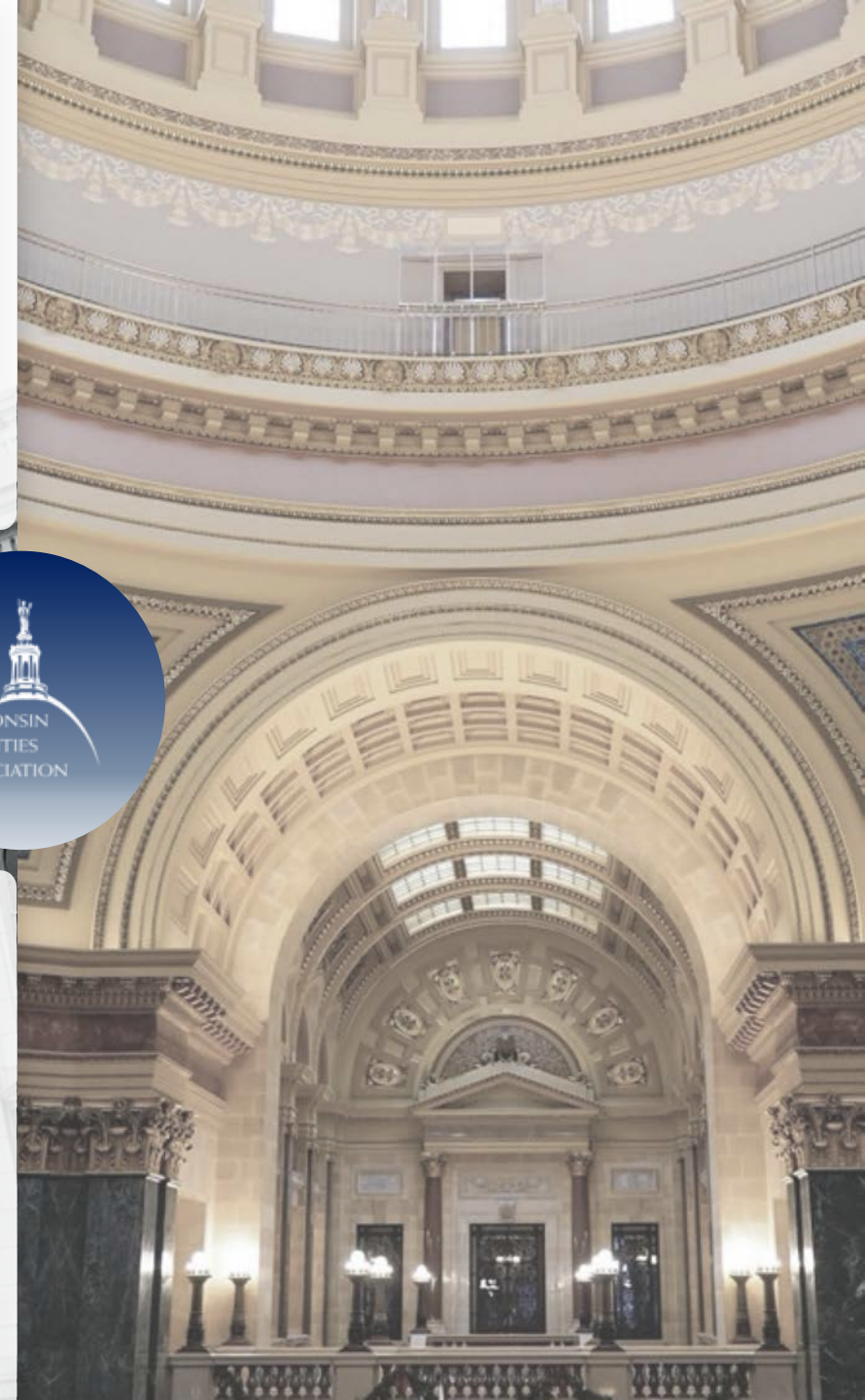




# Emergency Mental Health Services Program

---

- Each county is required to have an emergency mental health services program
- Serve people in crisis situations
- Minimum services: 24-hour crisis telephone service and 24-hour in-person service on an on-call basis
- To qualify for MA: mobile crisis team, walk-in services, short-term voluntary or involuntary hospital care
- Emergency detention under Wis. Stat. Ch. 51





The background of the slide is a large, light-colored image of the Wisconsin State Capitol dome. On the right side, there is a vertical strip showing a closer, more detailed view of the interior of the dome, highlighting the ornate architectural details and the central skylight.

# Emergency Detention

- Concerns with the current process
  - Number and location of beds
  - Lack of placement options
  - Medical clearance
  - Time commitment for law enforcement





# Medical Assistance – SUD Treatment

- Medical assistance provides coverage of substance abuse treatment in community-based, residential settings
  - Access through comprehensive community services (CCS)
  - Residential substance use disorder treatment
- Medicaid funds treatment costs
- Medicaid does not fund room and board
  - Costs paid by counties or individual





# Governor's Budget

---

- Provides \$12.3 million in FY23 to establish up to two regional crisis response centers
- Provides \$5 million in FY23 to establish five regional crisis stabilization facilities
- Directs DHS to pay allowable charges on behalf of recipients of MA for room and board for residential SUD treatment
- Increases MA reimbursement rates paid for outpatient services for mental health and substance abuse and for day treatment services for children and adolescents





# Requested Action

---

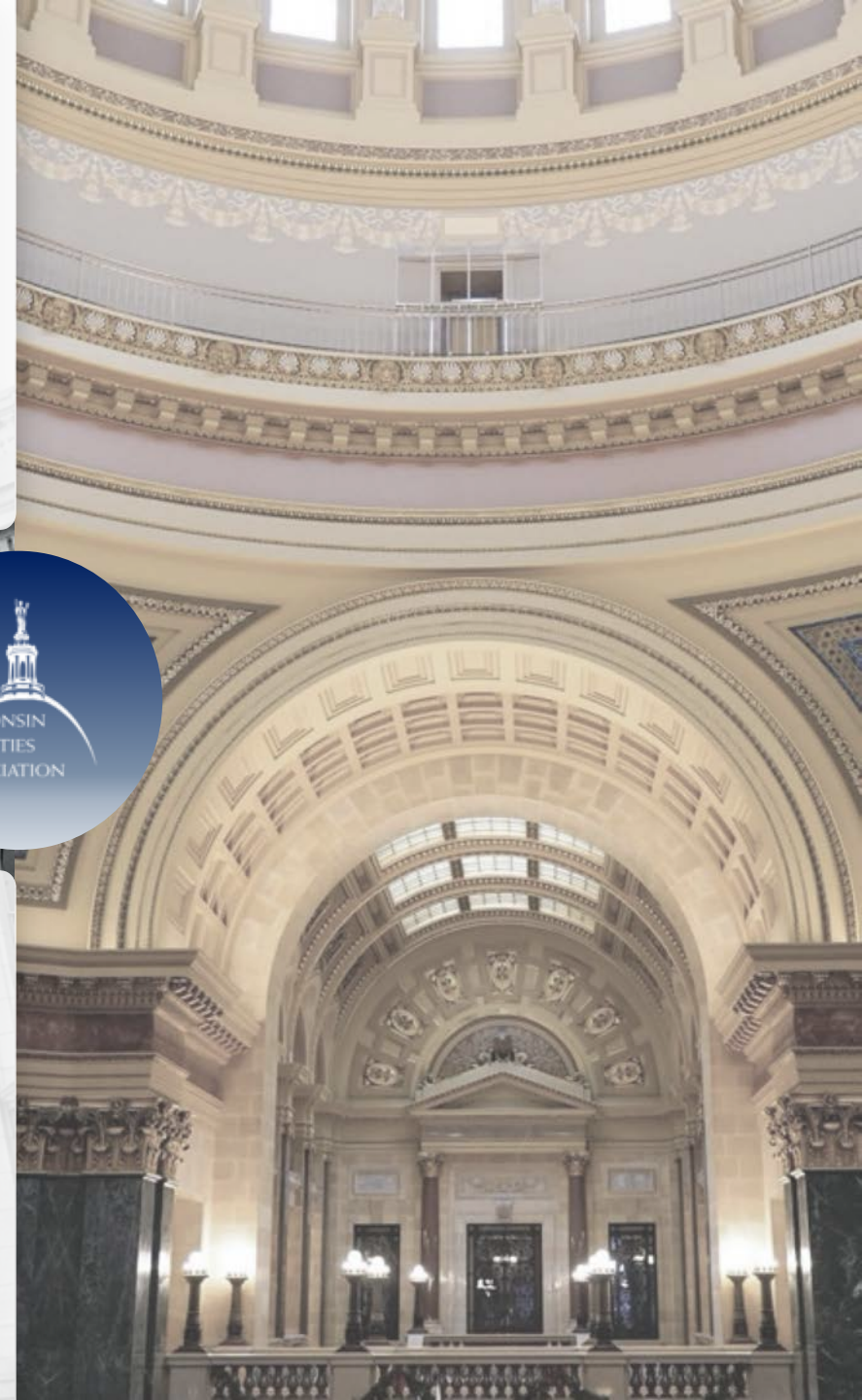
- Support the Governor's recommendation with regard to residential SUD room and board payments
- Support the Governor's recommendation with regard to increased MA rates
- Include funding to construct the infrastructure necessary to support regional behavioral health facilities to serve individuals experiencing a mental health crisis





# Talking Points

- County crisis services costs increasing
- Wisconsin lacks crisis stabilization facilities for adults
- Allows for the placement of individuals in less restrictive settings
- Reduces trauma
- Reduces time spent by law enforcement on emergency detentions
- Increases access to residential SUD programs
- MA rate increases better reflect the costs of providing mental health services





# Child Support



Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf  
Deputy Director of Government Affairs



# Child Support

---

- Program ensures parents provide financial and medical support for their children
- Counties required to contract with the Department of Children and Families to implement and administer the program
- Program funded through a combination of state, federal, and county funds





# Child Support

- County costs have been steadily increasing
  - Growing caseloads, inflation, new federal regulations
- Federal funds based on performance
  - Wisconsin falling in rankings
- Counties lost funding due to state and federal changes related to birth cost recovery
- Counties currently receive \$9,010,000 in GPR support





# Governor's Budget

- Increases state GPR support for local administration of the child support program by \$4 million GPR annually
  - Plus \$7,764,700 in federal matching funds
- Support the Governor's recommendation





# Talking Points

---

- Program draws down federal funds
- \$6.20 in support collected for every dollar invested in the program
- Prior to a small increase in the last budget funding was flat for nearly a decade
  - A third of the request was funded
- Child support agencies save taxpayer dollars
- Federal birth cost recovery change cost county child support agencies \$4.2 million annually







# Income Maintenance Administration Allocation



Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf  
Deputy Director of Government Affairs





# Income Maintenance Administration Allocation

---

- Combination of state and federal funds
  - *50-50 split*
- Used to perform eligibility determinations for economic support programs
  - Medicaid and FoodShare
- Work performed by 10 multi-county consortia





# Income Maintenance Administration Allocation

---

- IMAA funding levels have not always kept pace with the work involved in processing and managing FoodShare and Medicaid cases
- CY 21 base funding: \$36,249,260





# Income Maintenance Administration Allocation

---

- Program currently experiencing increasing caseloads
  - Medicaid caseload: from 412,800 cases in July 2020 to 471,200 in June 2023
  - FoodShare caseload: from 361,700 in July 2020 to 471,200 in June 2023



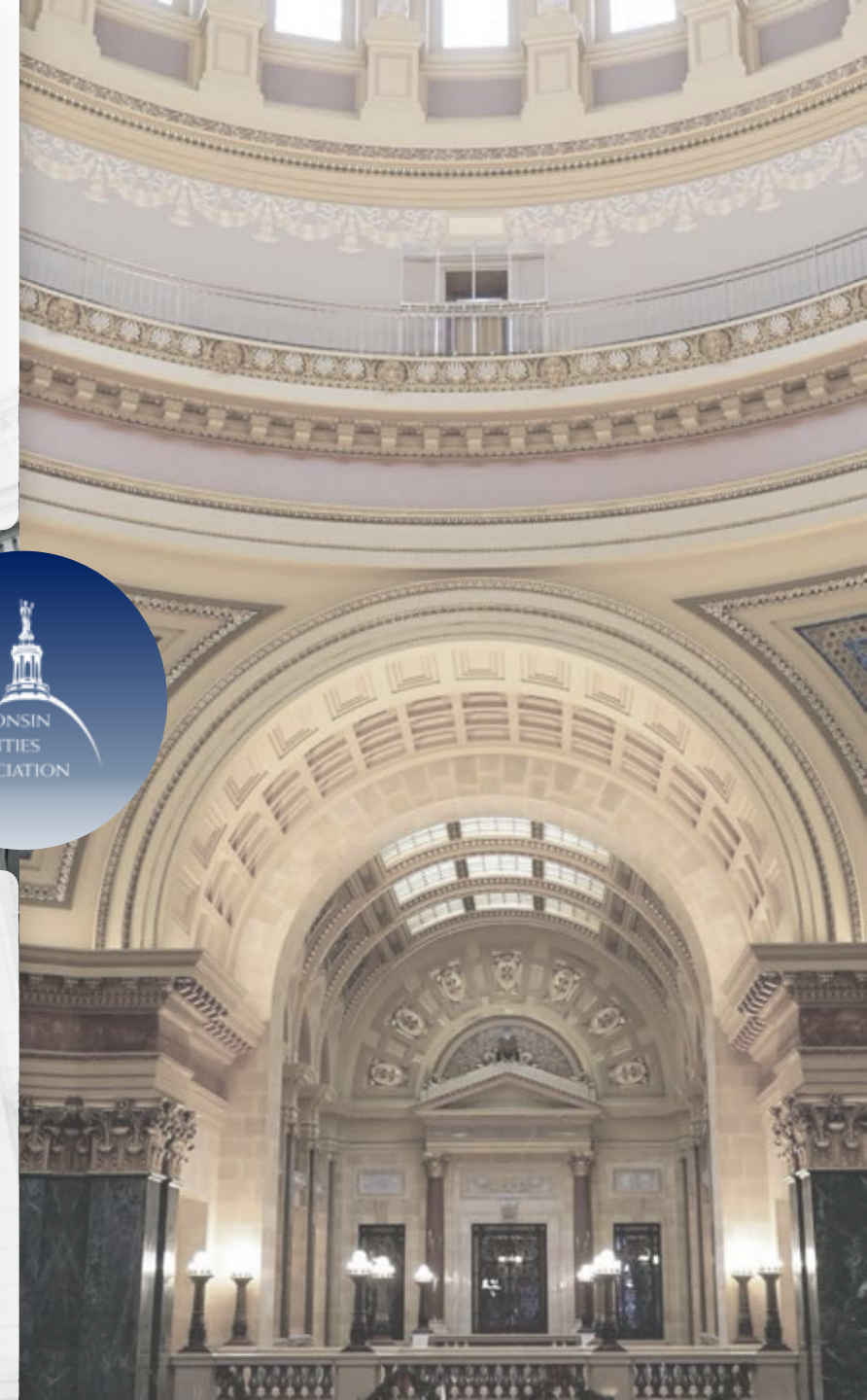




# Fraud Prevention and Intervention Program

---

- County income maintenance consortia are required to operate a Fraud Prevention and Investigation Program (FPIP)
  - Overpayments
  - Intentional program violations
- The FPIP model “focuses on fraud prevention, using investigative staff dedicated to provide all investigation activities under a single funding source, utilizing local agency and/or private contracted investigators.”







# Governor's Budget

---

- Increases the IMAA by \$3,613,200 in FY22 and \$5,292,400 in FY23
- Funds projected workload increase





# Requested Action

---

- Support the Governor's recommendation
- Provide an additional \$500,000 (\$250,000 GPR/\$250,000 FED) annually in the Fraud Prevention and Investigation Program (FPIP)





# Talking Points

---

- Governor's proposal maintains the same level of support per case as in 2020 - \$75.72
- Counties have significant tax levy invested in the program
- In 2020, each \$1 spent on FPIP resulted in savings of \$18.43
- In 2020, counties performed over 19,521 fraud investigations with a total program savings of \$32,255,487







# Birth to Three



Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf  
Deputy Director of Government Affairs





# Birth to Three

---

- Early intervention program for infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities
- Program operationalized at the local level by counties
- Funded through a combination of state, federal, and local revenue
- Program costs continue to increase every year
- Counties fund the highest percentage of program costs





# Governor's Budget

---

- Provides \$1,125,000 each year of the budget (funding continuation)
- Expands Birth to Three services to children who are lead poisoned
  - \$3.3 million GPR in FY22
  - \$6.6 million GPR in FY23





# Requested Action

---

- Maintain Governor's funding levels
- Delete language expanding program eligibility





# Talking Points

---

- Costs continue to increase – counties fund the largest percentage of costs
- Additional revenue requested aligns with county budget request of \$4 million annually
- Current program costs should be covered before eligibility is expanded





# Questions?

To ask a question:

01

Type your  
question in the  
Chat box

02

Type your  
question in the  
Q&A feature

03

Press \*9  
to unmute



# Reminders



CAP  
TEAM





# CAP Team Feedback

Please let us know who you met with and their reaction to/questions about our requests.

Return the Capitol Feedback Form (included in email)  
Send an email to [diedrick@wicounties.org](mailto:diedrick@wicounties.org)