

## IMPROVING YOUR BOTTOM LINE

- **Led a successful initiative** to implement a new Medicaid-funded consultation service for students.
- Developed **guidance on the new retained earnings law** and helped members troubleshoot implementation issues including contract language and audit questions.
- Advocated with Medicaid to **streamline the day treatment prior authorization process**, resulting in fewer delays and increased approvals.
- Pressed for **increases in the proposed statewide rates** for children's long-term support services and worked with members to support increased Medicaid reimbursement rates for mental health and substance use treatment.
- **Consulted on new business opportunities** for program development following the enactment of child welfare financing reform through the Family First Prevention Services Act.

*"The WAFCA team provides top flight information, advocacy, and support in program development, legislative/regulatory advocacy, and business development...Lad Lake's growth, impact and financial sustainability is directly linked to our partnership with WAFCA!"*

DAN MAGNUSON, LAD LAKE



## GROWING BETTER LEADERS & **BETTER PRACTICE**

*"The number one reason I attend WAFCA meetings is networking. The programs are very informative, but it's the time with Wisconsin human services colleagues and thought leaders that I value most. I can't get that anywhere else."*

LYNN BRADY, JOURNEY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

- **Expanded industry knowledge** by compiling and analyzing member data and resources on topics including Comprehensive Community Services, clinic security, informed consent and more.
- Organized **continuing education** training for more than 1000 WAFCA staff and other professionals through the WAFCA-CE program on topics including adolescent engagement, ethics, trauma-informed treatment, gender spectrum competence and supporting grandfamilies.
- Partnered with Chapin Hall to obtain **funding for research** to increase the capacity of private foster care agencies to use research evidence in their practice with the goal of improving outcomes for children in care.
- Deepened understanding and application of a trauma-informed treatment model through online case consultation support in the WAFCA **Summer Trauma Consultation** series

## NETWORKING THAT WORKS FOR YOU

- Designed **member events** featuring state and national policy leaders on topics including the future of child welfare, substance use treatment and Medicaid reimbursement trends, and workforce development.
- Challenged member leaders to adopt new tools for more inclusive agency decision-making to **improve employee engagement** and client outcomes.
- Gathered members through the **Human Resources Community of Practice** with more than 20 member agency HR leaders participating in e-list exchanges and quarterly meetings to promote interagency resource sharing.
- Convened a dozen quality improvement experts from member agencies on the **Impact Data Benchmarking** project, which is influencing agency program decisions and improving care.
- Provided leadership for the **Coalition on Expanding School-Based Mental Health's** legislative agenda and management of its annual Summit attended by more than 400 school and mental health professionals from around the state.

## AMPLIFYING YOUR VOICE

- Organized targeted **opportunities for members to meet with key state officials** on issues like children’s long-term support, youth justice system reforms and licensing issues.
- Advocated for **reform of Medicaid certification policies** to align with state law on licensed mental health professionals providing substance use treatment services.
- Collaborated with the leaders of the Speaker’s Foster Care Task Force to structure a series of statewide listening sessions and **increased member agency visibility through invited testimony** before the Task Force.
- Represented mental health providers at a **briefing of federal officials**, including US Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar and US Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos regarding successful Wisconsin school-based mental health services models.
- Appeared on **Wisconsin Public Radio as subject expert** on policy initiatives advanced through the Speaker’s Foster Care Task Force and on school-based mental health funding and benefits.
- Co-chaired a systemwide workgroup** to address the gaps in the continuum of services for children with complex needs resulting in the release of recommendations for policy, practice and funding reforms.
- Served as **key consultants for DCF forums** providing technical assistance and best practice sharing for group homes, residential care centers and child placing agencies.

## SAVING YOU TIME

- Fielded **member requests for assistance** with issues ranging from accreditation to licensing to HIPAA to prior authorization and connected members to the expertise of WAFCA colleagues.
- Launched a **new career center** adding another “tool in the toolbox” for members seeking new talent in this competitive workforce environment.
- Hosted **online training** on the DCF cost reporting process and provided support to member agencies as they completed their reports and negotiated 2019 daily rates.

*“As always, I left the call with more options and resources than I anticipated. I truly appreciate your unending guidance, support, and connections! (and, yes, you can quote me any-time.)”*

**MECHELE SHIPMAN, ANU FAMILY SERVICES**

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