



2022

ANNUAL REPORT

*Wisconsin Association of
Family & Children's Agencies*



A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

While some may look back at 2022 as a year for returning to “normal,” there is no question that our WAFCA team found ourselves in a changed environment:

- as an agency, we expanded our team and continued to transition toward a permanently remote office operation.
- as a network we returned to in-person connection while sustaining an increased commitment to virtual training and events.
- as advocates, we focused more energy on external stakeholders and translated the key messages developed through our Future of Human Services initiative into our engagement with county, state and coalition partners – even as we navigated divided government on the state and federal levels.

Through it all, our WAFCA team, alongside our remarkable Board of Directors, invested deeply in our core commitment to advance our sector through thoughtful advocacy, targeted partnerships, high-quality professional development, and meaningful member connections.

While we are serious about our work on your behalf, our team seeks to approach each interaction with joy, grace, and humor – embracing a new mascot in 2022 who reminds us to keep “sticking our necks out” for our members every day.

Kathy Markeland.

YOUR WAFCA TEAM



*Left to Right:
Johanna, Allyson, Emily, Kathy*

*we call these
WAFCA-striches*

NEW IN 2022

Intended Impact Statement

WAFCA member agencies will have the support necessary to live into their values, advance their mission, and deliver services in an ethical, sustainable, and equitable manner.

To support continued advancement of WAFCA's intended impact, WAFCA released a new **Member Survey** tool, which will circulate annually and gather feedback such as:

“ WAFCA has always done a great job of advocating on behalf of member agencies. They are a tremendous resource for agencies working with children & families! ”

“ I appreciate opportunity to gather with other leaders from like organizations and work through common challenges, share resources, and improve services. ”

Team Growth — Operations Manager, *Johanna Nelson*

Johanna joined our team in early 2022. Her experience includes working with children in after-school, preschool, and childcare programs, as well as administrative coordination of travel. Johanna enjoys studying the impact of trauma and chronic stress on brain development and how to foster resilience. She is passionate about the importance of early experiences and supporting children, families, and professionals to promote healthy relationships & futures.

A favorite quote of Johanna's: *"If the children and youth of a nation are afforded opportunity to develop their capabilities to the fullest, if they are given the knowledge to understand the world and the wisdom to change it, then the prospects for the future are bright." — Urie Brofenbrenner*

In-House Social Media Management

After a six-month contract with a social media management company in 2021, our team shifted our operations in-house! Allyson Forseth, our Behavioral Health Initiatives Manager, puts her creativity and design skills to use in creating our graphics and posts.


We have seen **our LinkedIn audience grow 55%** over the past year and enjoy staying digitally connected with members & community partners.

ADVOCATE *COLLABORATING FOR IMPACT*

Supporting children, families, and service providers with complex needs

- Engaged in the Wisconsin County Human Services Association's (WCHSA) **Organizational Effectiveness Process**

- Developed and facilitated the **Resource Connection Session Pilot**

see here:  [Pilot Final Report](#)  [Pilot Executive Summary](#)

- Presented at the **Wisconsin County Association's Annual Conference** with La Crosse County
- Helped secure **\$7.5 million in ARPA funds** for resources designed to improve access and services for children with complex needs



Improving mental health and substance use disorder services

- Passed legislation to put **substance use disorder treatment in scope of Advanced Placement Social Worker certification**
- Partnered in forming a **Mental Health Action Partnership** with NAMI-WI and other stakeholders to pursue mental health system redesign
- Presented to the **Office of Children's Mental Health Collective Impact Council**
- Supported member agencies in **advancing licenses through the Department of Safety & Professional Services** and facilitated connections with leadership

Advancing meaningful change via legislation

- **Led Raise the Age Coalition efforts:** informational webinar to grow the Coalition; Steering Committee's 2022 Strategy Session facilitation; YWCA Racial Justice Summit presentation; meetings with legislators; secured a Senate lead
- Engaged on **safe harbor legislation for youth experiencing sex trafficking**, and a range of **adoption and foster care proposals**
- Worked with legislators on proposals to permit **video recording in congregate care, deemed status for accreditation, liability reform**, and establishing **fair licensing standards** for master's level mental health practitioners
- Worked closely with national partners on concerns related to the conflict between the **Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) and federal regulations prohibiting** Medicaid coverage for youth receiving services in an **Institute for Mental Disease (IMD)**.
- Supported **national partner FFTA** with the **May Policy Institute** by coordinating remote meetings for the Wisconsin delegation with congressional offices.

INFORM

Information Sharing



33 newsletters to over **1,800 recipients**

Newly Developed in 2022

launched January 1, 2023



Member Benefit:
Online Learning System



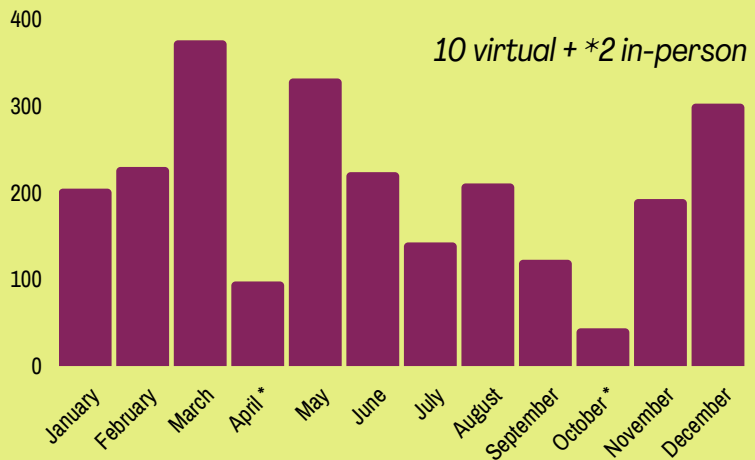
Non-member Option:
Individual CE Subscriptions



12 CE events with over **2,400 participants**



2022 events



Grant-Funded & Collaborative Initiatives

- Continued leadership in the **Coalition for Expanding School-Based Mental Health** in partnership with the *Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction*

- Hybrid School Mental Health Summit** (June 2022)
 - NEW School Mental Health Works! Podcast** (December 2022)



podcast

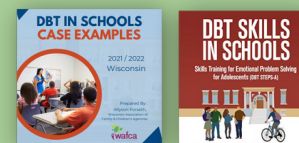
- Continued provision of funded **training opportunities & professional resources** thanks to partnership with the *Great Lakes Mental Health Technology Transfer Center*

- Provided training to over 80 members & county/school partners**
 - Girls Moving On
 - Compassion Resilience
 - DBT in Schools

- Published two new **WAFCA-CE Quick Guides**

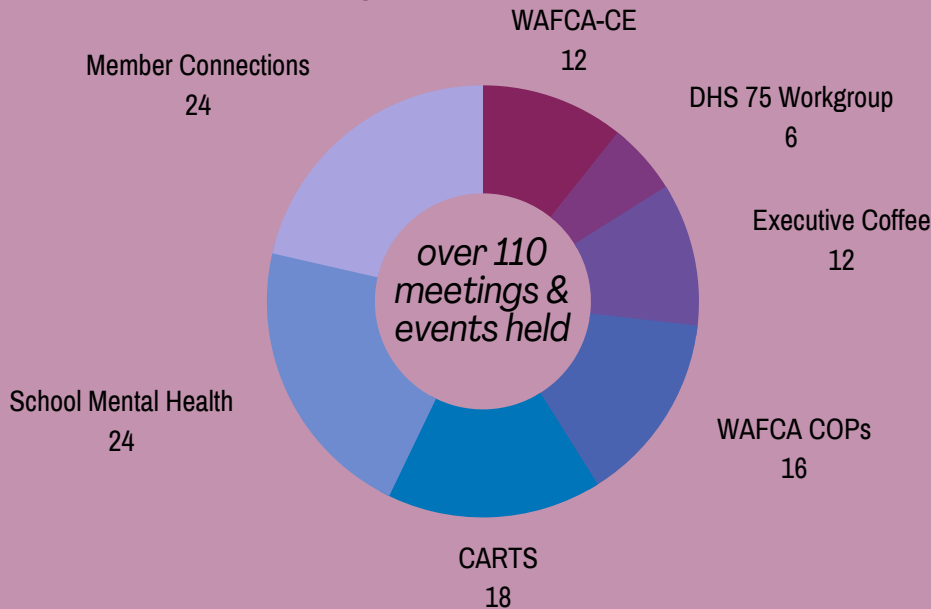


- Published **DBT in Schools implementation case examples report**



CONNECT

Member Convenings



Member Growth

WAFCA welcomed three new member agencies in 2022!

The Production Farm

Catalpa Health

Catholic Charities of Madison



Catalpa Health.



- Prioritized connection with **over 110 meetings and events**
- Connected with **Communities of Practice**:
 - Human Resources, Impact Data, Senior Financial Leaders, Clinical Supervisors
 - Child & Adolescent Residential Treatment & Services (CARTS)
- Initiated **Monthly Executive Coffee & Conversation**
- Advanced work of **Impact Data group** by leveraging expertise of Chapin Hall
- Convened workgroup to support transitions under the **new DHS 75** administrative rule
- **Reconvened in-person** for WAFCA Institute and the 2022 WAFCA Member Meeting!



WAFCA Institute, June 2022



Thank You to Our Event Sponsors!

