



WAFCA 2014 Review

Highlights • Collaborations • Achievements

WAFCA promotes public policy, best practice and partnerships that support our member agencies in pursuing their mission to improve the lives of children and families.

Revised WAFCA Mission and Brand

Under the leadership of the Board, WAFCA continued progress on the Strategic Plan by engaging members and a consultant to launch a refreshed look and a renewed mission.

This new consistent look and feel, along with a clarified messaging strategy will help WAFCA communicate more clearly and efficiently with members, key leaders in county and state government and other partners in Wisconsin human services.

More Networking and Member-to-Member Expertise

WAFCA worked with members on redesigning annual events to make them even more engaging and inspiring to WAFCA Executives and their next generation of leaders.



Health Care Reform: Learning Together



Through events and targeted e-news, WAFCA helped members navigate the changing health care landscape. Tapping the expertise of members and key health leaders, WAFCA explored the future of mental health services under the ACA, outlined elements of critical agency and community conversations, and helped members consider their strategic positioning as health reform continues to transform human services.

Researched & Compiled Critical Information for Member Support and Advocacy

Members contributed time and data to build collective knowledge on:

- Workers Compensation
- Services to Youth with Adoption Histories
- Outpatient & School Mental Health
- Electronic Health Records



Targeted Advocacy on Medical Assistance Yields Results

- When changes to the common procedure code restricted agency billing to only 1 hour of group therapy a day, WAFCA notified MA of the problem and facilitated an analysis of group therapy billing. This led to MA action to increase the group therapy code to 2 hours and an adjustment to the payment to reflect the increased time.
- WAFCA supported release of funds for Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) and provided workshop sessions and guidance for members on county contracting opportunities to increase CCS for individuals.



Continued Leadership in Key Child Welfare Policy and Rate Discussions

- Encouraged DCF formation of the “CPA Forum,” which launched in 2014 and will convene regularly for CPAs, licensers and policymakers to explore issues of common interest.
- Provided leadership and staff support for the Rate Regulation Performance Measurement and Fiscal Subcommittees.
- Initiated survey of providers and purchasers on rate regulation.
- Advised members on how to respond to DCF’s Performance Dashboard and to prepare for cost reporting.
- Secured maximum rate increases for all provider groups in 2015.



Promoted Successful Passage of Laws to Improve Care and Protect Youth



WAFCA tracked legislative developments, facilitated member connections with policymaker and contributed to passage of new laws including:

- [Extension of foster care](#) to age 21 for youth with IEPs.
- Expanded access to [MA In-home therapy](#) for children with severe emotional disturbance
- Improvements in victim rights protections and establishing new penalties in cases of [human trafficking](#).
- Increased options for appropriate [voluntary placement in shelters](#).
- New [adoption protections](#) that prohibit online advertising for adoption and restricts delegation of parental powers.

Trainings and Collaboration with Colleagues

- Confirming Safe Environments – collaborated with DCF’s child welfare training partnerships to offer CSE training to private agency staff.
- Youth Work Webinars – in partnership with WACYCP offered webinars for direct care workers on ethics, human trafficking and client rights.
- Suicide Awareness Training – worked with Mental Health America of Wisconsin to offer free Suicide Awareness Training and allow agencies to develop internal trainers in this suicide prevention curriculum.
- Senior Financial Leaders – continued to gather financial professionals from member agencies to share best practices in audits, employee benefits, budgeting and government contracting.

Hired Lobbying Firm: Hubbard Wilson & Zelenkova

WAFCA hired HWZ to increase WAFCA’s presence and effectiveness with the legislature and department secretaries and staff.



In 2014, HWZ helped WAFCA to:

- Increase visibility with legislative leaders, the Governor’s office and his administration.
- Participate in leadership of a broader provider coalition focusing on Medicaid prior authorization process problems.

Thank you for being a vital part of our partnership to improve lives!