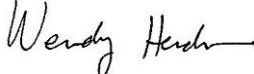


To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator
DCF Area Administrators
Child Placing Agency Directors
Child Welfare Agency Directors
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors
Group Home Providers
Tribal Social Service/Indian Child Welfare Directors
Private Child Placing Agencies
Residential Care Center Providers
Shelter Care Providers
Tribal Chairpersons

From: Wendy Henderson 
Administrator

Re: Birth to Three Referral Automation

PURPOSE

This memo describes the automation of Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) referrals through the eWiSACWIS System.

BACKGROUND

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Department of Health Services (DHS) Bureau of Children's Services collaborated to automate CAPTA referrals from Child Protective Services to the Birth to 3 Program. This move was in recognition of the heightened vulnerability of children with disabilities and the potential benefits of participating in Birth to 3 Programs by children with substantiated cases of abuse and neglect.

As Child Protection Services (CPS) Professionals, we witness firsthand what many studies show, that young children involved with child welfare often exhibit delays in neurological and cognitive development, early language skills, and behavior. Understanding vulnerability helps professionals serving children anticipate and mitigate risk to health and safety and the potential for serious injury. Research indicates that children with disabilities face greater risk to health and safety than children without disabilities.

In recognition of the need for child welfare and early intervention systems to work together, Congress established a partnership between the two systems intended to help young children involved in substantiated cases of abuse or neglect with the 2003 and 2010 reauthorizations of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) and the 2011 reauthorization of the Part C regulations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) of 2004. CAPTA requires state child welfare programs that receive Title IV-E funds to refer children under the age of three who are involved in a substantiated case of abuse or neglect to early intervention services. Part C of IDEA requires Birth to 3 Programs to coordinate with child welfare agencies on such referrals (Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 303.302(c) (1) (ii) (G)). Historically, these referrals have been provided through a paper process in Wisconsin.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

Currently, Initial Assessment Professionals are required to manually refer and document referrals for

children eligible under CAPTA for the Birth to Three Program in eWiSACWIS. In order to ease this burden, through the collaborative effort between program and technical staff from both DCF and DHS, CAPTA Birth to Three referrals will be automated through the eWiSACWIS System.

Beginning October 31, 2019, upon Supervisory Approval of an Initial Assessment that includes a determination of substantiated child maltreatment allegation associated with a child under the age of three, an automated referral to the Birth to Three Program will be generated in eWiSACWIS and will be sent via electronic transmission to the respective DHS Bureau of Health Services data system, Program Participation System (PPS) for processing. These referrals will be recorded in eWiSACWIS under the Person Management tab and will also be reflected on the Results tab of the Initial Assessment. CPS Professionals will continue to have the option to manually generate electronic Birth to Three referrals through eWiSACWIS on children under the age of three who were not the victims of a substantiated allegation of child abuse or neglect.

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Program and Policy Analyst
 Bureau of Safety and Wellbeing
 608 422-6958

MEMO WEB SITE: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>

Webinar Series Birth to Three Automated Referrals
 <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/webinars>