

# What is Collective Impact?

Collective impact is an innovative and structured approach to address complex social issues and systems change. The process brings together a wide variety of stakeholders who use data to identify root causes of a problem. Once the problem's complexity is understood, the group implements solutions and monitors outcomes by using shared measures. This approach consists of five characteristics which include:

- a common agenda
- shared measures
- mutually reinforcing activities
- continuous communication
- a backbone organization

## Backbone Organization

Collective impact literature outlines that in order to maintain a vital collective impact change process, there must be "a separate organization dedicated to coordinating the various dimensions and collaborators involved in the initiative." OCMH enthusiastically

## The Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health

The Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health (OCMH) has a unique charge. Instead of focusing on program development or providing direct services, the OCMH was created to enhance communication within and between state agencies serving children and families, coordinate initiatives, and monitor program performance. Additionally, the OCMH is charged with identifying administrative efficiencies and improving access to services provided by the Department of Children and Families, Department of Corrections, Department of Health Services, the Department of Public Instruction, as well as county and community-based organizations serving Wisconsin's children. [WI Statute 51.025](#)

For more information about the Children's Mental Health Collective Impact Parent and Youth Partners, please contact Joann

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### Collective Impact Partners

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# Collective Impact Partners

*"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."*

**- Helen Keller**

2016 Meetings

January 22

February 5

March 4

April 1

May 5

June 3

July TBD

August 5

September 9

October 7

November 4

December 2

***Nothing About Us Without Us***

The Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health believes that true and lasting system improvement and transformation will occur when policies and programs are driven by parents and youth who have experienced the ins-and-outs of the current child and family-serving systems. Through this ***"lived experience,"*** parents and youth provide insight and direction to well-meaning policy makers and providers who have designed systems and programs from an often singular perspective of "professionals know best." With the addition of these powerful voices, the child serving systems will become more effective, efficient, and engaging.

***"If you can dream it,  
you can do it."  
- Walt Disney***

The OCMH has big dreams. We plan to realize many of these through activities such as the following:

- Support parent and youth collective impact partners leadership and participation.
- Provide technical assistance to state agencies and other stakeholders committed to including parent and youth voice in policy and program development.
- Assist the Department of Health Services in the development of certified parent peer specialists.
- Participate as a member of the Fostering Futures Steering Committee.
- Initiate a public/private partnership designed to raise awareness of the impact of ACEs and to promote resilience in a select number of workplaces.

In 2016, we anticipate that the Children's Mental Health Collective Impact work will bring Wisconsin's innovation in children's mental health to heights beyond even our current imagination.

*There is significant power in Wisconsin's motto, "Forward." This concept is reflected in the Office of Children's Mental Health's focus on innovation, integration, and improvement. More specifically, the Children's Mental Health Collective Impact process is the epitome of what it is to move "Forward." As the backbone of this collective impact initiative, the OCMH facilitates a diverse group of people who are creating a forward direction that will lead to a healthier and more prosperous state for all who call Wisconsin home."*

- Tina Buhrow Collective Impact Parent

The parent/caregiver and youth partners, or CIPs, bring decades of lived experience to their participation and leadership in the Children's Mental Health Collective Impact Executive Council meetings and workgroups. With their insights and guidance, state agencies and other collaborating partners are better able to recognize gaps in services, deficient programs, and unhelpful or cumbersome policies and practices.

CIPs meet before each Executive Council meeting to review meeting content and goals and then reconvene after the Executive Council meetings to discuss meeting highlights and next steps. On the months that the Executive Council does not meet, the CIPs gather for training, sharing information, and building relationships.