State of Utah
Department of Human Service
Division of Child and Family Services

Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention
Annual Progress Report
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INTRODUCTION

In response to ACYF-CB-PI-21-03 entitled Community-Based Grants for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect or Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) published March 4, 2021, the State of Utah Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) is submitting Utah’s FFY 2021 CBCAP Annual Report. This report highlights the agency’s Child Abuse Prevention Program activities and achievements.

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

Organizational Structure

In Utah, DHS is responsible for the administration of programs and services provided using funding authorized through Titles IV-B, IV-E, and XX of the Social Security Act. The department has designated DCFS as the agency responsible for implementing and providing direct oversight of Title IV-B and Title IV-E programs, as well for administering all child welfare programs and services funded through Title II of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA).

The child welfare system in Utah is state administered. DCFS is the lead child welfare agency and provides services throughout the state. The Division is responsible for agency planning, collaboration with state legislators, implementation and coordination of federally funded programs, policy development, information system development and maintenance, and the overall management of child welfare programs and services. DCFS is also responsible for designing services, developing contracts, and establishing standards for all services delivered directly by the division, as well as those offered by program and service providers with which it contracts.

In addition, DHS Office of Quality and Design (OQD) is responsible for monitoring contracts, monitoring internal and external service effectiveness, and evaluating qualitative and quantitative data to help shape how and what services have the greatest success in achieving the results for children, youth, families and adults. OQD was previously also responsible for service array and contract development, but this responsibility shifted back to the divisions in 2021. In response, DCFS created a new team to address this work.

Management

The Division Director is the administrative head of the division. The director’s office is located in the state administrative office in Salt Lake City, Utah.

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Three administrative teams coordinate activities and make policy decisions that guide agency programs and services. First, the DCFS State Office Administrative Team meets weekly and is comprised of the Director; two Deputy Directors; Finance; Administrators for Implementation and Region Support, Project Management, Continuous Quality Improvement, Data, Professional Development, Information Systems, Federal Operations; Communications; and Administrative Support. This body has the primary responsibility for overseeing state office operations, including planning, budgeting, and communications. Second, a Region Director meeting is held twice monthly and includes the Director, two Deputy Directors, the five Region Directors, and Administrative Support. This team is responsible for coordinating statewide operations and ensuring consistency of practice and access to services across the state. Third, the State Leadership Team (SLT) meets monthly and consists of the DCFS State Office Administrative Team and the five Region Directors. This team connects the work done by the DCFS State Office Administrative Team and the RD group to align State Office operations with region needs.

Region Directors, located in five geographically defined regions, lead their administrative teams and are responsible for their region’s budget, personnel, interagency partnerships, and service delivery. Staff members in the regions deliver services statewide to children and families. Governmental, private for-profit, and nonprofit contract providers deliver additional services.

Within DCFS, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator manages the Child Abuse Prevention Program and is supervised by the Administrator for Implementation and Region Support.

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In coordination with the Child Welfare Improvement Council (CWIC), the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator coordinates DCFS child abuse prevention program planning activities and implements the agency’s child abuse prevention service delivery strategy. The program administrator is responsible to provide leadership and support for child abuse prevention activities and for developing and managing DCFS child abuse prevention contracts with community agencies that deliver child abuse prevention services.

**Lead Agency Role**

The division’s main role in the child abuse and neglect prevention system is to identify and address prevention service related needs, to provide leadership and support for child abuse prevention activities in the state, to develop and oversee grant application processes, to award state and federal funding to organizations that provide prevention services, and to monitor community programs with which it contracts. In addition to the role of the state CBCAP Lead, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator also provides support for the state’s 11 Family Support Centers and the State Children’s Trust Account.

Utah Code 62A-4a-305 *Prevention and Treatment Programs* mandates that DCFS child abuse prevention programs “shall be designed to provide voluntary primary abuse and neglect prevention and voluntary or
court-ordered treatment services, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the following community-based programs:

1. Those relating to prenatal care, perinatal bonding, child growth and development, basic child care, care of children with special needs, and coping with family stress;
2. Those relating to crisis care, aid to parents, abuse counseling, support groups for abusive or potentially abusive parents and their children, and early identification of families where the potential for abuse and neglect exists;
3. Those clearly designed to prevent the occurrence or recurrence of abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, medical or educational neglect, and such other programs as the division and council may, from time to time, consider potentially effective in reducing the incidence of family problems leading to abuse or neglect; and
4. Those designed to establish and assist community resources that prevent abuse and neglect.”

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator is the manager of the agency’s child abuse prevention program and also receives assistance with planning and program development from the DCFS sponsored CWIC, which, as stated in its bylaws:

- Promotes and advocates for best practices to prevent child abuse and neglect.
- Advises DCFS on matters relating to child abuse and neglect (e.g. programs, policies, and guidelines) and, with the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator, submits their findings and recommendations to the division director at least biannually.
- Recommends to the division how Children’s Trust Account (CTA) and the CBCAP funds shall be allocated.
- Supports and assists division professional staff as they develop rules, policies, and guidelines, advocates for legal and legislative actions, informs the public, and secures and maintains adequate funding.
- Fosters collaboration with other state and local organizations, agencies, and individuals who are involved in the treatment and prevention of child abuse and neglect.
- Advocates for the availability and accessibility of child abuse and neglect services to residents of the state in a manner that preserves human dignity and assures continuity of high-quality care without regard to race, religion, socio-economic status, gender, language, or cultural background.

In conformance with its bylaws, the CWIC’s Grants Subcommittee works with the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator to: 1) assess which evidence-based programs and services are needed and available in each DCFS region, 2) develop the Scope of Work included in CBCAP Requests for Grant Applications (RGA), 3) review and score applications from community service organizations seeking CBCAP or CTA funding, and 4) develop a protocol that ensures that funds are equitably distributed to contract providers throughout the state.

**Supported Services**

In FFY 2021, Utah’s CBCAP funds supported several services and programs. The following programs received funding during the prior contract cycle (2015-2020) and received renewed funding for the 2021-2023 contract cycle:

- Carbon County Family Support Center *Parents as Teachers* home visiting program.
- Utah County Health Department *Parents as Teachers* home visiting program.
• United Way Help Me Grow Program, which supports parents in promoting optimal development during pregnancy and early childhood.
• Utah Family Strengthening Network (UFSN), Utah’s affiliate with the National Family Support Network (NFSN), which provides training and support for any family-serving agency in the state. Trainings are focused on the Center for the Study of Social Policy’s (CSSP) Five Protective Factors and the NFSN’s Standards of Quality.
• Uplift Families 2021 Parenting TIPS televised event and online Parent Resource Center. Uplift Families was initiated by the former First Lady of Utah and has continued, despite a new governor being elected in 2020.

The following programs received funding during the 2021-2023 contract cycle and are new recipients of CBCAP funding as of January 2021; these programs provide home visiting services in parts of the state that previously did not have access to home visiting:

• Prevent Child Abuse Utah’s Parents as Teachers home visiting program (allowing for expansion to Davis and Box Elder Counties).
• The Family Place’s Parents as Teachers home visiting program (serving Cache and Rich Counties).

The following program received CBCAP funding during the prior contract cycle but was transitioned to CTA funding as of January 2021:

• The Guadalupe School Parents as Teachers home visiting program.

**ACTIONS TO ADVOCATE FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE**

**Involvement in Statewide Systemic Change Efforts**

**State Agency Realignment**

In March 2021, the Utah State Legislature passed a bill directing the Department of Human Services and the Department of Health to consolidate into a single state agency, the Utah Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), effective July 1, 2022. Thirty consolidation workgroups, comprised of dozens of employees, were created to inform transition planning. These workgroups met at least weekly throughout much of 2021 to identify opportunities for optimal realignment in order to serve Utahans more effectively, discuss risks and benefits of merging specific services, set priorities for the first nine months of the realignment process, and make realignment recommendations to the steering committee.

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator has historically held a unique role in collaborating closely with the Department of Health (DOH). Because of the program administrator’s prior involvement with many key health department functions, the program administrator was invited to participate on several consolidation workgroups throughout the summer and fall of 2021. The workgroups included:

• Communications Workgroup and its Public Education and Outreach Subgroup (Co-Chair).
• Centralization Workgroup.
• Population Health Workgroup and its Prevention Subgroup.
• Children, Youth and Families workgroup and its Early Childhood Subgroup.
The meetings and tasks associated with each of these groups required a significant amount of the program administrator’s time. The program administrator also participated in regular community and stakeholder engagement meetings. Some of the program administrator’s prevention-related goals were placed on hold in order to focus on consolidation activities. Despite this added responsibility, the program administrator is grateful for the opportunity to have been involved in these workgroups and help inform important decisions that will affect the future of services for Utah’s children and families.

The workgroups’ activities are currently paused while the governor and legislature review the final transition plan created by the workgroups. Some of the workgroups will reconvene in 2022 to implement the proposed consolidation plan and make ongoing adjustments to structure, policy, and practice. More information about the Utah DHHS consolidation can be found here.

Federal Child and Family Services Strategic Plans, Reports, and Reviews

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator is a member of the DCFS Implementation and Region Support Team. This team routinely meets to review and revise casework practices and identify strategies used to deliver agency programs and services, which are integrated into DCFS Practice Guidelines, the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP), the Child and Family Services Review-Performance Improvement Plan (CFSR-PIP), and Utah’s Title IV-E Plan for Foster Care and Adoption Assistance. The program administrator is also consulted concerning implementation of the Five-Year Title IV-E Prevention Program Plan under the Family First Prevention Services Act.

The program administrator also takes an active role in the DHS Qualitative Case Review (QCR) process of DCFS cases. QCRs are conducted annually and involve an in-depth qualitative review of child welfare practice. The QCR assesses internal DCFS practice as well as systemic functioning, which includes schools, courts, and other external systems. The program administrator has been a certified QCR reviewer for over ten years and conducts at least two reviews in different regions each year.

The program administrator’s involvement in QCR reviews provides important access to family voice and connection to direct practice. Understanding the impacts of the child welfare system from this perspective provides valuable insight about the importance and urgency of primary prevention.

The program administrator had been working toward CFSR certification. However, in 2021, this goal was delayed due to the more pressing priorities of state agency realignment and the demands of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program administrator hopes to complete this goal in 2022 or 2023.
**Early Childhood Systems Building**

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator is an active member of the state’s early childhood systems. The program administrator is a voting member for Early Childhood Utah (ECU) Advisory Council, a legislatively-mandated group that works to promote broad statewide coordination and collaboration among a wide range of early childhood programs and services to ensure that Utah children enter school healthy and ready to learn. ECU serves as the advisory board for the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) grant, which serves to improve developmental health outcomes for children age 0-3 that reside in three targeted communities with identified health disparities. The group also submits annual recommendations to the Governor’s Early Childhood Commission, which is comprised of the lieutenant governor, the superintendent of the State Board of Education, and executive directors of Health, Human Services, and Workforce Services.

The program administrator historically served on the Parent Engagement, Support, and Education subcommittee but took a temporary leave from that group in 2021 to work with a different subcommittee, the ECU Promoting Health & Access to Medical Homes subcommittee. This subcommittee developed a visionary model to increase Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) developmental screening, improve care coordination, and advance ASQ data integration and utilization across the state. This work had large data and privacy implications for the child welfare population. As DCFS’s only ECU representative, the program administrator was heavily involved in navigating privacy and legal issues surrounding the centralization of ASQ data in a statewide registry. After several months of involvement with this project, the program administrator enlisted the support of another DCFS administrator who has more involvement with the child welfare system, and returned to working with the Parent Engagement, Support, and Education subcommittee in late 2021.

The program administrator also worked with the ECU Program Manager to increase ASQ usage in the prevention community. In 2021, the program administrator facilitated meetings with the executive directors of Utah’s 11 crisis nurseries and with Utah’s 12 CBCAP and CTA grantees to learn more about the ASQ and how it can benefit the families they serve by identifying developmental issues earlier. Several of these programs have since been working directly with the ECU Program Manager to implement the ASQ into their services.

The Parent Engagement, Support, and Education subcommittee continues to work on creating and implementing a statewide model for parent engagement within early childhood programs. In late 2021, the subcommittee received funding from ECU to build and maintain a parent advisory council to support this work. Recruiting efforts began in December 2021 through a series of informational seminars for parents, and the creation of this subcommittee will continue into 2022.

The program administrator is a voting member on the state’s Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) for Infants and Toddlers with Special Needs. ICC is legislatively-tasked with providing direction, assistance and support to the lead agency, Baby Watch Early Intervention Program (BWEIP). The program administrator also serves on the Parent Engagement subcommittee of this council.

The program administrator continues to be involved in internal efforts to improve DCFS’s collaboration with BWEIP. After the completion of a CPS investigation, families with children under the age of five are automatically referred to BWEIP for an assessment. In an effort to increase participation in the BWEIP program, the program administrator is part of a team that is working to improve the ways in which early intervention resources are shared with families. In 2021, the team administered surveys to dozens of
DCFS-referred families to learn more about barriers that prevented them from utilizing BWEIP services. This research informed changes in practice that are intended to increase utilization of early intervention services over time.

In 2020, DCFS signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Head Start to improve collaboration between the two agencies. In the process of planning MOU implementation, it became evident that this was an opportunity to educate DCFS and Head Start staff about the full range of family strengthening and preventative services in the state. A team of administrators, including the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator, began building a repository of statewide family strengthening and preventative resources, including Help Me Grow, Family Support Centers, home visiting programs, and early intervention programs, among others. The goal of this initiative is to educate CPS investigators on how to readily access available community-based prevention resources that can strengthen families and prevent repeat calls to the intake hotline. Much of the program administrator’s work was placed on hold during 2021, due to the work of department consolidation and the COVID-19 pandemic. The program administrator plans to return focus to this project in 2022.

**Public Health Initiatives**

In FFY 2021, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator worked closely with the DOH Violence and Injury Prevention Program (VIPP) on several initiatives. The program administrator met regularly with a VIPP team, which includes the Adverse Childhood Experiences Specialist, the Primary Prevention Coordinator, and an epidemiologist specializing in childhood maltreatment, among others. Projects included:

- Continued statewide campaign to increase awareness and usage of the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit, including a focus on Spanish-speaking populations.
- Coordination with Utah Chamber of Commerce and Gardner Policy Institute on family-friendly workplace policies survey and report.
- Creation of a Connectedness Toolkit, which is in final review.
- Discussions with Intermountain Health Care and other partners about a statewide ACEs/Positive Childhood Experiences campaign.
- Provision of education and data to a state representative who sponsored [HJR2 Joint Resolution Encouraging Discussions on the Effects of Child Sexual Abuse](#) to raise awareness about the issue in Utah. This resolution ultimately did not pass, but the representative will likely purpose it again during the 2022 legislative session.
- Coordination with the State Board of Education to advance Social Emotional Learning in schools.
- Ongoing support for the Utah Coalition for Protecting Childhood (UCPC), a statewide public-private partnership of primary prevention professionals who help guide prevention policy and practice.
- Planning and hosting *Quarterly ACEs Learning Collaborative* sessions, which are open to the public.

**Other Interagency Collaborative Activities**

Throughout FFY 2021, Utah continued its efforts to establish [Trauma Informed Utah](#) (TIU). This process began several years ago and is expected to be a multi-year process using a phased development approach involving stakeholders from a variety of state and community partners. The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator participated on the TIU Center Development Committee, which met throughout
2020 and 2021, to create elements of TIU’s structure, such as mission, goals, agency type, and funding mechanisms. The group formalized the TIU Center Proposal in May 2021 and began the process of becoming a non-profit. TIU has established a board of directors and is in the process of hiring its executive director.

During FFY 2021, the program administrator worked with the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) to implement an improved trauma-informed approach in the state’s public education system. A workgroup of professionals, including the program administrator, met to design content for a trauma-informed training. All Utah educators are now required to complete the newly created training.

Reorienting the Child Welfare System

Public Health Approach
In 2021, Utah was one of a few states chosen to participate in the Transformative Leaders for Thriving Families: Building a Public Health Approach to Child and Family Well-Being Learning Community. This learning community is supported by Casey Family Programs, the American Public Human Services Association, and the Association for State and Territorial Health Officials. Two leaders from DHS and two from DOH are participating in the learning community from August 2021 until March 2022. Participants include the Director of DCFS and the Director of the Division of Family Health. The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator played an integral role in providing the data and information needed to submit a successful application for this opportunity. This learning community will improve collaboration between DHS and DOH and hone joint leadership skills to support children and families through a public health approach.

The program administrator and DOH ACEs Prevention Specialist were excited to learn about the Family Support through Primary Prevention (FSPP) demonstration sites funding opportunity published by ACYF in May 2021. The two program administrators met with several stakeholders to explore the possibility of applying but ultimately decided that it was not the right time for DHS and DOH to apply, given both are in the middle of a state department realignment process. However, the program administrators are looking forward to similar funding opportunities in the future that will support Utah’s continued primary prevention work through collaborations between human services and public health, which have been established.

Prevention-Focused System
Utah has embraced the Children’s Bureau vision of moving toward a prevention-focused system. Utah is taking action to create an integrated family wellbeing system that respects family voice, supports primary prevention, prevents foster care placements whenever possible, and utilizes kinship relationships. During FFY 2021, the DCFS Director encouraged all administrators and field staff to attend the Institute for Family’s three-part Unlearning of Child Welfare series and used its content to spark thought-provoking discussions during administrative meetings and all-staff virtual Director’s Chats.

Family First Prevention Services Act
Utah’s Title IV-E Prevention Plan authorized under the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) was originally approved in December 2019; this plan is one component of a larger prevention vision for Utah. In FFY 2021, Utah continued its efforts to expand the services available under the IV-E prevention program plan. Two in-home parenting programs have been the focus this past year.
First, the procurement process is underway for SafeCare, which is currently accepting proposals from providers statewide. Utah anticipates having contracts in place by the spring of 2022. During the planning process, Utah learned that other states have experienced success in using SafeCare as a primary prevention strategy, and Utah plans to explore this model for future implementation in the state.

Second, Utah has submitted an amendment to the Children's Bureau to add an in-home parenting service developed locally by Utah Youth Village, called Families First. This program is being reviewed through the independent systematic review process for inclusion in Utah's Title IV-E Prevention Program Plan.

Additional training for providers on Functional Family Therapy, Parent Child Interaction Therapy, and Motivational Interviewing have also been held; these are all services that were previously approved and implemented.

Utah has not yet implemented Parents as Teachers (PAT) for reimbursement under the Title IV-E Prevention Program Plan, though it is an approved service in that plan. However, several PAT programs are operational in the state for primary and secondary prevention. DCFS anticipates moving toward expansion of the PAT model to include Utah’s tertiary prevention population as part of FFPSA implementation. Utah engaged community-based primary and secondary prevention partners in learning more about FFPSA implementation and how they can be involved in supporting the expansion of tertiary prevention services in the future.

Unfortunately, a solution has not been identified for the mismatch between PAT two-year service completion and DCFS in-home service completion (which averages less than one year) and the resulting question of how PAT funding continues after the DCFS case closure.

First Impressions
A primary initiative of DCFS during FFY 2021 continued to be its First Impressions project that began in FFY 2020. First Impressions attempts to realign the child welfare system such that more resources and energy are creatively utilized during the first critical days of a child welfare case. The project intends to create a child welfare system that values family voice and family-led decision making in determining child safety. DCFS began working with the Kempe Center in FFY 2021 to implement a unique model adapted from Family Group Decision Making that provides up-front, expert team facilitation to prevent the removal of children from their families. Pilot sites began facilitating these Family Action Meetings in three sites (two rural, one urban) in the fall of 2021. Thus far, outcomes on various measures have been very positive. Outcomes include:

- 74% of participants in Family Action Meetings have come from the family’s own Wider Circle (non-service providers).
- Anonymous surveys from 55 Wider Circle participants, including parents, have been very positive.
- Safety planning quality appears to be improving.
- CPS workers have shared positive feedback and more confidence in their work, which will hopefully impact employee retention.
- Ongoing workers are being involved in cases much earlier, resulting in a quicker transition to the delivery of ongoing services.

Plans of Safe Care
DCFS is focused on creating statewide use of Plans of Safe Care. Plans of Safe Care list services and resources parents and their families can use to support their infant’s ongoing health, development,
safety, and well-being. Utah’s vision is to provide an easy-to-use tool for statewide creation of Plans of Safe Care. The tool will assist healthcare providers in screening pregnant women for substance use disorder and other risk factors and guide providers in developing a personalized plan of safe care for the mother and her child. Utah reviewed successful models in Connecticut and other states to inform Utah’s desired version of this program. Measures will include the number of screenings and resulting Plans of Safe Care, the locations within the state that screenings and plan creation occurs, types of service referrals made, and the rate of DCFS referrals for prenatal exposure, which will hopefully decline.

DCFS is collaborating with DOH and has developed a survey tool to assess the level of assessment and available resources in the state. The team will send the survey to hospitals, community clinics, primary care physicians, and urgent care facilities to understand if and how they screen individuals for prenatal substance use and what services they offer or are available to connect patients to in their respective geographic areas. The information learned will help to direct efforts in collaborating with medical providers to provide assessments and create Plans of Safe Care, where needed.

**Court Improvement Program**

In FFY 2021, DCFS and the juvenile courts expanded upon a creative new collaboration to create a fully integrated child welfare system. The collaboration began in 2020 with the creation of a joint statement of seven core principles that focus on best practices. Throughout 2021, this work advanced through a seven-part webinar series for DCFS staff and legal partners supporting efforts to implement the core principles. Webinar topics included national experts in presentation topics including family group decision making, identifying kinship placements, ambiguous loss, race and equity, and incorporating parent and youth voice.

Also, this year, the program administration was invited to participate on the Court Improvement Program’s (CIP) Committee. This has been a good opportunity to build relationships with legal partners and begin educating them about the primary prevention efforts happening in Utah. The program administrator and CIP Coordinator are collaborating to identify ways to continue to shift the courts toward a more prevention-focused system. The program administrator will be providing a formal presentation on prevention services to the CIP Committee in June 2022 and will be assisting the CIP Coordinator in identifying prevention-related topics for the August 2022 CIP Summit.

**Reshaping the Child Welfare Improvement Council**

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator serves as the primary liaison between the CWIC and DCFS leadership. Over the past two years in this capacity, the program administrator has come to understand several challenging dynamics related to the current structure of the CWIC and five regional Quality Improvement Councils (QICs.) The program administrator has been working toward a reorganization of the structure and function of these groups throughout FFY 2021 and anticipates this work continuing in FFY 2022.

**Identified Challenges**

The CWIC has been assigned many different roles and tasks, including:

- Advising DCFS on primary prevention funding and priorities
- Providing community and professional input on DCFS performance, which began in 1994 after a federal lawsuit
- Serving as one of Utah’s federal CAPTA Citizen Review Panels (CRP)
Historically, two different stakeholder groups completed these tasks. The two groups were merged several years ago to create the CWIC. Since that time, the CWIC has struggled to fulfill these duties, due to limited time and resources.

CWIC membership has been a challenge. At the end of FFY 2021, only 19 of 25 membership positions were filled. The group lost several members due to competing priorities and time constraints and struggled to replace them. The group has no representation from parents or youth with lived experience and little-to-no representation from minority communities. Training and support for members has been lacking. A previous administrator created a CWIC training manual for new members, but it is out-of-date and minimally effective. There is no onboarding process or ongoing support for new members. The program administrator has struggled to find time to engage in meaningful recruitment efforts and to provide the CWIC and five QICs with the level of support they need while also managing the state's prevention program.

Many CWIC members are interested in improving services at the backend of the child welfare system. The majority of discussions during FFY 2021 focused on foster care services including educational supports, medication management, and transition to adult living/aftercare services. The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator is concerned that the group tasked with advising DCFS on primary prevention priorities has a limited understanding of prevention science, methods and priorities.

In FFY 2021, the program administrator and CAPTA Administrator connected with the Capacity Building Center for States’ Citizen Review Panel Coordinator group. The two administrators began attending monthly meetings and learning from other states. This brought much awareness about Utah’s struggles to understand and comply with CRP requirements. It appears that the CWIC may have never fully understood or accepted the CRP duties that were assigned to them several years ago.

CWIC and DCFS seem to be working in silos. CWIC reports feeling like DCFS does not listen to their recommendations and that they are rarely taken seriously or implemented. DCFS reports feeling like CWIC’s recommendations are unrealistic or not related to current DCFS priorities. CWIC does not feel like they have a clear understanding of current DCFS priorities or how they can support those efforts. DCFS arranges for various data presentations each month, such as CFSR results or fatality review data, but many CWIC members report feeling confused about what to do with the information shared. As a result, the two groups are missing opportunities to collaborate to improve services and outcomes for families.

In addition to the statewide CWIC, there is a regional QIC situated in each of the five regional DCFS offices throughout the state. Each region assigns its Regional Director (RD) or Associate Regional Director to act as the liaison between the QIC and the region. The program administrator learned that many of the QICs have not been meeting regularly throughout 2020 or 2021. Like the CWIC, the QICs are struggling with membership, vision, purpose, and support. Several RDs report that the QICs are largely driven by DCFS, and are a heavy lift on top of their other duties.

Solutions

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator and CAPTA Administrator invested a significant amount of time in FFY 2021 learning more about the depth of these challenges and identifying solutions to support these groups. The two administrators met with CRP Coordinators from several other states to learn how strong CRPs function. The two administrators proposed a possible solution to DCFS administration and to the CWIC. Elements of the proposed solution include:
• Restructure from six regional groups to three project-based groups. The three suggested groups are:
  1. A group to focus on community-based prevention. These duties would be reassigned to the UCPC (coordinated by VIPP), a group with a strong grasp on prevention services. This group would stay housed with the newly formed DHHS and the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator would continue to act as a liaison between this group and DCFS.
  2. A group to focus on CPS and safety.
  3. A group to focus on foster care and transition to adult living.
• All groups would function statewide and virtually.
• Existing CWIC and QIC members would self-select into a group that aligns with their expertise and interests.
• DCFS would assign active projects to be reviewed for community input (i.e. FFPSA implementation, First Impressions, etc.)
• Utilize CBCAP and CAPTA funds to create a full-time CRP coordinator responsible for recruiting, onboarding, training, facilitating, writing, and liaising with DCFS.

While many stakeholders supported these proposed changes, some members of CWIC expressed hesitancy to disband CWIC, because, in their view, the CWIC is functioning relatively well. Others had concerns about allowing UCPC to have influence over DCFS’s community-based prevention work.

Through this process, the program administrator also came to understand that, even though the regional QICs are not acting as CRPs, they do serve an important role in their local communities related to connecting community partners together, and restructuring could have unintended consequences.

The program administrator will continue efforts to reexamine the important work of these citizen groups throughout FFY 2022 and 2023. Next steps include bringing in outside support to train the CWIC on CRP requirements, inviting CWIC members to become more familiar with the work of UCPC, and attending regional QICs to offer support and learn more about their needs.

Please see the below table for a listing of current CWIC membership.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Welfare Improvement Council</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Laurieanne Thorpe (Chair)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prevent Child Abuse Utah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annie Hartvigsen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serve Innocence / The Younique Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Celeste Edmunds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Box House International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyndie LaCour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteers of America</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. David Corwin, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Utah Pediatrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debbie Comstock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utah Family Strengthening Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donnette Demario</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Doors (Family Support Center)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Encarni Gallardo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children’s Service Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heidi Grimshaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah Parent Teacher Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julia Armstrong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah State Board of Education – Youth in Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Steele</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Utah College of Nursing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vacant</td>
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**CWIC Non-Voting Members**

| Carol Verdoia (non-voting member) | Janice Weinman (non-voting member) |
| Attorney General, Child Protection Division | DHS Office of Licensing |
| Stacey Snyder (non-voting member) | Charri Brummer (DCFS Liaison) |
| Guardian ad Litem                 | DCFS Deputy Director           |
| Dan Rich (DCFS Liaison)           | Trisha Reynolds (DCFS Liaison) |
| CPS Program Administrator         | Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator |
| Sarah Welliver (DCFS Liaison)     | Carol Miller (DCFS Liaison)    |
| DHS Public Information Officer    | DCFS Program Support Specialist |
Funding Mechanisms

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator monitors three revenue streams used by the Child Abuse Prevention Program to fund prevention services. The revenue streams include:

- CBCAP funds authorized through CAPTA Part II as reauthorized by the CAPTA Reauthorization Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-320).
- Children’s Trust Account (CTA) funds legislatively directed to DCFS from revenues received through the issuance of birth certificates.
- Crisis Nursery funds appropriated by the Utah State Legislature.

In recent years, CBCAP funds and CTA funds were combined into a single RGA during the procurement process. This decision was made in order to allow the two funds to be shifted among programs as needed, due to the fluctuating nature of the CTA balance. As the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator worked on a new RGA in 2020, it became apparent that combining the two programs into one RGA created more challenges than benefits. Therefore, during the 2023 RGA, Utah will create separate RGAs for the CBCAP and CTA programs.

The program administrator is also working with the state MIECHV lead to explore how CBCAP and MIECHV funds can be braided to more effectively support home visiting during the next RGA. The upcoming state agency realignment will support this and other types of creative funding in the future.

As mentioned above, DHS and DOH, two of the four main departments that house early childhood programs, are currently undergoing a consolidation and realignment process. This presents an incredible opportunity to create a more holistic response to those in greatest need of early intervention services. The program administrator is a member of the team focused on creating the optimal infrastructure to ensure that early childhood programs are well integrated, accessible, and equitable. The team is also focused on strategically reducing unnecessary family involvement in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Ensuring future early intervention services can maximize sustainable fiscal resources, such as FFPSA and CBCAP funds, is critical. Leveraging the combined child welfare and the public health systems, including CHIP, offers new opportunities to engage families and evaluate data.

While the process is still ongoing, the below graphic illustrates a proposed consideration for consolidation structure.
Continuum of Services in Health & Human Services
For consolidation consideration

Black - DOH
White- DHS
Grey- Both

DRAFT

• FFPESA Funding is an entitlement that allows federal match for select parenting skills, mental health and substance use programs.
• Home Visiting currently uses two of these models that could be aligned to take advantage of this funding.
• Other services aligned with DCFS could utilize this funding as we move forward.

DRAFT
Utah’s CTA experienced a significant decrease in funding for FFY 2020; this decrease was due to declining birthrates and the depletion of a surplus. The fund experienced more declines in FFY 2021, contributing to a 5.02% decline over the last decade. To address this trend, the program administrator collaborated with UCPC leadership to enlist their knowledge, as well as the collective voice of UCPC members to find ways to diversify state funding for prevention services. UCPC has prioritized this need as a goal in their 2022 state plan. The below chart shows the decline in revenue from 2012 to present.

![Utah Children’s Account Revenue](chart)

The state’s 11 family support centers continue to receive legislatively appropriated funding that passes through DCFS and is overseen by the program administrator. In addition to these funds, the Utah Association of Family Support Centers successfully lobbied for TANF funding that passes through the Department of Workforce Services. This funding is used to provide additional family strengthening services to Utah families. In the future, the program administrator would like to explore the possibility of braiding these funds and consolidating outcome measures to simplify processes for the family support centers.

**COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS**

The child abuse prevention services continuum in Utah includes a variety of agencies, collaborations and initiatives. The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator coordinates closely with the following partners for planning, programming and funding.

**Utah Coalition for Protecting Childhood**

Utah Coalition for Protecting Childhood (UCPC) is a state network formed in 2013 by stakeholders who saw a need to address the primary prevention of child abuse and neglect, as well as other Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). UCPC works to ensure safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments for all Utah children. The coalition is managed by the ACEs Prevention Specialist at the Utah
DOH Violence and Injury Prevention Program (VIPP). UCPC is funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Essentials for Childhood (ECCS) Grant. In early 2021, UCPC published their 2020-2025 State Action Plan, which included the following five approaches:

1. Strengthening economic supports to families.
2. Enhancing parenting skills.
3. Changing social norms related to corporal punishment.
4. Providing high quality care and education early in life.
5. Promoting trauma-informed approaches.

The State Action Plan is currently being revised with a tentative publish date of January 2022. Below is a list of ways in which the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator has been involved with updating and influencing the plan.

- During 2021, UCPC decided that its third strategy of “changing social norms related to corporal punishment” was no longer a top priority. Data showed that corporal punishment was less of an issue for Utah parents than the group first believed. UCPC leadership decided to shift the group’s focus to more upstream preventative approaches to combat child maltreatment. Current data revealed a large stigma related to parent help-seeking behaviors in Utah, so the 2022 State Action Plan will reflect a new strategy: improving parent help-seeking behaviors.

- The 2022 plan will also reflect a new strategy of diversifying revenue for the Children’s Account to provide funding for more family strengthening services. This strategy aligns with approach #2 (enhancing parenting skills), as the Children’s Account funds are generally used to support parenting services.

In 2021, UCPC launched a new ACEs Learning Collaborative quarterly webinar series. The program administrator helped select topics and arrange presenters. The series is open to the public and is advertised widely. Attendance has gradually increased throughout the year, with over 240 people registered to attend the final 2021 session held in December.

FFY 2021 topics included:

- March 2021 – Strengthening Economic Supports for Families with special guests Connect to Collect and Tax Help Utah (focus on EITC and Child Tax Credit).
- August 2021 – ACEs Learning Collaborative: Evidence-Based Home Visiting Improves Childhood Outcomes in Utah with special guests Prevent Child Abuse Utah Executive Director and DOH Office of Home Visiting Program Manager.

Topics scheduled for FFY 2022 include:

- February 2022 – Overview of the Five Protective Factors with special guests UFSN.
UCPC leadership works closely with the Utah Faith Leaders Roundtable on Child Abuse Prevention to improve the prevention work happening in religious organizations throughout the state. UCPC facilitates trainings that support faith leaders in disseminating education and information to their congregations regarding prevention and trauma. The faith leaders group did not meet often in 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but efforts to re-engage this group resumed in early 2021.

UCPC leadership has been aware of a similar but separate group of statewide faith leaders working to prevent suicide. In 2021, UCPC leadership invited the leaders of the suicide faith leaders group to collaborate and strategize how the two groups could work together. The program administrator presented information on shared risk and protective factors and working together using upstream approaches to supporting families. The information was well received and the two groups plan to hold regular joint meetings and a joint summit in 2022.

Please see the below table for a listing of current UCPC membership.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Executive Planning Committee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deondra Brown Nielsen</strong> (Co-Chair)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advocate, Foundation for Survivors of Abuse, Children’s Justice Center</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Laurieann Thorpe</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PCAU Executive Director</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nathan Malan</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>VIPP Child Abuse Prevention Epidemiologist</td>
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<tr>
<th>Steering Committee Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Allison Foust</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>DSAMH Suicide Prevention Program Administrator</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dr. Kris Campbell</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary Children’s Hospital Child Abuse Pediatrician</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Amy Mikkelsen</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>VIPP Primary Prevention Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Krista Usecche</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Family Place Crisis Nursery Director</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Angela Romero</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah State House of Representatives (Democratic Party)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lisa Davenport</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UDOH Children With Special Healthcare Needs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Barbara Leavitt</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>United Way of Utah County Community Impact Director</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mary Beth Vogel-Ferguson</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Utah Social Research Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Brittany Okada</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>UDOH Office of Health Disparities Health Program Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ned Searle</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Office on Domestic and Sexual Violence Director</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Codie Thurgood</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>DSAMH Children Youth and Families Program Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nic Dunn</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Utah Community Builders Director</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Corryn Wermel</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>VIPP Utah Safe Kids Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pamela Atkinson</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Homelessness Advocate and Community Builder</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dr. David Corwin</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Utah Professor of Pediatrics</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Rebecca Banner</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>DWS Office of Child Care Director</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dawnie Elzinga</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Family Support Center Operations Director</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Robert Parrish</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deputy Salt Lake County District Attorney</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Debbie Comstock</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Utah Family Strengthening Network</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sarah Shea</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Center for a Trauma Informed Utah Program Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Diane Moore</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>DCFS Director</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Teresa Brechlin-Betzer</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>VIPP Program Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Greg McDonald</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Utah Community Action Partnership</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Todd Weiler</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Utah State Senator (Republican Party)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Jessica Strong</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary Children’s Hospital Community Health Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tracey Tabet</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Utah Children’s Justice Centers Executive Director</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Jocelyn De La Rosa</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Salt Lake Family Support Center Executive Director</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sarah Shea</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Center for a Trauma Informed Utah Program Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>John Hansen</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Empathy Project Founder</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Travis Baer</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kim Fischer</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterford Upstart Vice President of Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vonda Jump Norman</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Utah State University Resilience Through Caring</td>
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Utah Family Strengthening Network & Prevent Child Abuse Utah

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator continues to support UFSN, a statewide leadership and training implementation team comprised of prevention service providers. This group was previously known as Protective Factors for Utah Families (PFUF) but changed their name in 2021 to reflect a commitment to supporting organizations and families with more than just protective factors. UFSN is Utah’s affiliate with the National Family Support Network (NFSN). The goal of UFSN is to enhance and support Utah’s network of family-serving programs. UFSN maintains a network of volunteer trainers throughout the state who provide training to community agencies on the Protective Factors and NFSN’s Standards of Quality (Standards).

Historically, UFSN was a volunteer-run network. Prior to 2021, UFSN volunteer trainers were not getting paid for their skills or time invested in training. As the need for UFSN support grew throughout the state, it became clear that the network needed financial resources in order to continue supporting the state’s family-serving agencies. UFSN formally merged with Prevent Child Abuse Utah (PCAU) in early 2021. This opened an opportunity for the network to receive funding and continue its growth. The program administrator is currently in negotiations with PCAU to develop a scope of work and a sole source contract to infuse the network with financial support using supplemental CBCAP funds from the American Rescue Plan Act.

PCAU has been donating executive director and an administrative assistant staff time to manage network affairs. This new structure and support with PCAU have benefitted UFSN greatly. The network established a formal board structure including co-chairs and subcommittees. The three subcommittees are Marketing and Recruitment, Retention and Engagement, and Training and Fidelity. The program administrator is a member of the Marketing and Recruitment subcommittee. Below is a list of the network’s accomplishments in FFY 2021:

- Completed four NFSN Standards trainings, including two that utilized the updated curriculum, which includes a new section centered on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
  - Follow-up surveys show that 76% of participants would be “likely” or “very likely” to recommend this training to a colleague who works with families.
- Completed six Protective Factors overview trainings.
- Began offering implementation support by selecting a Center to pilot use of the NFSN Program Self-Assessment Tool. This practice will expand to more sites in FFY 2022.
- Created partnerships in new sectors to expand offerings to a broader audience: Utah State Board of Education, Intermountain Health Care, and staff at a local city library.
- Certified nine new Protective Factors trainers throughout the state, including several at the Utah State Board of Education.
- Created a new email database and a formal method of contacting past training participants with ongoing information, resources, and support opportunities.
- Created a new survey to identify potential trainers to expand the network.
- Created a new document to explain network benefits to potential members.
- Participated in regular NFSN Member Meetings, the annual Member Convening, and the Together for Families Conference.
Utah Association of Family Support Centers

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator provides support to the Family Support Centers of Utah (FSCU.) The organization was previously known as the Utah Association of Family Support Centers but rebranded this year with a new name and a new logo. The statewide association consists of 11 Family Support Center (Center) organizations with 17 locations throughout the state. Each Center operates independently and offers an array of services based on the needs of the community they serve. Each Center provides four core services: crisis and respite nursery, parent education courses, 24-hour information and referral services, and family strengthening activities. Additional services, such as DCFS emergency shelter care and clinical services, are offered at each Center based on the needs of their communities. For an inventory of FSCU additional services, please see Attachment A.

Formed in 2019, the goal of this statewide association is to provide local Family Support Centers with the tools and resources needed to ensure they are strong and optimally equipped to strengthen Utah families and prevent child abuse. One of the first tasks for the new executive director was to build a board of directors. The board infrastructure was established throughout 2020 and the first meeting was held in January 2021. The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator was invited to participate as a voting member on the board, and, after thoroughly ruling out the possibility of a conflict of interest as an administrator of one source of Center funds, accepted the nomination. The program administrator currently serves on the board’s Board Governance subcommittee. Through this committee, the program administrator has a direct influence on recruitment, orientation, retention, and ongoing development of board members.

FSCU has partnered with Representative Dan Johnson, a local legislator who has been a champion for the Family Support Centers. Through his advocacy, FSCU has been awarded with additional funding from the Utah State legislature:

- $800,000 in CARES Act funding (June 2021 – December 2021).
- $3,000,000 one-time TANF grant (July 2019 – June 2021) – $1,500,000 per year.
- $2,800,000 one-time TANF grant (July 2021 – June 2022).
- Requesting $3,000,000 in ongoing funds during the 2022 legislative session.

FSCU subcontracts with each Center to provide funding based on their needs. This funding is in addition to the funding provided to each Center individually through DHS (overseen by the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator) in the amount of $123,000 -- $135,000 per Center annually. FSCU’s executive director is working to align and elevate practice among the Centers. The executive director is aware of the program administrator’s intention to require implementation of the NFSN Standards of Quality in the next DHS contract in 2024, and, therefore included this requirement in the TANF contract to help align the two funding sources. The executive director also budgeted a portion of the TANF funds for a contract with one of the UFSN trainers to provide one-on-one coaching to each Center regarding implementation of the NFSN Standards. This alignment is a product of the program administrator’s efforts to engage the FSCU
executive director as part of the UFSN leadership team. The program administrator also collaborated with UFSN’s data evaluator during the creation of their TANF budget to ensure that definitions, outcome measures, and data tracking were as aligned as possible between the two funding sources.

The program administrator was invited to present at one of NFSN’s national webinars about how the Standards have been implemented in one Utah Center. Representative Johnson was also invited to present at another NFSN webinar on his efforts to engage the state legislature to support Utah’s Family Support Centers. The program administrator was honored to represent the UFSN and FSCU in this way.

The Family Support Centers have been increasingly impacted by larger economic forces such as the hiring crisis and Utah’s soaring housing prices. Most Centers are struggling to hire and maintain staff. Many of the Centers have raised their starting pay but still struggle to provide a living wage to their employees. The program administrator is working diligently with the Centers and other stakeholders to find solutions for this complicated problem.

Department of Health Office of Home Visiting

DOH Office of Home Visiting (OHV), the lead agency for Utah’s MIECHV funding, supports seven PAT programs and one Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) program in the state. DCFS and OHV created and finalized a new Memorandum of Understanding in 2021. This will support OHV and the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrators’ goals of braiding funding sources and conducting joint procurements. The two program administrators are also aligning outcome measures using the Results Based Accountability performance framework and creating a shared reporting processes for providers. As a result of the current DHS and DOH realignment process, DCFS and OHV will be housed within the new DHHS Center for Children Youth and Families, removing barriers to achieve this goal.

The program administrators meet monthly to coordinate on a variety of shared topics and are working together to improve community knowledge of home visiting resources. The two administrators will be jointly training DCFS Intake staff and medical residents in 2022.

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator gained additional knowledge about home visiting through participation in OHV’s federal site visit from HRSA this year. The program administrator was also invited to become a member of OHV’s governance board during FFY 2021.

Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

The Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH) has a four-person prevention team that is invested in the prevention of substance abuse and mental health issues. DSAMH supports a network of over 70 local community prevention coalitions across every county in Utah. Each week, the DSAMH Prevention Team, the regional directors of the 70 local prevention coalitions, and other allied partners, meet to provide updates on their work and collaborate with one another. The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator participates in these meetings one to two times each month, as her schedule permits.
During FFY 2021, the program administrator and DSAMH have been finding ways to further increase integration of their prevention work. The two divisions worked closely together during the DOH and DHS consolidation planning process to explore shared risk and protective factor frameworks, create a detailed inventory of prevention services across all agencies, and constructed a prevention leadership structure to ensure collaboration across divisions in the future.

The DSAMH prevention team helped facilitate several opportunities for the program administrator to engage with local prevention coalitions during FFY 2021, and vice versa. The program administrator attended the DSAMH Fall Prevention Conference in November 2020 to become more familiar with coalition work. DSAMH prevention staff attended one of the CBCAP state grantee meetings in June 2021 to train grantees on the DSAMH prevention framework and coalition structure, and to encourage grantees to connect with the local coalitions in their communities. The program administrator is currently working with the local prevention coalitions to enlist their help in amplifying public awareness messaging related to strengthening families and preventing child abuse. The program administrator’s goal is to leverage the collective impact of these 70+ coalitions to support child abuse and neglect prevention efforts occurring in their communities.

Uplift Families

Uplift Families is the former Utah First Lady’s initiative to connect parents with information, resources, and programs that help them acquire knowledge and skills to raise healthy children. Uplift Families believes that strong parent-child relationships are the key to providing children with the tools and encouragement they need to thrive. Uplift Families maintained the #1 spot on Google Search for “parenting conference” in Google, in 2021 and experienced a 23.8% increase in people who either saw their ads or visited their website, with a total of over 4 million impressions.

Uplift Families facilitates an annual parenting event that draws thousands of attendees every year. These events moved from a conference format to a virtual televised format in 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The September 2020 event aired during prime time, reaching over 86,000 viewers and receiving a top 4.0 rating. A recording of the event was made available online, which brought total viewership to over 100,000. These impressive statistics motivated a larger, more popular network to renew the primetime virtual conference for 2021. This 2021 Parenting TIPS event with content designed to improve family protective factors, aired two hours before the largest college football game in the state. The program administrator provided CBCAP funding to support this televised event.

Uplift Families also operates a digital Parent Resource Center full of hundreds of different resources to help parents raise stronger, happier children. The resource center differs from the state 211 information helpline in that it specifically focuses on parenting. The program administrator partnered with Uplift Families in 2021 to add more community-based child abuse prevention resources to the resource center, including Utah’s Family Support Centers, home visiting programs, and other family strengthening resources that were not previously included. The program administrator supervised an intern who wrote an article about CSSP’s Protective Factors to be shared on Uplift Families’ parenting blog in the coming months.
CHILD ABUSE PROGRAM SUCCESS STORY 1

Written by a bilingual mother who participated in a CBCAP-funded home visiting program:

“I have 3 children. I learned about Guadalupe School when my oldest daughter started kindergarten. I was a stay-at-home mom. I chose to start my son at Guadalupe’s In Home program and then in Toddler Beginnings. I was very fortunate to participate in these programs. My In Home visitor really helped me come out of my shell and provided me with the guidance needed to become financially independent in my home. Not only was she teaching my child, but she was also teaching me. My son thrived doing the projects our home visitor would give me to do with him throughout the week. When my son turned one, I enrolled him in Toddler Beginnings. Because of this, I was able to get a part time job. My home visitor helped me with this too. She helped me make my resume and gave me the confidence to apply for a job that I thought was out of my reach. I wish I had known about Guadalupe’s early learning programs when my oldest daughter was younger. I think she could have benefitted in the way I saw my son benefit and grow. I witnessed a difference in them when they each started kindergarten. The difference was night and day. My son was academically ahead and overall socially and behaviorally better prepared for school. I can truly say it was because of the early learning programs he attended. Guadalupe has not only helped me shape my son into an awesome student, the program has also helped me get to where I am today. Now, I am working at Guadalupe. I’m in school working toward my associate’s degree in business. I feel like a member of an amazing community. I am confident that I can provide for my family. I participate as a parent. I am grateful for the support of Guadalupe as a school and as a place to work.”

SERVICE ARRAY

Needs Assessment

Utah is currently in the process of conducting a formal, comprehensive statewide needs assessment. This work is a joint effort between the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator and the CAPTA Program Administrator, using ARPA Supplemental CBCAP and CAPTA funds. In 2021, the two program administrators met several times with the University of Utah Social Research Institute (SRI) to begin the process. SRI estimates that the assessment will take 15-18 months to complete and will begin in 2022. The primary objectives of the assessment are to:

- Analyze existing information and data related to Utah’s child abuse and prevention needs.
- Partner with stakeholders, community members, providers, and impacted families to inform funding decision-making processes.
- Create a strategic plan for statewide prevention services that will inform future RFPs and funding decisions.

SRI will conduct this research through an equity, diversity, and inclusion lens to help DCFS administrators identify populations most in need and to ensure that services are distributed equitably. SRI is the same organization that began assisting DCFS with an evaluation of racial and ethnic disparity and disproportionality within Utah’s child welfare system in FFY 2020, using IV-E funding. SRI will leverage the data gathered from that research to compliment the new research specific to prevention services. Please see below table for SRI’s estimated timeline of the prevention needs assessment process.
### Objectives and Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Q3 SFY 2022</th>
<th>Q4 SFY 2022</th>
<th>Q1 SFY 2023</th>
<th>Q2 SFY 2023</th>
<th>Q3 SFY 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>START</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obtain IRB, data sharing agreements as needed</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Coordinate with CTSL, CFU</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop community engagement tools</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COLLECT</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collect data, reports, other review materials</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gather community perspectives</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ANALYSIS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data pre-processing, analyses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation of community perspectives</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SYNTHESIS</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synthesis of data, reports, community findings</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic planning regarding state programs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FINAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summarize and review initial strategy findings</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporting: Final strategic plan</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While the formal needs assessment is underway, the program administrator continues to assess unmet prevention service needs within the state through a variety of methods and sources. The program administrator was able to resume some in-person site visits during FFY 2021 and also continued to hold virtual visits with many programs. During these visits, the program administrator learned more about each program’s strengths, opportunities for improvement, and needs for support from the program administrator. The program administrator also met with all CBCAP and Children’s Trust grantees as a group every-other month throughout 2021. This new meeting process began in January 2021 at the start of the new contracts. It has been a helpful way to get to know the state’s prevention programs on a deeper level. The program administrator also learned more about each program from reviewing grantees’ annual written reports, which are provided to the program administrator in July of each year.

To gain additional knowledge, the program administrator met with several professionals and stakeholder groups who have extensive knowledge of Utah’s prevention needs. These stakeholders include:

- Monthly meetings with OHV Program Manager.
- Biweekly meetings with PCAU Executive Director.
- Monthly meetings with FSCU Executive Director.
- Monthly group meetings with Executive Directors of all 11 Family Support Centers.
- Biweekly meetings with DOH ACEs Prevention Specialist and other VIPP staff.
- Meetings with DCFS Strengthening Families Program Administrator as needed.
- Meetings with DCFS Continuous Quality Improvement Administrator as needed.
- Biweekly meetings with DSAMH Prevention Team, including research, evaluation, and data teams.
- Monthly meetings with members of Utah’s CWIC (See page 15 for CWIC member list).
- Monthly meetings with members of UCPC (See page 21 for UCPC member list).

To continue learning more about the needs of Utah’s communities, the program administrator reviewed several documents and reports. These reports include:

**DCFS Data**

- DCFS 2020 and 2021 (draft) Annual Reports.
- DCFS Child Welfare Data Trends Report, provided weekly.

Utah CBCAP Annual Report FFY 2021
• 2021 Populations at Greatest Risk of Maltreatment Report.
• CFSR, PIP, CPR, 2021 APSR, and 2020-2024 CFSP reports and plans.
• Annual Qualitative Case Review results.

State Data Sources

• OHV 2020 Needs Assessment by County.
• Utah Adverse Childhood Experiences 2020.
• Utah Health Improvement Index.
• Early Childhood Mental Health in Utah, December 2020 Study.
• Utah Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data.
• Utah Department of Workforce Office of Child Care Services Plans and Reports.
• Utah 2019 Preschool Development Grant B-5 Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan.

National Data Sources

• State of Babies Yearbook: 2021 Overview and Utah Profile.
• 2021 Kids Count Data Book.
• 2021 Alliance for Early Success Utah Progress Report on Early Childhood Policy.
• Utah Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center State Policy Roadmap 2021.
• Casey Family Programs Community Opportunities Map.
• Seven Impacts of the Pandemic on Young Children and their Parents Research Report, February 2021.

The formal prevention needs assessment will incorporate and synthesize all of these data sources to create a comprehensive understanding of Utah’s prevention-related needs.

Core Services

Redesigning the scope of work for prevention services and awarding funding (beginning January 2021) to a new group of grantees was a primary goal for FFY 2021. The scope of work was revised based on feedback from grantees, reviewing contracts from other states, discussions with several CBCAP leads and FRIENDS staff, and coordination with the CWIC Grants Subcommittee. The new scope reflects significant changes to requirements surrounding parent leadership and evaluation, the main areas in which grantees were struggling. New contracts were established for 2.5 years, which is shorter than usual. This shortened contract period will allow the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator sufficient time to complete a thorough needs assessment of prevention services throughout the state, before creating a new, reimagined scope of work for the 2022 RFP. The January 2021 – June 2023 Utah Prevention Scope of Work can be found in Attachment B.

Please see the table below for a list of prevention programs and services supported by Utah’s CBCAP funds beginning in January 2021:
 каждое учреждение, с которым заключается контракт с руководителем программы, работает независимо и несет ответственность за предоставление услуг согласно требованиям, установленным в контрактах. Школы и организации, основанные в сообществе, реферируют семьи для услуг и делают соответствующие рекомендации. Каждая программа определяет свой собственный район обслуживания, и хотя требования по годам варьируются от программы к программе, программы не взимают плату за предоставляемые услуги.

В течение финансового года 2021 года, средства CBCAP также позволили директору программы DCFS Child Abuse Prevention Program:

- Провести и организовать ежемесячные встречи CWIC.
- Выполнить визиты на место в地点s контрактных организаций.
- Поддерживать ежегодное мероприятие Uplift Families Annual TIPS Parenting Event и онлайн Ресурсный Центр для родителей.
- Поддерживать сеть из 20 тренеров по 20 факторам уязвимости и стандартам.
- Провести шесть семинаров по факторам уязвимости и четыре семинара по стандартам для учреждений по угрозам в Юта.
- Сертифицировать более 100 служебных сотрудников по угрозам в Юта.
- Понимать пять представителей, включая руководителя программы, чтобы принять участие в виртуальной конференции NSFNS.
- Понимать девять предотвращающих профессионалов, включая руководителя программы, чтобы принять участие в виртуальной конференции Families Together.

Председатель также настоятельно рекомендует счет гражданских счетов Детского управления, используемого для финансирования законодательно установленных выплат DCFS от доходов, полученных от регистрации новорожденных. Пожалуйста, взгляните на таблицу ниже для списка предотвращающих программ и услуг, поддерживаемых счетом гражданских счетов Детского управления в течение финансового года 2021 года:
### Programs Funded by the Children’s Trust Account

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider</th>
<th>Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guadalupe School</td>
<td><strong>Parents as Teachers Home Visiting</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A home-visiting program providing early childhood parent education, family support and well-being, and school readiness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Association of Utah</td>
<td><strong>Systemic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A multicomponent parenting educational curriculum that helps parents learn effective ways to relate to their children using parent education study groups. This program is offered to various refugee and immigrant groups in their native language.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wasatch Behavioral Health Services</td>
<td><strong>Grandfamilies Kinship Program</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A support and education program designed to help families raising a relative’s children. The program provides guardianship assistance, education courses for children and adults, links to community resources, short-term therapy, and monthly peer activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's Service Society</td>
<td><strong>Grandfamilies Kinship Program</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A support and education program designed to help families raising a relative’s children. The program provides guardianship assistance, education courses for children and adults, links to community resources, short-term therapy, and monthly peer activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah Valley Family Support and Treatment Center</td>
<td><strong>Play It Safe Program</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A school-based child abuse awareness and prevention program that teaches children Pre-K through high school how to reduce their risk of sexual and physical abuse by recognizing potentially abusive behavior, responding appropriately to threatening situations, and reporting abuse to a trusted adult.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Support Center of Salt Lake</td>
<td><strong>Nurturing Parenting</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A group-based, family-centered curriculum in which parents and children attend separate groups that meet concurrently. Lessons are based on known parenting behaviors that contribute to child maltreatment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Utah State Legislature provides funding to eleven Family Support Centers (Centers). The Centers offer crisis nursery and parent education services at seventeen locations throughout the state. The funds pass through DCFS; the program administrator oversees this funding and provides training and technical assistance to these programs. Five of the Centers are also recipients of CBCAP or Children’s Trust funding for additional programming. Eight locations receive additional funding for Adoption Respite services to help prevent adoption disruptions and eight locations also serve as emergency shelters for youth in DCFS custody. Please see the table below for a listing of the eleven Centers and their satellite locations:
Family Support Centers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Locations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box Elder Family Support Center (2 locations)</td>
<td>Brigham City, Garland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Family Place of Cache County (3 locations)</td>
<td>Logan, Smithfield, Hyrum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbon County Family Support Center</td>
<td>Price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Doors</td>
<td>Clearfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand County Family Support Center</td>
<td>Moab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Support Center of Ogden</td>
<td>Ogden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah Valley Family Support &amp; Treatment Center</td>
<td>Orem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Support Center of Salt Lake (3 locations)</td>
<td>Midvale, West Valley City, Sugarhouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Support Center of Southwestern Utah (2 locations)</td>
<td>Cedar City, Richfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Support Center of the Uintah Basin</td>
<td>Roosevelt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Support Center of Washington County</td>
<td>St. George</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please see the table below for FFY 2021 individuals served data:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FFY 2021 Individuals Served Through the Child Abuse Prevention Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBCAP – Participants receiving direct services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTA – Participants receiving direct services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crisis Nursery – Participants receiving direct services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES FOR SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Children and Parents with Disabilities

As shown in the table above, contract providers continue to deliver services to disabled children and adults. In total, providers served 1,360 children and adults with a disability, 84 of whom obtained services through programs that receive CBCAP funds.

Children with disabilities are at least three times more likely to experience abuse or neglect than children without disabilities. As mandated in CAPTA and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), children under the age of three with supported cases of abuse or neglect are referred to Utah’s Part C Early Intervention Program: Baby Watch Early Intervention Program (BWEIP) for evaluation and service eligibility. The purpose of BWEIP is to enhance early growth and development in infants and toddlers who
have developmental delays and/or disabilities by providing individualized support and services to the child and their family. Early intervention services are provided through a family coaching model that focuses on helping children meet goals in all areas of development. All services take place in the child’s natural environment and are tailored to meet the individual needs of the child and family. To ensure all eligible families receive notification about BWEIP services, Utah’s DCFS SACWIS system automatically generates a BWEIP assessment notification letter that is mailed to families with supported cases and have one or more children under the age of three.

During 2020, through the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator’s conversations and collaborations with BWEIP, it was discovered that families referred to BWEIP programs by DCFS have a low participation rate. The program administrator and CPS Administrator are collaborating with researchers at Utah State University to understand more about this population and its needs. Utah State conducted a survey in 2021 with several DCFS-referred families to identify barriers to accepting services. Despite low response rates, the team was able to identify a few themes and opportunities for improving service connection in the future. As one example, most families reported that they remembered their CPS worker telling them about services but did not always have clear memory of the details shared. CPS workers generally leave a brochure about services, but this was often misplaced. This discovery led to the team brainstorming about CPS workers sending follow-up texts with digital information. The CPS Administrator will work with CPS teams throughout the state to implement these suggestions during FFY 2022.

As a future step, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator is exploring ways to expand referrals made to BWEIP beyond supported cases in which abuse or neglect has already occurred. Identifying at-risk families earlier will result in stronger families and safer children. The program administrator is exploring ways to connect families with early-intervention and other support services at the following touchpoints:

- Before families are referred to DCFS but are working with community providers such as Family Support Centers.
- When a family is referred to the intake hotline but does not meet the criteria for a CPS investigation.
- When a CPS case is unsupported.

In 2020, Utah was awarded a grant from the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The purpose of the grant is to help sustain efforts to support families in monitoring and identifying potential developmental delays and build resiliency within families, amidst the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. During FFY 2021, the program administrator participated in achieving grant outcomes by helping facilitate delivery of developmental literature to several DCFS offices throughout the state and began providing virtual trainings to child welfare workers on how to use these materials with the families they serve. The virtual trainings will continue into FFY 2022.

**Adoption Respite**

Many of the Family Support Centers have additional contracts with DCFS to provide respite for post-adopt families. These services are not funded by CBCAP, but their connection with Family Support Centers allows adoptive families to become familiar with and access other supportive services, such as parenting education and home visiting services. During FFY 2021, many Family Support Centers identified increasing
challenges for adoptive families in their communities. Most locations do not receive enough DCFS funding to meet the needs of this population. During FFY 2021, the program administrator began collaborating with the Adoption Program Administrator to identify solutions to these challenges and this work will continue into FFY 2022.

Racial and Ethnic Minorities

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Utah was the fastest growing state in the nation during the last decade, with a total population of nearly 3.3 million. As with nationwide data, Utah’s child welfare data indicates an overrepresentation of DCFS-involvement in underrepresented populations within the state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td>Population Count</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>2,632,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>35,862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native</td>
<td>32,657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>69,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>27,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>157,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Races</td>
<td>89,879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL POPULATION</td>
<td>3,045,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino(a)*</td>
<td>422,113</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTES: *Latino(a) could be reflected in any of the race categories. **Due to rounding, percent may not total 100%.

Utah accepts many refugees. There are currently over 60,000 refugees living in the state, with most residing in Salt Lake County. Salt Lake City schools have a large refugee population and report over 30 languages spoken by students within the city’s schools. It is difficult to identify data concerning child abuse and neglect in the refugee population because the term encompasses people from many different ethnic groups, cultures, and countries. Refugee families are more vulnerable for a number of reasons, including increased trauma, shifts in family dynamics and responsibilities, economic stressors, and isolation.

In order to provide support to Utah’s Hispanic and refugee communities, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator funds several prevention programs that target these populations. These programs include:

- **Guadalupe School**: This program provides services to the northwest quadrant of Salt Lake City, which has a large Hispanic and Latino population. Guadalupe School provides five academic programs to Hispanic families, including in-home services (funded by Children’s Trust), toddler beginnings, preschool, charter school, and adult education services. Home visitors from this program all speak Spanish.

- **Utah County Health Department**: The Utah County Health Department employs two native Spanish-speaking home visitors who provide services exclusively to Spanish-speaking families. States. Using the PAT curriculum, the program helps families understand how to be their
children’s teacher, as well as how to adapt to their new community. To provide further assistance to the families served, the program provides books in Spanish and English.

- **The Asian Association of Utah:** This program provides parenting classes to new immigrants and refugees. The agency was previously funded for Dare to Be You, a curriculum that focuses on prevention of youth substance abuse and delinquent behaviors and is not listed on the California Evidenced-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare. During the last RFP, this agency was funded for Systemic Training for Effective Parenting, a curriculum that is listed as “promising” on the clearinghouse and focuses on child abuse prevention. During the first few months of implementation, the new program was able to reach 27 parents directly and 50–60 children indirectly with its courses. The agency has been focusing on efforts to make parents and community partners aware of the new program and its benefits.

Within Utah, there are eight sovereign tribal governments. Native children in Utah are 3.3 times more likely to be supported as victims of child maltreatment. Unfortunately, despite collaboration between the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator and the Indian Child Welfare Program Administrator none of Utah’s tribes applied for prevention services funding during the most recent RGA opportunity. During FFY 2021, the program administrator was honored to be included in several staffings regarding a sibling group of Native American children who were placed at a family support center. These staffings created an opportunity for the program administrator to meet many leaders involved in the Ute Tribe and to learn more about the challenges facing the tribal communities. The program administrator and the Indian Child Welfare Program Administrator plan to spend more time working together in FFY 2022 to further address some of these issues.

**Needs Assessment**

CBCAP allows flexibility and creativity in how funds are utilized. However, because the needs are great, it can be challenging to determine how to prioritize funding. The formal needs assessment occurring from 2021 to 2023 will attempt to answer some of these questions by sorting through available data and gathering input directly from families. One of the main goals of the needs assessment is to help Utah prioritize populations most in need of prevention services, which will direct utilization of future funding in a more meaningful way.

**Equity & Social Justice**

In FFY 2020, DCFS began a new initiative on equity and social justice. The agency contracted with the University of Utah Social Research Institute (SRI) to begin a complete analysis of data related to children of color in the child welfare system. It is evident that children of color are disproportionately represented in care; this analysis is aimed at helping the agency identify at which points along the child welfare continuum the most disproportionality is occurring. SRI will be disaggregating the data to help identify where and how to target agency resources to create the most meaningful shift of these outcomes. The analysis will also attempt to control for poverty so that an accurate understanding of the role poverty plays is gained, which will highlight the role of race. The work is still in its infancy but has exciting potential for the future of our community.

In FFY 2021, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator continued to participate in many formal trainings and national discussions surrounding equity and social justice. The program administrator continued to share many of these opportunities with prevention providers and facilitated discussions.
about how to address racism in the prevention system. Recent conversations about equity have taken on a new tone in FFY 2021; the program administrator is starting to encounter some community members who feel like these concepts are a threat or politically-motivated. The program administrator is working with others to address these concerns using compassion, curiosity, vulnerability, and data.

**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION SUCCESS STORY 2**

Written by CBCAP-funded home visitor:

“One of the parents I work with grew up in an abusive home. She had never had a healthy support system and wanted a better life for her own child. Since joining the program, Mom has created financial stability for herself with a part-time nanny career. She is in therapy working on healthy relationship behaviors to improve her communication with Dad and learn ways to resolve anger. She set a goal for herself to go back to school and also set up an appointment by herself for financial aid to get back to school. Her child, although having a more spirited temperament, is hitting all his developmental milestones. Her success has been inspiring to see, and I have loved connecting her to resources and helping her become the parent she wants to be! She and the baby’s dad are first time parents of an 18-month old, and they didn’t know how to interact with their child in the child’s play. During the first few visits with the family, the parents were uncomfortable playing with their child and stated that they normally just allow the child to do their own thing. Through doing an activity that encouraged the parents to follow their child's lead and by exploring what made it difficult for the parents to play with their child, the parents have made improvements. They have been practicing allowing their child to lead the play experience with them. The parents are becoming more bonded with their child and are engaging with their child's play more often. The parents are more relaxed and more confident in their parenting.”

**PARENT AND LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT**

Utah’s prevention grantees have engaged parents through a variety of ways this year. Several programs include parents on their advisory boards and run parent-only advisory councils. Many programs facilitate parent cafes or utilize parent volunteers to lead community activities. A few programs even employee parents who have utilized their services in the past, as found in Success Story 1. One CBCAP-funded program recently created a beautiful promotional video using testimonials from parents who had utilized their services.

In FFY 2021, many grantees participated in NFSN National Standards Certification courses to learn more about effective parent engagement. Grantees were required to participate in FRIENDS’ Creating Effective Parent/Practitioner Collaboration online training entitled during the first 90 days of their contract and annually thereafter; however, because this training was unavailable until October 2021, grantees received an extension for completion.

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator is currently amending the existing contracts to ensure that measures and outcomes conform to the Results Based Accountability framework. One of the new measures will include a count of the total number of parents engaged in leadership activities with an expected outcome that this number will increase throughout each year of the contract. The program administrator intends to include a specific percent increase target in the 2023 scope of work.
In past years, parent leaders were members of the UFSN Leadership team and were responsible for the parent partnership core function of UFSN. The primary parent leader had been running parent advocacy councils that garnered a lot of parent support throughout the state. In recent years, the primary parent leader realized that, in order to make real progress and scale this work in Utah, she must temporarily place her work on hold while attending graduate school and developing a parent engagement model that would be trainable and sustainable for parents and providers. The primary parent leader finalized her Parents Driving Change curriculum in FFY 2021 and is currently piloting a small number of free trainings, before offering the curriculum statewide. The program administrator will continue to collaborate with this primary parent leader to support her work in the state and the nation.

In FFY 2021, the Parent Engagement, Support, and Education subcommittee of Early Childhood Utah, of which the program administrator is a member, made significant progress on parent engagement work in the early childhood community. The group received some funding from ECU to provide honorariums to parents who participate in leadership activities. The group hosted an in-person parent meet and greet in December 2021 to identify possible parents to engage in this work. More meet and greets are planned for 2022 to engage parents from other parts of the state. The goal of this work is to create a network of engaged parent leaders who can be called upon to provide input at the provider and statewide levels.

DCFS created a new administrative role in 2021 focused on youth with lived experience. This position was filled in August 2021 by Natalie Clark, a youth who spent six years in Utah’s child welfare system and recently graduated with her Bachelor of Social Work degree. Natalie has been an advocate for youth at the local, state, and national levels for many years. The program administrator is finding new ways to leverage Natalie’s experience in the prevention world. The program administrator is also working with Natalie to integrate the work of the Youth Council and the Child Welfare Improvement Council by including Natalie in the DHS workgroup described below.

Also in FFY 2021, the program administrator helped to create a new DHS-wide workgroup centered on families and youth with lived experience. It became evident that many DHS employees were doing this work throughout several DHS agencies, and bringing these efforts together could elevate the work. The group started with just a few program administrators but has grown to include:

- DCFS Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator.
- DCFS Indian Child Welfare Act Program Administrator.
- DCFS Strengthening Families Program Administrator (PSSF and substance abuse lead).
- DCFS CAPTA Program Administrator (CPS and safety lead).
- DCFS Foster Care and Kinship Administrator.
- DCFS Project Administrator.
- DCFS Lived Experience Transition to Adult Living Assistant Coordinator.
- DSAMH Children, Youth, and Families Program Administrator.
- DSAMH/DHS Lead Families Coordinator.
- DHS Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Program Administrator.

This group has learned more about work focused on families and youth with lived experience occurring within Utah agencies and identified places where the work overlaps and where it aligns. This group has had an important role in informing the restructure of the CWIC and the regional QICs. Additionally, DHS supports several types of community councils working on related goals throughout the state, and learning about their work is informing decisions about new structures that will create better collaboration and alignment for the community councils.
The program administrator identified a parent with lived experience to participate on the CWIC, beginning January 2022. This parent struggled with addiction as a young mother but has been sober for over a decade and is now engaged in peer support work. She also provided kinship care for her grandchildren when her own daughter struggled with addiction. This is the first time in many years that the CWIC will include a parent with lived experience.

**TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND EVALUATION ASSISTANCE**

**Site Visits**

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator conducted in-person site visits with a few grantees in FFY 2021. In-person visits to all providers were not possible due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; however, the program administrator met virtually with each program director several times throughout the year. These visits and virtual meetings allowed the program administrator to learn more about each program’s operations, challenges, and opportunities for growth.

OQD and the Office of Licensing (OL) work together to conduct regular contract monitoring of grantees by completing site visits to review personnel files, training records, facility compliance, etc. The program administrator receives written reports after each of these reviews.

**Grantee Meetings**

In 2021, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator began conducting bi-monthly virtual meetings with all grantees. Participation is a requirement in the new prevention contracts. These meetings have provided a venue for ongoing training and technical support provision to all grantees. This model was strategically chosen because it also serves as a peer-to-peer learning function. The virtual meetings replaced the peer reviews required in the previous prevention contracts. Meeting topics have included:

- **February 2021: Grantee Orientation**
  - Introductions and connections.
  - Overview of CBCAP and Children’s Trust programs.
  - Review of contract requirements.
  - Assessing group needs and gathering ideas for future grantee meetings.

- **April 2021: Peer Learning**. Three small breakout groups focused on:
  - Parent leadership.
  - Program evaluation.
  - Child Abuse Prevention Month.

- **June 2021: Engaging with Community Partners**
  - How to improve public awareness efforts and engage with media in your community [template](#) (Guest: DCFS Public Information Officer).
  - How to engage with DSAMH prevention coalitions (Guest: DSAMH Prevention Administrator).

- **August 2021: Choose your Own Topic**
  - Choosing a training from the [FRIENDS Online Learning Center](#) and report back what you learned.
• **October 2021: Utilizing New Resources**
  - Using ASQ Screeners to identify developmental concerns (Guest: ECU Program Manager).
  - Utilizing FRIENDS resources (Guest: FRIENDS T/TA Coordinator Samantha Florey).

• **December 2021: Connecting with New Partners**
  - Understanding the importance of dental care in prevention and utilizing state dental resources (Guest: DOH Oral Health Specialist).
  - Utilizing Utah State University Extension [Healthy Relationships Utah](#) resources (Guest: Healthy Relationships Program Coordinator).
  - Understanding FFPSA and how prevention partners can be involved in the future (Guest: DCFS Strengthening Families Program Administrator who oversees FFPSA Implementation).
  - Training and technical assistance related to data collection and reporting.

The program administrator gathered feedback about this new meeting format during the state grantee annual reporting process. The feedback has been positive, and grantees have shared helpful feedback about topics to include next year.

**Trainings**

UFSN is Utah’s state network of Protective Factors and NFSN Standards of Quality trainers. UFSN plays a key role in training state grantees and other community partners involved in the work of family strengthening. The program administrator provides support to UFSN by serving on the executive leadership team, helping to align training resources with state prevention priorities, identifying stakeholder groups that may benefit from UFSN’s trainings, and providing funding support to UFSN through CBCAP dollars. CBCAP funding for UFSN will increase significantly in FFY 2022 with a new sole source contract.

Below is a list of the network’s training-related activities and accomplishments in FFY 2021:

- Completed four NFSN Standards trainings, including two using the updated curriculum that contains a new section centered on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
  - Follow-up surveys show that 76% of participants would be “likely” or “very likely” to recommend this training to a colleague who works with families.
- Completed six Protective Factors overview trainings.
- Began offering implementation support by selecting a Family Support Center to pilot use of the NFSN Program Self-Assessment Tool. This practice will expand to more sites in FFY 2022.
- Created partnerships in new sectors to expand offerings to a broader audience: Utah State Board of Education, Intermountain Health Care, and staff at a local city library.
- Certified nine new Protective Factors trainers throughout the state, including several members of the Utah State Board of Education.
- Created a new email database and a formal method of contacting past training participants with ongoing information, resources, and support opportunities.
- Created a new survey to identify potential trainers to expand the network.
- Created a new document to explain network benefits to potential members.
- Participated in regular NFSN Member Meetings, the annual Member Convening, and the Together for Families Conference.
In addition to the work of UFSN, the program administrator shared numerous training opportunities with prevention partners via email. Additionally, the program administrator continues to send a regular newsletter containing resources and supports for the community, a practice that began in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Evaluation Assistance**

Evaluation has been an ongoing challenge for providers in the state. The current contract requirements surrounding evaluation were revised in January 2021 to be flexible for this group of grantees who provide services using a range of different curriculums. These contract requirements were reviewed with all grantees in February 2021 and have continued to be reviewed as needed throughout the year.

Grantees previously provided evaluation data to DCFS using Excel templates sent to them each quarter by email. The program administrator created a new [Prevention Quarterly Reporting Form](#) for use starting January 2021. This new tool, made using Google Forms, allows additional space for text, including clear directions, definitions, and examples. This tool also allows the program administrator to make live updates to the form without having to re-distribute a new form to each grantee. Since implementing the tool, the program administrator has been able to identify errors and misunderstanding in data reporting more quickly and easily. The program administrator met individually with several programs during FFY 2021 to clarify data entry methods for their programs in an attempt to collect more accurate, consistent data across programs, which has resulted in several changes in the way programs are reporting data.

**EVALUATION**

Previous versions of the state prevention contracts required grantees to utilize the PFS-2. During 2020, the program administrator identified a great deal of difficulty and confusion among grantees regarding use of this tool. The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator temporarily eliminated use of the tool during the 2021-2023 contract cycle. This temporary pause is allowing the program administrator time needed to reassess each grantee’s evaluation process and the state’s evaluation needs. The current contract requirements are flexible, allowing grantees to propose their own set of evaluation tools that work well for the program they provide. During this period, each program must provide an evaluation plan that includes:

1. A logic model.
3. Client pre- and post-tests that measure program effectiveness.
4. A client measure of satisfaction with services.
5. A plan for continuous quality improvement.
6. How the grantee will use this data to improve services.

In July 2021, grantees provided evaluation data for the first reporting period of the new contract (January to June 2021) using [CBCAP and Children’s Trust Annual Reporting Form](#) created by the program administrator. This was the program administrator’s first opportunity to assess each program’s strengths and challenges related to evaluation.
Program Effectiveness

Some of the tools being utilized by grantees include:

- HOME Assessment.
- Life Skills Progression.
- PAT Family Centered Assessment.
- Protective Factors Survey (PFS).
- Parenting Interactions with Children: Checklist of Observations Linked to Outcomes (PICCOLO).
- Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventory (AAPI 2.1).
- Ages and Stages Questionnaire, 3rd Edition (ASQ-3).
- Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS).
- Self-designed program outcome measures.

Selected outcomes:

- Of the 15 families who exited Guadalupe’s PAT program with completed Pre and Post PICCOLO assessments, 100% showed growth in at least one area assessed and 53% of families demonstrated growth in all areas of the assessment.
- 100% of Guadalupe’s PAT participants received a minimum of one ASQ screening and two protective factor screenings.
- The Play It Safe curriculum resulted in a 47.24% increase of student knowledge between pre-test post-test scores.
- PCAU completed 33 ASQ-3 and ASQ-SEs with their PAT families. Twenty-five children were found to have a delay or potential concern that PCAU is addressing.
- Wasatch Behavioral Health GrandFamilies participants’ PFS results showed marked improvement in pre- vs. post-test scores for the Jan-March session.
- One parent who participated in the Nurturing Parenting program and completed both the pre- and post- AAPI 2.1 assessment reported improvement in two of five parenting constructs: High Level of Empathy and Values Power-Independence. Eleven other parents have only completed the pre-assessment at this time.

Client Satisfaction

Some of the tools being utilized by grantees include:

- PAT Parent Satisfaction Tool.
- Most programs have designed their own satisfaction measures.

Selected outcomes:

- 98% of parents felt that Help Me Grow services were equally helpful or more helpful during the pandemic as compared to before the pandemic.
• 90% of parents would be willing to recommend Help Me Grow services to a friend or family member.
• Several PAT program participants reported that the program did not help them feel connected to other families or community resources. While it can be said that COVID may have had a significant impact on this particular factor, this also reveals a need for more conscious efforts to increase parent opportunities to connect with each other in meaningful ways.
• 91% of students chose a rating of “5” indicating they were satisfied with Play It Safe presentations.
• The Nurturing Parenting program received feedback that the class seemed geared toward a younger group of children than this particular participant’s children, so the program is considering offering separate classes geared toward different age groups.

Internal Program Self-Assessment

Some of the tools being utilized by grantees include:

• Peer reviews.
• Data reviews.
• Call monitoring sheets.
• PAT supervision tool.
• Reflective supervision.
• Observed home visits.
• NFSN Standards of Quality Program Self-Assessment.

Evaluation Summary

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator observed a wide variety of tools in use among grantees. In some ways, it was helpful to allow grantees to propose their own evaluation tools because so many different types of programs are funded. It has been helpful to review all the different types of data being gathered and learn how programs use this data to improve services. This process also revealed a wide variety of grantee understanding of and ability to conduct evaluation. It also highlighted areas in which more support is needed.

Several CBCAP-funded programs provide PAT, and most of the PAT providers also receive MIECHV funds for the same service, leading to a consistency of evaluation methods among these programs. The program administrator works closely with the state MIECHV lead and intends to align future evaluation methods between the two funding sources.

In other ways, the flexible evaluation method has proven challenging. Examples include:

• One program’s outcomes cannot be compared with another’s, making it difficult to understand client progress.
• Some programs provide raw data and it has been difficult to interpret the data since it comes from many different tools.
• Several programs use the Penelope PAT database to send anonymous surveys, which provides them with a general sense of client satisfaction but does not distinguish between specific
programs offered. As such, the providers using this method are unable to provide the program administrator with CBCAP program-specific data.

- It has been difficult for the program administrator to evaluate grantee outcomes without a singular database or repository in which to view and analyze the program data.
- It has not been possible to determine program improvements because, at this time, only a baseline has been established.
- Many programs were unable to provide outcome measures at this time, as they are only six months into the new contract cycle.

Data will be provided in July 2022 (for reporting period July 2021 to June 2022) and in July 2023 (for reporting period July 2022 to June 2023). The program administrator will continue to work with grantees to improve evaluation methods over the remaining contract period and will use the information gathered to inform the creation of an improved evaluation plan for the 2023 contracts.

The program administrator intends to re-introduce a minimum requirement for all grantees to use the Protective Factors Survey, Second Edition (PFS-2) in the 2023 round of contracts. The program administrator will work with the FRIENDS T/TA in FFY 2022 to establish an account with its Protective Factors Survey Online Data System and train grantees on how to use it in their practice. Future contracts will also utilize principals from the Results Based Accountability framework, as the framework becomes more integrated throughout DHHS.

Sixty percent of Utah’s FFY 2021 CBCAP funding (including state match) was used to support evidenced based programs rated as well-supported by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearing House. An additional nine percent of funding was used to support evidence-informed programming. Please see the table below for CBCAP funding detail.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funded Programs</th>
<th>Funded Amount</th>
<th>Evidence Rating</th>
<th>References to Support Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Agency:** Carbon County FSC  
**Program:** Parents as Teachers                          | $70,000       | Well Supported  | Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearing House                     |
| **Agency:** The Family Place Utah  
**Program:** Parents as Teachers                          | $75,000       | Well Supported  | Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearing House                     |
| **Agency:** Utah County Health Department  
**Program:** Parents as Teachers                          | $77,000       | Well Supported  | Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearing House                     |
| **Agency:** Prevent Child Abuse Utah  
**Program:** Parents as Teachers                          | $103,000      | Well Supported  | Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearing House                     |
| **Agency:** Salt Lake County Health Department  
**Program:** Parents as Teachers/Nurse Family Partnership | $69,000       | Well Supported  | Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearing House                     |
| **Agency:** United Way of Utah County  
**Program:** Help Me Grow Program                          | $50,000       | Evidence Informed | N/A                                                              |

**Total Funded Programs:** $444,000*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funded Special Projects</th>
<th>Special Projects Funded Amount</th>
<th>Evidence Rating</th>
<th>References to Support Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Project:** Utah Family Strengthening Network  
**Description:** Materials and Training                | $10,000                       | Evidence Informed  | N/A                                                              |
| **Project:** CWIC & QIC Meetings  
**Description:** Awards and Recognition                 | $1,000                        | N/A              | N/A                                                              |
| **Project:** Uplift Families  
**Description:** Virtual Parenting Event & Online Parent Resource Center | $10,000                       | N/A              | N/A                                                              |

**Total Special Projects:** $21,000

**TOTAL:** $465,000

*Note: This total reflects funding awarded to programs on January 2021 and does not include funds awarded and utilized October – December 2020 that were a part of contracts that expired December 1, 2020.*
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH AND PUBLIC AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

In FFY 2021, prevention programs held 2,892 Community Education Public Awareness Activities, reaching 154,954 individuals. These are much higher numbers than those of FFY 2020 (2,437 events reaching 32,696 individuals). The increase is a result of three significant changes in the ways in which grantees count and report these events:

1. Prior to this year, Utah Valley Family Support Center (UVFSC) was counting school-based presentations as direct services. Per the program administrator’s guidance, UVFSC is now counting school-based presentations as public awareness activities.
2. Prior to this year, grantees were counting only one-time community events as public awareness activities. They were not giving themselves credit for things that reach broader audiences, such as podcasts, billboards, radio ads, or social media campaigns. The program administrator worked with grantees throughout the year to gain a better understanding of CBCAP guidelines and document these activities.
3. Prior to this year, grantees with resource and referral hotlines were not counting these calls as public awareness activities. Per the program administrator’s guidance, grantees are now counting these calls as public awareness activities.

Some Child Abuse Prevention Month events sponsored in FFY 2021 included:

- Guadalupe Schools conducted an awareness campaign about the Period of Purple Crying and SIDS prevention, car seat safety events, and vaccine clinics.
- Children’s Service Society purchased multiple billboards along Utah’s main interstate to promote support services offered through their program.
- Utah County Health Department (UCHD) shared information about tax credits and tax help during their annual community Easter event. UCHD also advertised home visiting services at community mental health fair.
- The Family Support Center planned a large media event featuring the Salt Lake County Mayor.
- Wasatch Behavioral Health sponsored a community Easter egg hunt in conjunction with a pinwheel activity for child abuse prevention month.
- PCAU sponsored a “Mistake Day” to illustrate the importance of patience and parental resilience. PCAU Executive Director also made several news appearances to educate the public about child abuse prevention.
- The Family Place began recording a weekly podcast in an attempt to reach more families during the pandemic. The podcast features tools to strengthen families and support caregivers with parenting.

As reported in FFY 2020, when compared to previous years, Child Abuse Prevention month statewide efforts were modest, due to competing demands of the COVID-19 pandemic. To ensure a more robust response in FFY 2021, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator assembled a small planning team consisting of the DCFS Public Information Office (PIO), PCAU Executive Director and PIO, FSCU Executive Director, an executive director from one of the Family Support Centers, and DOH ACEs Prevention Coordinator. The team created a media release that included statistics, resources, and opportunities for interviews; a few news articles were published. The team also created a small poster encouraging parent help-seeking behaviors and directing families to their local Family Support Center for
support. The team distributed the posters to libraries and other public-facing locations in the spring and throughout 2021.

Because media interest stemming from the press release was less than the team had hoped for, the DCFS PIO proactively sought out media opportunities to discuss Child Abuse Prevention Month. The PIO arranged for an interview with the program administrator on the KSL Mom Show, which aired on live radio and in podcast format.

The program administrator and DCFS PIO noticed that many local news articles surrounding Child Abuse Prevention Month were focused on victims instead of on prevention. During the months that followed, the team strategized about how to improve public awareness efforts throughout the year and shape the messaging to one of strengthening families and community support. The team is taking a more proactive approach and making plans for FFY 2022. These efforts include:

1. Provide training and guidance for state grantees in December 2021 to help them in their preparation for Child Abuse Prevention Month.
2. Create a Child Abuse Prevention Month tool kit that will be shared with all state grantees in January of February. The tool kit will help create consistent, prevention-focused messaging statewide that grantees can replicate in their communities.
3. Request the Utah Governor declare January as “Family Strengthening Month” to compliment the efforts of April’s Child Abuse Prevention Month.
4. Building relationships with local newscasters and provide education on issues related to children and families. Through these relationships, secure interviews concerning Child Abuse Prevention Month.
5. Collaborate with Intermountain Healthcare to leverage support for broader messaging.
6. Work with 211 to create a parenting landing page structured around the Protective Factors.
During FFY 2021, the program administrator provided presentations about Utah prevention services to stakeholder groups. These groups included:

- Help Me Grow-sponsored Community Connection Meeting.
- Utah County prevention partners.
- Learn the Signs. Act Early.
- Utah State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup.
- Opioid Use Disorder Telehealth Session.

During FFY 2021, the program administrator provided presentations on Utah’s prevention work to two national audiences. These audiences included:

- NFSN Webinar Wednesday.
- Annual CBCAP Grantee Meeting.

**CHALLENGES, BARRIERS, AND AREAS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

The main barriers to moving prevention work forward in FFY 2021 were related to the state agency realignment process and the COVID-19 pandemic.

**State Agency Realignment**

In March 2021, the state legislature passed a bill directing the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services to transition into one state agency by July 1, 2022. Because of the unique nature of prevention work, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator had already developed strong working relationships with many program leaders at the health department. As a result, the program administrator was asked to participate in many areas of transition planning that took place from March-December 2021. The program administrator was assigned to participate in workgroups across four different domains, which involved numerous weekly meetings and outside research projects. The program administrator also participated in employee and public stakeholder meetings and spent time educating grantees and outside committees about realignment progress. These responsibilities accounted for nearly 50% of the program administrator’s weekly work time over a period of many months.

Because of the urgent priorities the pending merger brought, the program administrator was less available to focus on certain prevention goals during FFY 2021, such as evaluation planning and public awareness efforts. However, the realignment plan has been designed to improve services and outcomes for families, and the program administrator is grateful for the opportunity to influence some of the realignment decisions related to organizational structure, policies, and procedures. The new structure aligns many functions that were previously disjointed, and these changes will hopefully result in stronger prevention services for Utah families.
The COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact child abuse prevention work in many ways throughout FFY 2021. Grantees worked diligently to adapt their method of service provision as pandemic conditions shifted throughout the year. Some grantees struggled to find families to participate in services during the pandemic; one program had only a 50% completion rate during their first session of classes and only a 12% completion rate during their next session. Many programs had the additional burden of helping families access services through virtual methods. Programs also found it difficult to engage families in parent leadership activities. Furthermore, health department staff, who provide the majority of home visiting services in the state, were often temporarily reassigned to help with COVID-19 contact tracing, testing, and vaccine distribution.

The biggest challenge for programs this year, in contrast to the first year of the pandemic, stems from staffing issues. Community-based programs have increasingly struggled to employee and retain staff. The program administrator spent many hours working with programs to examine and improve hiring practices, advocate for additional funding, and identify alternative services for families, when programs could not operate due to staff shortages. Supporting community-based programs with staffing-related challenges will continue to be a priority throughout FFY 2022.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN STATE ACTIVITIES

DHS Executive Leadership approved the program administrator’s proposed spending plan which includes the following estimates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>American Rescue Plan State Activities</th>
<th>SFY 2022</th>
<th>SFY 2023</th>
<th>SFY 2024</th>
<th>SFY 2025</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fully fund existing CBCAP &amp; CTA contracts for remaining contract period (2 yrs)</td>
<td>$ 372,000</td>
<td>$ 372,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 744,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund two additional programs (2 yrs)</td>
<td>$ 132,000</td>
<td>$ 132,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 264,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utah Family Strengthening Network development -- Sole Source with PCAU (2 yrs)</td>
<td>$ 199,840</td>
<td>$ 199,840</td>
<td></td>
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<td>$ 399,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment (one-time cost)</td>
<td>$ 100,000</td>
<td></td>
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<td>$100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>New RGAs (3 yrs)</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ 532,700</td>
<td>$ 532,700</td>
<td>$ 532,700</td>
<td>$ 1,598,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$ 803,840</td>
<td>$ 1,236,540</td>
<td>$ 532,700</td>
<td>$ 532,700</td>
<td>$ 3,105,780</td>
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</table>

The Utah Children’s Trust Fund has sharply decreased in recent years due to declining birthrates in the state. These declines were exacerbated by COVID-19, which resulted in the most recent group of prevention grantees only being funded at 40-70% of their required budget. The program administrator is currently working with the 12 existing grantees to distribute additional funding, enabling them to
completely implement their programming as proposed. This process has taken several months, as it requires negotiation with each program, updated budgets, and contract amendments. The program administrator anticipates that contracts will be finalized and funds will become available in January 2022.

These funds will also allow the program administrator to fully fund two additional parenting programs, both of which had previously applied for funding during the 2020 RFP and received acceptable scores, but there was not enough funding at that time to award them a contract.

The program administrator is currently working with PCAU to create a sole source contract to support the Utah Family Strengthening Network. These additional funds will allow the network to support administrative staff, expand the number of certified trainers, pay trainers for their services, and expand the network's scope to include implementation support and parent partnership work.

The program administrator is also working with the University of Utah Social Research Institute (SRI) to develop a scope of work for a contract with SRI to conduct a statewide comprehensive needs assessment. This needs assessment will result in a strategic plan that will be used to inform a new RFP to be published in 2023. The CAPTA administrator is also contributing a portion of CAPTA Supplemental Funds to expand the scope of the needs assessment to support Utah’s CAPTA program efforts.

Since the creation of this proposed budget, some additional needs have been identified. The program administrator may make a few adjustments to this proposal to include funding for the following items:

- New staff to support the CWIC and QIC restructure.
- Public awareness costs.
- Funding to support the addition of questions about ACEs to the Utah BRFSS.
ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A. FSCU Additional Services

Attachment B. January 2021 – June 2023 Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Scope of Work