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

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Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention  
Annual Progress Report

Report Due: January 30, 2023

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## INTRODUCTION

In response to ACYF-CB-PI-22-05 entitled *Community-Based Grants for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect or Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP)* published March 18, 2022, the State of Utah Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), is submitting Utah's FFY 2022 CBCAP Annual Report. This report highlights the agency's Child Abuse Prevention Program activities and achievements.

## LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

### Organizational Structure

In Utah, DHHS 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, DHHS Division of Continuous Quality and Improvement 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.

### 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. In August 2022, DCFS Director Diane Moore retired, and in October 2022, Tonya Myrup, who had previously been the Division Assistant Director, was selected as the Division's new director.

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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 Assistant 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 Assistant 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. During FFY 2022, this administrator was Trisha Reynolds.

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Trisha Reynolds served as the Program Administrator from December 2019 to December 2022. A search for a new Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator is underway.

In October 2022, a new position of Prevention Program Manager was created and filled by Marion Eckersley. The new Program Manager position will be responsible for developing and managing DCFS child abuse prevention contracts with community agencies that deliver child abuse prevention services. This position will also cover the Program Administrator duties until the position is filled. She can be reached at meeckersley@utah.gov or 801-698-1205.

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.

## 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 80-2—503(3) *Division contracts for prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect*, 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 childcare, 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.
4. 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.
5. 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 scores 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 2022, Utah’s CBCAP funds supported several services and programs. These programs are under contract from January 2021 to June 2023, with current actions taking place to extend through June 2025:

- Carbon County Family Support Center *Parents as Teachers* home visiting program.
- Utah County Health Department *Parents as Teachers* home visiting program.
- Salt Lake County Health Department *Parents as Teachers* home visiting program.
- Prevent Child Abuse Utah’s *Parents as Teachers* home visiting program (serving Davis and Box Elder Counties).
- The Family Place’s *Parents as Teachers* home visiting program (serving Cache and Rich Counties).

CBCAP funds were also used to support the following special projects and initiatives during FFY 2022:

- 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.
- Prevent Child Abuse Utah 2022 Joining Forces Conference for parents and prevention professionals.
- Uplift Families 2022 [Parenting TIPS](#) televised event and online [Parent Resource Center](#). Uplift Families was initiated by the former First Lady of Utah and has continued under the new First Lady of Utah.

#### Prevention Continuous Quality Improvement Plan

In FFY 2022, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator collaborated with the DHHS Continuous Quality Improvement Director to create a prevention program-specific continuous quality improvement (CQI) plan. Plan details are presented on page 47 of this report.

## ACTIONS TO ADVOCATE FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE

### Involvement in Statewide Systemic Change Efforts

#### Development and Oversight of the CFSP/APSR and CFSR PIP

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.

In FFY 2022, DCFS updated their internal review process to align with federal CFSR guidelines. A new review process called the CFSR+ was created to incorporate additional elements of Utah's old review process that the state wanted to maintain, such as Teaming. The Program Administrator completed CFSR+ training to understand the changes to the review process and become equipped to participate in future reviews. The Program Administrator also worked with the Internal Services Review Team Manager to present changes to the review process to the Child Welfare Improvement Council (CWIC) and identify performance improvement projects that the CWIC may be able to help with in the coming years.



## Early Childhood Systems Building

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. While most merger decisions were finalized in 2021, a few changes have continued throughout 2022, including the creation of a new Office of Early Childhood. This new office includes many programs that the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator interacts with regularly, including Baby Watch Early Intervention Program (BWEIP), the Home Visiting Program, the Early Childhood Utah Program, and the Charm Data System. This new office configuration will improve the collaboration of Utah'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 ages 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 DHHS and Workforce Services.

The Program Administrator serves on the ECU Parent Engagement, Support, and Education subcommittee. During FFY 2022, this subcommittee recruited five parents to join the council and support Utah's early childhood work. The Program Administrator took an active role in recruiting and mentoring these parents. The subcommittee, including these parents, is now working to identify gaps in services across the state and improve public awareness of supportive resources for families.

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, BWEIP. The Program Administrator also serves on the Parent Engagement subcommittee of this council.

In FFY 2022, Utah began the process of implementing the [Pyramid Model](#) throughout its early childhood programs. The Pyramid Model is a framework of evidence-based practices that promotes the social, emotional, and behavioral development of young children. As a member of the Pyramid State Leadership Team, the Program Administrator works with other state leaders to implement this framework throughout the state.

The Program Administrator also participated on the state leadership team for a grant that Utah received from the Association of University Centers on Disabilities. This grant, a cooperative agreement with the CDC, was co-led by Utah's *Learn the Signs. Act Early. Ambassador and Help Me*

*Grow Utah*. The Program Administrator designed and completed an implementation plan for DCFS that included:

- Distribution of early intervention materials and information to prevention grantees, such as Family Support Centers and home visiting sites.
- Distribution of early intervention materials and information to DCFS offices statewide.
- Improvement of the DCFS referral process to early intervention services for families involved with child protective services investigations.

## Home Visiting Program

DHHS 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. As a result of the DHS and DOH realignment process, DCFS and OHV are now housed within the new DHHS Center for Children Youth and Families, supporting better collaboration between the two programs.

During FFY 2022, Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator and the OHV Program Administrator worked together to expand services through a variety of channels. The programs collaborated with the governor's new Office of Families to advocate for state funds to expand home visiting. This resulted in a building block request and support in the Governor's annual budget. The programs also collaborated with the Refugee Services Office to receive and administer additional funding for the provision of home visiting services for refugee families.

The two program administrators continue to learn about each other's federal programs so that funding can be better leveraged and maximized. Future goals include braiding funding sources and conducting joint procurements to better distribute home visiting services throughout the state. The two program administrators are considering aligning outcome measures using the [Results Based Accountability](#) performance framework and creating a shared reporting process for providers.

The two program administrators meet monthly to coordinate on a variety of shared topics and are working together to improve community knowledge of home visiting resources. Additionally, the two program administrators will be jointly training DCFS Intake staff in 2023.

## Public Health Initiatives

In FFY 2022, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator continued worked closely with the DHHS Violence and Injury Prevention Program (VIPP) on several initiatives. The Program Administrator met regularly with the VIPP team, which includes the Adverse Childhood Experiences Specialist, the Primary Prevention Coordinator, and an epidemiologist specializing in childhood maltreatment, among others. Projects included:

- Providing 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.
- Creating and distributing a *Connectedness Toolkit* and planning for a statewide public awareness campaign focused on connectedness.
- Training and mentoring other CBCAP state leads on utilizing a public health approach in their work at the CBCAP Regional Meeting in Salt Lake City.
- Participating in the creation and launch of [Utah's Healthy Places Index](#).
- Continuing a statewide awareness campaign to increase uptake of the *Earned Income Tax Credit* and the *Child Tax Credit*.
- Coordinating with the Utah Chamber of Commerce and Gardner Policy Institute on a family-friendly workplace policies survey and report.
- Educating numerous stakeholder groups and lawmakers about primary prevention strategies.
- Attending the annual Bureau of Health Promotion Conference.

## Other Interagency Collaborative Activities

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator is working to better integrate the state's child abuse and neglect prevention work with the state's substance abuse prevention work. Substance abuse prevention services are planned and provided at the local level through a network of dozens of local [Communities That Care](#) Coalitions. At the same time, UCPC has been anxious to duplicate its success at the local level. Rather than building new coalitions to focus on primary prevention of child abuse and neglect, the Program Administrator proposed a collaboration with the existing substance abuse prevention structure. This proposal came after several years of building relationships with key partners and learning more about various prevention structures. The needed elements are beginning to come together, and momentum is building for an exciting collaboration to take place in FFY 2023.

Throughout FFY 2022, 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. TIU established a board of directors and hired an executive director, but TIU encountered challenges when its legislative funding request was not granted. The board is continuing efforts to identify the appropriate structure and funding sources to establish the Center, and the Program Administrator provides support for their efforts.

Because Utah has the highest birthrate in the nation, the state was hit particularly hard by the nationwide formula shortage. The Program Administrator worked with state grantees to collect stories and data about how the shortage impacted children and families. This information was shared with the Children's Trust Fund Alliance, and many stories from Utah were included in their

final document that was shared with Casey Family Programs, lawmakers in Washington D.C., and media throughout Utah.

## Reorienting the Child Welfare System

### Prevention Staff Capacity

During FFY 2022, much of the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator's time and energy was spent creating additional staff capacity focused on prevention. The program administrator, who has previous experience supervising social work interns, reestablished connections with local universities and supervised a BSW student during the winter semester. This student intern completed several projects that the Program Administrator had been unable to complete earlier in the year, such as writing [a blog post](#) for Uplift Families and providing additional content for its [Parent Resource Center](#).

DCFS utilized a portion of CAPTA, and FVPSA American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to create a new time-limited DCFS Grants Manager position to help manage ARPA-funded programs. The Program Administrator participated in the hiring process for this position. The position was filled by a grant writer who previously worked for a CBCAP-funded agency. The new Prevention Program Manager is currently working on a request for grant applications (RFGA) using braided CBCAP and CAPTA ARPA funds that aims to decrease disproportionality in the child welfare system by targeting funding to a specific underserved population or geographical location.

This year, the Program Administrator accomplished a long-time goal of creating a second staff position focused solely on prevention services. The new position of Prevention Program Manager was made possible through an agreement with the Family Support Centers of Utah, who approved a percentage of new state funding to be used for DHHS administrative costs. Justification for creating this position required considerable research and support from other DHHS divisions and state prevention teams. Originally, the Program Administrator position was only parttime; now the team included two fulltime positions.

The new Prevention Program Manager will provide monitoring, training, and technical assistance for the state's eleven Family Support Centers and all the CBCAP- and Children's Trust grantees. The position was filled by someone with over 20 years of experience overseeing grants and pilot programs funded by TANF. This additional staff capacity will allow the Program Administrator to focus on statewide projects such as evaluation, public awareness, and the statewide needs assessment that is currently underway.

### Prevention-Focused System

Several members of the Implementation Team meet weekly with the Projects Team and the Administrative Team to plan and execute new projects that impact child welfare practice. Through

conversations with the Administrative Team about how to better integrate a prevention mindset into the child welfare agency, the decision was made to invite the Program Administrator to attend Project Team meetings, beginning in August 2022. The Program Administrator now has a standing 20-minute item on the agenda to focus on educating others about prevention projects and identify areas of crossover and collaboration.

### 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 2022, Utah continued its focus on implementing services available under the IV-E prevention program plan. Two in-home parenting programs have been the focus this past year.

First, the SafeCare procurement process was completed, and the first group of providers have been trained. The first clients are just beginning to receive this evidence-based in-home parenting skills service targeted to parents with children ages 0-5

Second, Utah received approval from the Children's Bureau to add an in-home parenting service developed locally by Utah Youth Village, called Families First through the independent systematic review process for inclusion in Utah's Title IV-E Prevention Program Plan. This service was subsequently approved as well-supported by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse. This service is available in nearly all areas of Utah.

Additional training for other services previously approved under Utah's Title IV-E plan has been provided in the last year, including training providers on Parent Child Interaction Therapy and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Planning is currently underway for training in Motivational Interviewing, and a contract has been established with LYSSN to create capacity for fidelity monitoring for MI and TF-CBT.

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, and is also considering expanding the IV-E plan to include PAT for a secondary prevention population.

### First Impressions

A primary initiative of DCFS during FFY 2022 continued to be its First Impressions project that began in FFY 2020. First Impressions focuses on realigning 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 and the outcomes continue to be positive. Pilot expansion is occurring during FFY 2023.

### Plan 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.

### Court Improvement Program

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator continued to participate on the Court Improvement Program (CIP) throughout FFY 2022. The Program Administrator and CIP administrator met privately to strategize ways to better connect primary prevention to the work of legal partners. The Program Administrator created a formal presentation about prevention services for the CIP Committee in June 2022. The presentation was very well-received, and the Committee invited the Program Administrator to share the same presentation with the statewide network of juvenile court judges and attorneys during the 2022 CIP Summit. Due to an unfortunate scheduling conflict, the Program Administrator was not able to present this year but is scheduled to present during the next CIP Summit, which will be held in 2024. The Program Administrator and CIP Administrator met recently to discuss other ways to collaborate and work to shift the courts toward a more prevention-focused system.

One potential collaboration with CIP involves exploration of Washington State's [FIRST Clinic](#). The clinic is a medical-legal partnership dedicated to preventing trauma associated with family separation. The Program Administrator first learned of this model from the coordinator for the Utah Safe Babies Court program, who facilitated a training with the founders of the clinic. The Program Administrator invited several key prevention partners to this training to help build momentum for this type of program in Utah. The Program Administrator also shared this information with the CIP Coordinator and is hopeful that legal partners will support its development, once the mechanisms to do so are identified.

## Reshaping the Child Welfare Improvement Council

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator continued to serve as the primary liaison between the CWIC and DCFS leadership during FFY 2022. Over the past three 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 began working toward a reorganization of the structure and function of these groups during FFY 2021. This work continued throughout FFY 2022 and will also continue into FFY 2023.

### Successes

Several challenges were identified in the FFY 2021 CBCAP Annual Report, and, while many of these challenges remain, there has been progress.

Five parents joined CWIC this year – two foster parents and three parents with lived experience in the child welfare system. One of these parents decided that the CWIC was not the right fit for her personal goals, but the other four parents are still involved and very engaged in the process. Other new members to join CWIC this year include a school counselor and youth pastor, a parental defense attorney, and the executive director of a Family Support Center/Children's Justice Center in a rural part of the state.

In August 2022, CWIC held their first in-person meeting in three years. This was the first time many CWIC members had met in person, and many members commented how meaningful it was to be in-person with their peers. The meeting was a culmination of many months of discussions about how to shift the focus and effectiveness of the CWIC, and it resulted in a set of exciting goals and plans that will guide CWIC during the coming year.

The working relationship and collaboration between CWIC and DCFS Administration continues to improve through concerted efforts of the Program Administrator. The Program Administrator facilitated the DCFS Director's attendance at two CWIC meetings this year, and that connection proved helpful in CWIC members reporting that they felt heard. CWIC put together a comprehensive set of recommendations focused on psychotropic medication oversight for youth in care. The Program Administrator worked with DCFS Administration to ensure that these recommendations were shared with the new DCFS Director and that a written response would be provided to CWIC in a timely manner.

The Program Administrator also discussed CWIC with the Administrative Team on several occasions this year, to raise awareness of CWIC efforts and encourage the Administrative Team to include CWIC involvement in child welfare improvement projects. The group was responsive to the idea of increasing its collaboration with CWIC and contributed several ideas for projects that CWIC might be able to help with in the coming year. While needed progress remains, the working relationship seems to be on a positive trajectory.

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator and CAPTA Program Administrator continue to build relationships with and obtain support from other Citizen Review Panel (CRP) Coordinators. The CAPTA Program Administrator attended the in-person CRP Conference in California this year. The Program Administrator attended several online webinars to dialogue and learn from other states.

### Ongoing Challenges

Onboarding and support for committee members continues to be a challenge. A previous administrator created a CWIC training manual for new members, but it is out-of-date and minimally effective. Due to schedule constraints, the Program Administrator has had difficulty engaging in meaningful recruitment efforts and providing the CWIC and five QICs with the level of support they need, while also managing the state's prevention program. Many long-standing CWIC members cycled out of their seats in 2022, after a maximum 8-year term limit; CWIC currently has six vacant seats.

Many CWIC members continue to be primarily interested in the foster care system. The Program Administrator has encouraged CWIC to focus more on prevention, CPS, and family preservation services. While the focus of the group appears to be slowly shifting, the 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 addition to the statewide CWIC, there are five regional QICs, each is located within one of the Division's five regions. 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 been struggling since before the COVID-19 pandemic. Like the CWIC, the QICs are grappling with membership, vision, purpose, and support. Several RDs report that the QICs are largely driven by DCFS, and are a challenge, given other region responsibilities.

### Solutions

In FFY 2021 and 2022, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator and CAPTA Program Administrator learned in depth the challenges of the CWIC and QICs and identified solutions to support these groups. The two program administrators met with CRP Coordinators from several other states to learn how strong CRPs function. The two program administrators proposed a possible solution to DCFS Administration and to the CWIC. Elements of the proposed solution include:

- Decrease the overall number of CRPs so that support can more readily be provided.
- Combine efforts with other groups doing similar work, such as the youth council, fatality review committee, or regional advisory councils.
- Utilize CAPTA funds to create a full-time CRP coordinator responsible for recruiting, onboarding, training, facilitating, writing, and liaising with DCFS.



- Legislative changes that eliminate the requirement for CWIC to provide oversight for Children’s Trust Fund decisions, instead allowing UCPC to be the body that provides guidance for DCFS primary and secondary prevention activities.

These solutions have proven to be easier to propose than to implement. Some CWIC and QIC members have been hesitant toward the idea of restructuring, while others have welcomed the idea. DCFS Administration has not yet determined if it will create a coordinator position, due to other staffing decisions and leadership changes, which have created a delay. The Program Administrator is hopeful that this position will be created and filled in FFY 2023. DCFS leadership recognized that focus on the CWIC and QICs was preventing the Program Administrator from fully focusing on prevention activities, and this project was reassigned to the Program Administrator’s supervisor in October 2022.

Please see the below table for a listing of current CWIC membership.

CWIC Council	
Laurieanne Thorpe (Chair) Prevent Child Abuse Utah	Harini Venkatesan (Co-Chair) Lokken & Associates Parental Defense Council
Carissa Morris Parent with lived experience	Celeste Edmunds Christmas Box House International
Danielle Cruz Foster parent / Children's Service Society	Dr. David Corwin, MD University of Utah Pediatrics
Donnette Demaio Open Doors (Family Support Center)	Garrett Decker Jordan School District School Counselor Youth Pastor
Heidi Grimshaw Utah Parent Teacher Association	Julia Armstrong Utah State Board of Education – Youth in Care
Julie Steele University of Utah College of Nursing	Lauren Wallentine Private Provider
Marcie Valenzuela Parent with lived experience	Melanie Hansen Fostering Healthy Children
Mike Hamblin Utah Foster Care Foundation	Mina Koplín Salt Lake County Division of Youth Services
Nathan McDonald South Salt Lake Police Department Special Victims	Sarah Strang The Road Home
Shelley Wright Carbon County Family Support Center & Children's Justice Center	Vacant standing position Domestic violence representation
Vacant standing position Substance use & mental health representation	Vacant
Vacant	Vacant
Vacant	
CWIC Non-Voting Members	
Carol Verdoia (non-voting member) Attorney General, Child Protection Division	Simon Bolivar (non-voting member) DHS Office of Licensing
Stacey Snyder (non-voting member) Guardian ad Litem	Charri Brummer (DCFS Liaison) DCFS Deputy Director
Dan Rich (DCFS Liaison) CPS Program Administrator	Trisha Reynolds (DCFS Liaison) Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator
Sarah Welliver (DCFS Liaison) DHS Public Information Officer	Carol Miller (DCFS Liaison) 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 to allow the two funds to be shifted among programs as needed, due to the fluctuating nature of the CTA balance. As the 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 2025 RGA, Utah will likely 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 support home visiting more effectively during the next RGA. The recent agency realignment will support this and other types of creative funding in the future.

During the 2022 legislative session, a Utah lawmaker proposed a bill to eliminate all fees associated with the purchase of birth certificates. This bill was intended to decrease financial burden on Utah families, but it would decimate the Children’s Trust Account Program, as birth certificate fees are the sole revenue source. The Program Administrator worked with agency leadership to initiate a conversation with this lawmaker that resulted in the bill being put on hold until the 2023 session. During the interim, the Program Administrator worked with the DCFS Finance Team, the Office of Vital Statistics, and local health departments to assemble a formal report to share with the legislature about the impacts this bill would have. DCFS and the Program Administrator will be monitoring this bill closely during the 2023 legislative session, which begins in January. The Program Administrator will continue to identify new ways to diversify revenue sources in FFY 2023.

The state’s eleven Family Support Centers (FSCs) continue to receive legislatively appropriated funding that passes through DCFS and is overseen by the Program Administrator. In addition to these funds, Family Support Centers of Utah (FSCU), the statewide association that provides support for the FSCs, was successful in their request to receive ongoing state funding during the 2022 legislative session. This was seen as a great success, since FSCU’s previous legislative funding had been one-time funding. FSCU funds now pass through DHHS and are overseen by the Program Administrator, instead of through the Department of Workforce Services and being overseen by the TANF program. This allows for more flexibility with the funding and the FSCs two state funding sources to be better aligned in future contracts.

## COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

The child abuse prevention services continuum in Utah includes a variety of agencies, collaborative partners, and joint 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 funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Essentials for Childhood (ECCS) Grant and managed by the ACEs Prevention Specialist at the DHHS Violence and Injury Prevention Program (VIIPP). In FFY 2022, the Program Administrator was elected as co-chair of UCPC, resulting in more attention and support for DCFS prevention priorities. The UCPC State Action Plan currently includes the following five priorities, although an update is forthcoming:

1. Strengthening economic supports to families.
2. Enhancing parenting skills.
3. Improving parent help-seeking behaviors.
4. Providing high quality care and education early in life.
5. Promoting trauma-informed approaches.

The updated 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 quarterly ACEs Learning Collaborative webinar series. This series has been well-received and well-attended, and it has continued throughout FFY 2022. The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator helps select topics and arrange presenters for the series. The series is open to the public and is advertised widely. In July 2022, the Program Administrator co-presented on family strengthening services during one of the learning sessions. Other topics FFY 2022 topics included the importance of social-emotional learning in schools, family-friendly workplace policies, and the protective factors framework.

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 Program Administrator was asked to help

provide administrative support for this group in FFY 2022. The Program Administrator facilitated a few faith leader meetings and attended the Interfaith Suicide Prevention Summit. However, due to other schedule demands, the Program Administrator has not had sufficient time to commit to this project. The Program Administrator is hoping to renew focus on this group, since the creation of the new prevention program manager position, which will provide additional capacity for the team.

Please see the below table for a listing of current UCPC membership.

Utah Coalition for Protecting Childhood	
Executive Planning Committee	
Deondra Brown Nielsen (Co-Chair) Advocate, Foundation for Survivors of Abuse, Children's Justice Center	Trisha Reynolds (Co-Chair) DCFS Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator
Laurieann Thorpe PCAU Executive Director	Vonda Jump-Norman Associate Professor, Utah State University
Nathan Malan VIPP Child Abuse Prevention Epidemiologist	Joey Thurgood Adverse Childhood Experiences Prevention Specialist
Steering Committee Members	
Ray Bailey OSUMH Suicide Prevention Program Manager	Dr. Kris Campbell Primary Children's Hospital Child Abuse Pediatrician
Amy Mikkelsen VIPP Primary Prevention Coordinator	Krista Useche The Family Place Crisis Nursery Director
Angela Romero Utah State House of Representatives (Democratic Party)	Lisa Davenport DHHS Baby Watch Early Intervention Program Mgr.
Barbara Leavitt United Way of Utah County Community Impact Director	Mary Beth Vogel-Ferguson University of Utah Social Research Institute
Codie Thurgood OSUMH Children Youth and Families Program Manager	Ned Searle Office on Domestic and Sexual Violence Director
Corryn Wermel VIPP Utah Safe Kids Coordinator	Kabi Catalano Utah Community Builders Director
Dr. David Corwin University of Utah Professor of Pediatrics	VACANT Homelessness Advocate and Community Builder
Dawnie Elzinga The Family Support Center Operations Director	Rebecca Banner DWS Office of Child Care Director
Debbie Comstock Utah Family Strengthening Network	Robert Parrish Deputy Salt Lake County District Attorney (Retired)
Tonya Myrup DCFS Director	Teresa Brechlin-Betzer VIPP Program Manager
Greg McDonald Utah Community Action Partnership	Todd Weiler Utah State Senator (Republican Party)
Jessica Strong Primary Children's Hospital Community Health Manager	Tracey Tabet Utah Children's Justice Centers Executive Director
Jocelyn De La Rosa Salt Lake Family Support Center Executive Director	Travis Baer Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
John Hansen Empathy Project Founder	Vonda Jump Norman Utah State University Resilience Through Caring
Kim Fischer Waterford Upstart Vice President of Communications	Aimee Winder-Newton Governor's Office of Families Director
Elizabeth Vansant-Webb Home Visiting Program Manager	Sam Arungwa USU Extension Professor
Sundyn Woolf CASA Volunteer	

## 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. 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 trainers throughout the state who provide training to community agencies on the Protective Factors and NFSN's Standards of Quality (Standards).

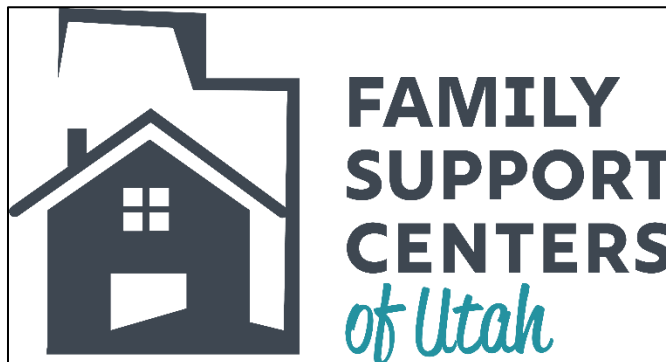
Historically, UFSN was a volunteer-run network. Prior to 2021, UFSN volunteer trainers were not getting paid for their skills or time invested in training. As the need for UFSN support grew throughout the state, it became clear that the network needed financial resources to continue supporting the state's 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 finalized a contract with PCAU in August 2022 to infuse the network with financial support using supplemental CBCAP funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. This funding allowed PCAU to create a new position for a program manager which will support the daily operations of the network.

FFY 2022 was a time of great change and growth for UFSN, as the group evolved from a network of volunteers to a network with formal structure and new contract expectations. The state leadership team voted on a new governance structure that distributes decision-making power more equally among members. This shift in structure has required dozens of crucial conversations, but the network is hopeful that the new structure will allow the UFSN to expand its reach. The group is continuing to grapple with issues of network membership and how that aligns with NFSN priorities and the work of FSCU. The current contract with PCAU will be in place for two years (until August 2024) but the future management of the network is still undecided as the group is exploring the best options for the future.

One exciting new addition to PCAU's work with UFSN is the development of a TCOM tool. TCOM, or Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management, is a conceptual framework for managing systems, organizations, and programs whose mission is to help people change their lives in some important way. Many years ago, Utah worked with the Praed Foundation to develop a TCOM tool for the child welfare population; this will expand upon that work to create a similar application for prevention providers. This tool will help guide interventions, create better outcomes for families, and create a continuum of care for families from prevention to intervention.

## Utah Association of Family Support Centers

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator provides support to the Family Support Centers of Utah (FSCU.) 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 the same 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.

The Program Administrator is a member of FSCU's Board. The Board has been engaged in a year-long strategic planning process with the support of an outside consultant. This strategic plan involved the creation of new mission and vision statements for FSCU and an alignment of focus for the FSCs it serves. The Program Administrator also serves on the Board Governance subcommittee. Through this committee, the program administrator has a direct influence on recruitment, orientation, retention, and ongoing development of board members.

FSCU partnered with Representative Dan Johnson, a local legislator who has been a champion for the Family Support Centers. Through his advocacy, FSCU was awarded \$3.1 million in ongoing funding during the 2022 legislative session. This was a momentous win for FSCU as all their previous legislative funding had been one-time funding. DHHS was designated as the pass-through agency for these funds, which is a change from last year's TANF pass-through. This allows the Program administrator to align FSCU programs efforts with other prevention efforts in the state. This also enabled the program administrator to create and hire a new program manager to help support these and other contracts.

FSCU subcontracts with each Center to provide funding based on their needs. This funding is in addition to the funding provided to each Center by DHHS and is also overseen by the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator. The funding is in the amount of \$123,000 -- \$135,000 per Center annually. The new funding is focused on expanding trauma-informed care practices, implementation of the NFSN Standards of Quality, and recruiting and maintaining quality staff at each FSC.



## 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. This year, Uplift Families focused on improving their digital messaging, promotion and reach. The program website and social media platforms received more than two million overall impressions with visitors to their site from all 50 states and several foreign countries. Uplift Families also hosted 16 [Fresh Living](#) segments on KUTV and had a 33.1% increase in email subscribers.

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 2021 event aired during prime time on a popular local TV station, reaching over 60,000 viewers. The Child Abuse Prevention 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 2022 to add more community-based child abuse prevention resources to the Parent 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 that was published on Uplift Families' parenting blog.

## Governor's Office of Families

During Governor Cox's 2022 State of the State address, he announced the creation of a new Office of Families designed to support all families in Utah. He explained, "I am proposing a new position that will make Utah parents and children its singular priority. We currently have programs focused on providing necessities for families that are poor or in need, but we must do more to make sure families of all shapes and sizes and makeups are thriving, including parental leave, access to high-quality child care and mentoring opportunities for parents." The director for this new office was named in August, and the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator met with her soon after to align efforts. This new collaboration contributed to governor support for a new building block request to expand home visiting services in the state.

## Utah Department of Corrections

In early 2022, DCFS received an invitation from the Utah Department of Corrections (UDC) to participate in the development of a new mother and baby nursery program being built inside the new Utah State Correctional Facility. The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator was

assigned to this project and joined the Community Connections subcommittee to help identify resources for mothers and babies while they are in the nursery program and when they transition back into the community.

This relationship with UDC is relatively new for DCFS, both at the prevention and child welfare levels. This is an important population to support with preventative services, as Utah BRFSS data reveals that children who experience the ACE of having a family member in prison experience clusters of other ACEs at a higher rate than children who experience different types of ACEs. This new relationship has also led to conversations about improving collaboration between UDC and DCFS on child welfare cases, something which has not been well-addressed in the past.

The Program Administrator accepted a new position with UDC as their Parenting Coordinator and transitioned to that role in December 2022, and is looking forward to continue collaborating with DCFS and the prevention community to support incarcerated parents and their children in this new role.

## CHILD ABUSE PROGRAM SUCCESS STORY 1

Written Children's Trust-funded home visitor:

"M.R. is the mother of two children. When she began the program, M.R. never left her house. She was worried about her children and very unsure about fitting into the community. When her parent educator first visited her, the parent educator noticed that the home was very dark -- heavy curtains, few lights turned on -- and that there were many safety concerns for small children. The parent educator noticed right away that the family lived at the top of a three-story apartment building, but that there were no safety measures that would prevent the children from falling if they were to get out of the home. Immediately, the parent educator began teaching M.R. about child safety and developmental stages. She began to teach M.R. about child-proofing methods for the home and worked diligently to encourage M.R.'s efforts to improve the home environment. As the environment improved, M.R.'s confidence grew as well. She began to identify herself as a parent and caregiver. Over time, M.R. developed a better understanding of her children and their individual needs. At first, she was hesitant to attend group connections and parent activities. Slowly that changed as she realized there were others in our program that she could relate to and talk with. Most recently, M.R. enrolled in English classes and has consistently used the provided childcare for her children while she works on her own development. M.R. has willingly offered to be a social connection for other mothers in our program who are experiencing the same intimidation she did when she first began participating. She has enrolled her children in preschool for the coming year and she plans to participate in the Parent Advisory Committee."

# SERVICE ARRAY

## Needs Assessment

Utah recently formalized a contract with the University of Utah Social Research Institute (SRI) to conduct a 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. Planning for this needs assessment took place over an 18-month period and the actual assessment period is schedule from October 1, 2022 through March 31, 2024. 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 Request for Proposals (RFP) and funding decisions.

SRI will conduct this research through an equity, diversity, and inclusion lens to help DCFS program 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 data gathered from that research to compliment the new research specific to prevention services. Please see below table for SRI’s needs assessment estimated timeline.

Objectives and Tasks		2022	2023				2024
		Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
START	Obtain IRB and MOU as needed						
	Coordinate with CTSI* & community partners						
	Develop community engagement tools						
COLLECT	Collect data, reports, other review materials						
	Gather community perspectives						
ANALYSIS	Data pre-processing, analyses						
	Evaluation of community perspectives						
SYNTHESIS	Synthesis of data, reports, community findings						
	Preliminary findings and progress report						
	Strategic planning regarding state programs						
FINAL	Summarize and review initial strategy findings						
	Reporting; Final strategic plan						

CTSI-Utah Clinical and Translational Science Institute; IRB-Institutional Review Board; MOU-Memorandum of Understanding

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 conducted several in-person site visits during FFY 2022 and continued to hold virtual meetings with grantees. During these meetings, 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 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. Meetings with stakeholders included:

- Biweekly meetings with DHHS ACEs Prevention Specialist and other VIPP staff.
- Monthly meetings with DHHS Home Visiting Program Manager.
- Monthly meetings with PCAU Executive Director.
- Monthly meetings with FSCU Executive Director.
- Quarterly group meetings with Executive Directors of Utah's 11 Family Support Centers.
- Meetings with DCFS Strengthening Families Program Administrator, as needed.
- Meetings with DCFS Continuous Quality Improvement Administrator, as needed.
- Monthly meetings with Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH) Prevention Team, including research, evaluation, and data teams.
- Monthly meetings with members of Utah's CWIC (See page 17 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 dozens of documents and reports. These documents, some of which are listed below, were also compiled and shared with SRI for consideration during the formal needs assessment process. Documents and reports included:

#### DCFS Data

- DCFS 2021 and 2022 (draft) Annual Reports.
- DCFS Child Welfare Data Trends Report, provided weekly.
- 2021 Populations at Greatest Risk of Maltreatment Report.
- CFSR, PIP, CPR, 2021 APSR, and 2020-2024 CFSP reports and plans.
- Utah Title IV-E Prevention Program Five Year Plan FFY 2020-2024.
- FFY 2021 Qualitative Case Review and Case Process Review Annual Report.
- FFY 2021 Fatality Review Summary.

## State Data Sources

- Home Visiting Program 2020 Needs Assessment by County.
- Utah Adverse Childhood Experiences 2020.
- Utah's 11th Annual Report on Intergenerational Poverty, 2022.
- Early Childhood Mental Health in Utah, December 2020 Study.
- Utah Maternal and Child Health and Children with Special Healthcare Needs, Statewide Needs Assessment 2020.
- UCPC 2020-2025 State Action Plan for the Primary Prevention of Child Maltreatment in Utah and draft of 2021 updates.
- Utah Department of Workforce Services, Office of Child Care Services Plans and Reports.
- Utah Community Action Annual Report and Community Needs Assessment.
- Utah 2019 Preschool Development Grant B-5 Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan.
- Work/Life Balance Preferences: Utah Parents, September 2022.
- Utah Behavioural Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data.
- Utah Health Improvement Index.

## National Data Sources

- State of Babies Yearbook: 2022 Yearbook and Utah Profile.
- 2022 Kids Count Data Book.
- 2022 Alliance for Early Success 50 State Progress Report & Roadmap.
- Utah Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center State Policy Roadmap 2022.
- The Children's Bureau's Child Maltreatment 2020 Report.
- Casey Family Programs Community Opportunities Map.
- Seven Impacts of the Pandemic on Young Children and their Parents Research Report, 2021.
- National Home Visiting Resource Center's Home Visiting Yearbook.
- Numerous trainings and webinars from FRIENDS, ACF, CTFA, PCAA, and NFSN.

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

## Core Services

The current prevention contracts are in place from January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023. These contracts were established for 2.5 years, instead of the standard 5 year. The rationale was to allow Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator time to complete a thorough needs assessment of prevention services throughout the state and then respond with programming decisions that reflected the result of the needs assessment. The needs assessment with SRI was originally scheduled to be completed in spring of 2023. However, unfortunately, the needs assessment process began later than expected, due to competing priorities and new organizational processes. It

is now scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2024. Because of this new timetable, the prevention team is making two adjustments to the existing service array:

1. The current CBCAP and Children’s Trust prevention contracts will be extended through June 30, 2025 (2-year extension.) This allows time for the needs assessment and strategic plan to be completed before envisioning a new scope of work. During this amendment, existing grantees will also be offered additional one-time funding to support the concrete and economic needs of the families they serve.
2. The remainder of Utah’s CBCAP ARPA funding will need to be distributed before the completion of the needs assessment and strategic plan. The prevention team is currently working with the DCFS Grants Program Manager to develop a scope of work that will utilize these funds, along with CAPTA APRA funds, to intentionally address disproportionality in the child welfare system by directing funding to specific underserved populations and working with these communities to develop or expand family strengthening services.

Please see the table below for a list of prevention programs and services supported by Utah’s CBCAP funds from January 2021 to June 2023 (with a pending extension through June 2025):

Programs Funded by CBCAP		
Provider	Program	Level of Evidence
Carbon County FSC	PAT Home Visiting Program	Well-supported
The Family Place Utah	PAT Home Visiting Program	Well-supported
Prevent Child Abuse Utah	PAT Home Visiting Program	Well-supported
Utah County Health Department	PAT Spanish-speaking Home Visiting Program	Well-supported
Help Me Grow	Statewide information and referral helpline for parents, physicians, and providers	Evidence-informed

Utah funded one additional program with CBCAP ARPA funding. This program received an acceptable score during the original RFGA, but there was not enough funding to support the program until ARPA supplemental funds were received. This program is under a contract from April 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, with plans to extend the contract through June 30, 2025.

New Program Funded by CBCAP ARPA Supplemental Funding		
Provider	Program	Level of Evidence
Fathers & Families Coalition of UT	Nurturing Fathers, an adaptation of Nurturing Parenting	Evidence-informed

Each organization with which the Program Administrator contracts operates independently and is responsible for providing services consistent with those mandated in their contracts. Schools and community-based organizations refer families for services and make referrals for needed assistance. Each program defines its own catchment area and, while eligibility requirements vary by program, programs do not charge fees for services provided.

During FFY 2022, CBCAP funds also made it possible for the Program Administrator to:

- Maintain a state network of 15 Protective Factors and Standards trainers.
- Provide three Protective Factor trainings and three Standards trainings for Utah agencies.
- Sponsor four UFSN members to attend the virtual NFSN Annual Member Convening.
- Sponsor 10 UFSN members, including the Program Administrator and new program manager, to attend the virtual Families Together Conference.
- Attend the regional CBCAP meeting in Salt Lake City with four CBCAP grantees.
- Attend the FRIENDS Poverty Summit in Chicago with the new prevention program manager.
- Attend the Children’s Trust Fund Alliance Member Meeting in Denver with the new prevention program manager.
- Support Prevent Child Abuse Utah’s *Joining Forces Prevention Conference* and provide scholarships for parents in the child welfare system and CASA volunteers.
- Support Uplift Families Annual *TIPS Parenting Event* and online Parent Resource Center.
- Conduct site visits at contract provider facilities.

The Program Administrator also oversees the Utah Children’s Trust Account, funding legislatively directed to DCFS from revenues received through the issuance of birth certificates. Please see the table below for a list of prevention programs and services supported by the Utah Children’s Trust Account during FFY 2022.

Programs Funded by the Children’s Trust Account	
Provider	Program
Guadalupe School	Parents as Teachers Home Visiting A home-visiting program providing early childhood parent education, family support and well-being, and school readiness.
Asian Association of Utah	Systemic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP) 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.
Wasatch Behavioral Health Services	Grandfamilies Kinship Program 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.
Children's Service Society	Grandfamilies Kinship Program 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.
Utah Valley Family Support and Treatment Center	Play It Safe Program 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.
Family Support Center of Salt Lake	Nurturing Parenting 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.

The Utah State Legislature provides funding to 11 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 11 Centers and their satellite locations.



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

Please see the table below for FFY 2022, number of individuals served data.

FFY 2022 Individuals Served Through the Child Abuse Prevention Program							
	Children	Children with Disability	Adults	Adults with Disability	Families Served	Total Clients	Total Clients with Disability
CBCAP – Participants receiving direct services	3,654	63	2,476	81	2,295	6,130	144
CTA – Participants receiving direct services	826	108	903	87	702	1,729	195
Crisis Nursery – Participants receiving direct services	6,882	731	5,003	442	3,424	11,885	1,173
TOTAL	11,362	902	8,382	610	6,421	19,744	1,512

#### Change in Data Collection Processes

Regarding CBCAP programs, total clients served dropped from 37,206 in FFY 2021 to 19,744 in FFY 2022. This change is primarily due to a shift in the way the data from one grantee, Help Me Grow, was accounted for in FFY 2022. This change will continue moving forward.

The program format of Help Me Grow is different from the other CBCAP grantees. Help Me Grow is a statewide parent and provider hotline, receiving thousands of calls each year; whereas, other CBCAP grantees are home visiting programs and maintain very small caseloads. Because of this difference in program structure and after consultation with FRIENDS, in FFY 2022, the Program Administrator decided to report Help Me Grow clients separately. After several conversations to learn more about their program format and data tracking capacity, Help Me Grow developed a new data report format to share with DCFS beginning in FFY 2022 Q2. The table below reflects only three quarters of data, with a second column estimating data for a full year, based on averaging the three known quarters:

FFY 2022 Help Me Grow		
Service Categories	Q2, Q3, Q4 Totals	Estimated Annual Totals
Families currently being served	5,313	7,084
New families served	1,214	1,619
Edinburgh screening completed	110	147
ASQ-3 screenings completed	1,762	2,349
ASQ-SE screenings completed	630	840
M-Chat screenings completed	129	172
Community resources given	810	1,080
Informational resources given	4,361	5,815
Community outreach presentations	118	157
TOTAL Impressions	14,447	19,263

Regarding CTA programs, FFY 2022 CTA program data shows a similar drop in total clients served. This is due to two CTA-funded programs that began reporting data differently in FFY 2022. First, a Utah Valley Family Support Center-run school-based program provides presentations to thousands of students each year. In FFY 2021, these students were being reported as receiving “direct services”, by CBCAP definition. As the Program Administrator became more familiar with evaluation methods, it became apparent that these school-based presentations were more appropriately defined as “public awareness” efforts. Second, the Children’s Service Society-run Grandfamilies program provides a series of classes to kinship families. Following graduation from the program, the staff maintains connection with the families through peer-to-peer networking events. The networking events are open to past cohorts of thousands of kinships families, but only a fraction of families attend each event, and the families who attend might be different each time. The Program Administrator realized that the program was considering all past graduates who receive newsletters and invitations to peer-to-peer events as clients who received “direct services”. In FFY 2022, the program administrator encouraged the program to account for those contacts in “public awareness” totals rather than “direct services” totals. Removing these two programs from total clients served, accounts for the reduction in that total from FFY 2021 to FFY 2022.

## OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES FOR SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Preliminary findings from the recently initiated needs assessment help prioritize populations at higher risk of child maltreatment due to compounding environmental factors. While many of these findings are not surprising, they do provide more detail and support for previous theories. These findings, which will inform future priorities and funding decisions, include the following populations:

- American Indian/Native American families.
- Black/African American families.
- Hispanic or Latino/a families, especially young adults ages 18-24.
- Refugee and immigrant families.
- Pregnant mothers who are struggling with substance abuse.
- Families living in lower income urban and rural communities. These include:
  - DCFS Eastern Region (San Juan, Carbon, Duchesne, & Uintah Counties).
  - DCFS Southwest Region (Piute, Garfield, & Wayne Counties).
  - DCFS Salt Lake Valley Region (portions of Salt Lake County including the City of South Salt Lake and the Glendale/Rose Park neighborhoods of Salt Lake City).

## Racial and Ethnic Minorities

In alignment with disturbing nationwide trends, children of color are disproportionately represented in Utah's child welfare system. According to Utah's FFY 2022 APSR data, American Indian/Alaskan Native children are 3.7 times more likely to be supported victims of maltreatment and Black/African American children are over 5.7 times more likely to be supported victims of maltreatment. Utah is committed to shifting this and is using ARPA funds to intentionally shift these statistics. The prevention needs assessment is being approached through a racial equity lens. The primary goal of this assessment is to identify service gaps and barriers in these areas and identify ways to better support these communities.

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 several 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. 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.

During FFY 2022, the Utah Refugee Services Office offered additional, refugee-specific funding to the Program Administrator's office with the goal of expanding home visitation services for the refugee population. Through partnership and collaboration with the Utah Home Visiting Program, it was decided that their office could better manage the additional funds due to staffing capacity. The Program Administrator is pleased with this collaborative relationship that supports the expansion of home visitation services for this population.

The Program Administrator also focused on supporting Native American populations through awareness and education about historical trauma, provided to the current group grantees. During the June 2022 grantee meeting, the Program Administrator shared a recording of Turquoise Devereaux's presentation from the 2022 CBCAP Grantee Meeting. The training was well received and opened an important dialogue about how grantees can support this population in their daily work. The Program Administrator focused on continuing this dialogue with grantees throughout the year by sharing various resources and information via email, particularly during Native American Heritage Month in November 2022.

## Poverty

Historically, CBCAP funds in Utah have primarily been used to fund parent support programs, such as home visiting programs. The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator has been working on an intentional shift of resource utilization, increasing focus on systemic issues, such as poverty and racism. The Program Manager is currently amending existing CBCAP and Children's Trust contracts to include additional funds to support families with concrete needs such as housing, transportation, and childcare. The Program Administrator increased public awareness and advocacy efforts that

help families alleviate economic burdens. Much of this work happens in partnership with UCPC, such as their EITC awareness campaign and their focus on family-friendly workplace policies. The current needs assessment with SRI is focused on these community conditions that contribute to family challenges, and the resulting strategic plan will allow future funding strategies to be intentionally focused on addressing poverty and racism.

## Children and Parents with Disabilities

Contract providers continue to deliver services to disabled children and adults. In total, providers served 1,512 children and adults with a disability, 144 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. In FFY 2022, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator and the CAPTA Program Administrator continued a collaboration with Utah's Learn the Signs. Act Early. Ambassador and Utah's BWEIP Administrator to increase early identification and improve referrals to early intervention services.

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 was 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. The grant was renewed for a second year but ended in late 2022. During FFY 2022, the Program Administrator participated in achieving year-two grant outcomes by helping to facilitate the delivery of developmental literature to several DCFS offices throughout the state and providing virtual trainings to child welfare workers on how to use these materials with the families they serve. Relationships and efforts initiated during this grant will continue.

As a future step, the 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.

## Fathers

With the support of ARPA supplemental funds, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator was able to extend a new contract to the Fathers and Families Coalition of Utah. This group provides parenting education for young fathers and young men likely to become fathers soon. They also own a food truck that employees men transitioning out of state custody or incarceration to obtain employment and financial skills. This is the first time that Utah CBCAP dollars have been used specifically for fathers. The program is new and growing; the Program Administrator is invested in providing additional support to help this program succeed.

## 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 2022, 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 2022, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator continued collaborating with the Adoption Program Administrator to identify solutions to these challenges and this work will continue into FFY 2023.

## CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION SUCCESS STORY 2

Written by newly funded CBCAP-funded home visitor:

“The first CBCAP family I enrolled last year has seen many successes in life since beginning her participation in the program. This mom suffers from postpartum depression and has two children under the age of two, one being severely developmentally delayed. Throughout our visits, we have talked a lot about what strengths she has and how those can help her get through tough times. It’s been amazing to see her confidence grow as a parent. She has expressed feeling very alone in her parenting journey, but now she seems happier and more confident in her parenting. When I asked her what she enjoyed about our program, she said that she loves how we help her learn more about fun child development activities to help with her children’s development. Because of our referrals and resource connections, her kids are now both enrolled in Early Head Start, and her delayed son is getting help through Early Intervention.”

## PARENT LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

During FFY 2022, Utah’s prevention grantees have engaged parents through a variety of ways. 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 employ parents who have utilized their services in the past.

In FFY 2022, many grantees participated in NFSN National Standards Certification courses to learn more about effective parent engagement. Grantees were also required to participate in FRIENDS' Creating Effective Parent/Practitioner Collaboration online training this year.

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator recently amended existing contracts to ensure that measures and outcomes conform to the [Results Based Accountability](#) framework. One of the new measures included a count of the total number of parents engaged in leadership activities, with an expected outcome that the number will increase throughout each year of the contract. The Program Administrator intends to include a specific percent increase target in the next scope of work.

In FFY 2022, 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 funding from ECU to provide honorariums to parents who participate in leadership activities. The group hosted several in-person and virtual parent meet-and-greets to identify possible parents to engage in this work. Through these efforts, the group identified five parents who are now engaged with the subcommittee.

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.

During FFY 2022, the Program Administrator recruited five parents with lived experience to join the Child Welfare Improvement Council – two foster parents and three parents with lived experience in the child welfare system. One of these parents decided that the CWIC was not the right fit for her personal goals, but the other four parents are still involved and very engaged in the process. The Program Administrator has made efforts to provide extra time and attention to these parents to support their long-term engagement with CWIC.

State grantees are working to improve parent leadership efforts. One example, this year, several grantees established parent advisory committees for the first time this year. One grantee reported that two parents were actively involved for the first year and four parents committed to participating in the coming year. During a state grantee meeting, this grantee received guidance from other grantees who have successfully been running parent advisory councils. The grantee also received support and inspiration when attending the CBCAP regional meeting in Salt Lake.

# TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND EVALUATION ASSISTANCE

## Site Visits

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator conducted in-person site visits with a several prevention grantees and Family Support Centers in FFY 2022. 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 continue learning more about each program's operations, challenges, and opportunities for growth. Topics included help with creating annual program budgets, creative brainstorming for staffing challenges, strategic planning for program growth and improvement, and addressing issues with contract compliance as needed.

## 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 in FFY 22 have included:

- 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.
- February 2022: Family Strengthening Month Planning
  - Introduction of new name and strengths-based messaging.
  - Coaching from Public Information Office on talking points and how to engage local media in each community.
  - Brainstorming activities for statewide digital family strengthening scavenger hunt.



- Invitation for grantees to engage in statewide media efforts to promote their programs.
- April 2022: No group meeting
  - Canceled to allow program administrator and grantees to focus on Family Strengthening Month efforts.
  - Met individually with several programs instead
- June 2022: How to Use Data In Your Program
  - Grantee training with Samantha and Edi from FRIENDS on how to utilize data to improve your program and outcomes. This was a pre-training in preparation for the launch of the Protective Factors Database in Utah later in the year.
- August 2022: Creating Culturally Safe Spaces for Indigenous Populations
  - Time for each grantee to highlight successes and challenges from the past year and connect to support each other.
  - Watched recording and discussed Turquoise Deveraux's presentation from the 2022 CBCAP Grantee Meeting on Indigenous Populations.

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 Child Abuse Prevention 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. The Program Administrator recently finalized a new contract with PCAU to oversee UFSN functions. The contract is funded with CBCAP ARPA dollars and is in effect from September 2022 through August 2024.

Below is a list of FFY 2022 UFSN training-related activities and accomplishments:

- Formalized a new leadership structure to distribute decision-making power more equitably.
- Finalized the network's membership definition and created a survey to identify other programs in the state who may meet this definition and be interested in network membership.
- Obtained two years of CBCAP funding to sustain and improve operations.
- Hired the network's first program manager.
- Completed three NFSN Standards trainings using the updated curriculum that contains a new section centered on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
- Completed three Protective Factors overview trainings.

- Participated in regular NFSN Member Meetings, the annual Member Convening, and the Together for Families Conference.

Several of the network trainers held trainings for their own contacts and partners this year, outside the formal structure of the network. This has proven somewhat challenging to monitor, so the network is working to identify mechanisms to manage these types of trainings. At present, it is safe to conclude that, in this past year, even more community members were trained than the network is able to report.

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.

## Joining Forces Conference

Years ago, PCAU hosted an annual conference that was focused on intervention and treatment. The new PCAU Executive Director wanted to revive the conference using the same name but change the focus to prevention and strengthening families. This is the first conference of its type in the state. The agenda focused on protective factors with multiple courses designed to address each protective factor. The conference was heavily marketed to parents, and about half the participants were parents. The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator provided CBCAP funding for the conference, as well as scholarships for DCFS-involved parents, DCFS caseworkers, and CASA volunteers; conference attendance helped participants learn more about preventative resources in their communities. The conference was a huge success and planning is underway for an April 2023 conference. Please see Attachment A. 2022 Conference Agenda.

## Evaluation Assistance

Evaluation has continued to be an ongoing challenge for providers in the state. In January 2021, the current contract evaluation requirements were revised to be flexible for this group of grantees who provide services using a range of different curriculums. Revised 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. In January 2021, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator replaces the template with a Google form, [Prevention Quarterly Reporting Form](#), which has facilitated closer monitoring and 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 more easily identified errors and misunderstanding in data reporting. During FFY 2022, the Program Administrator met individually with several programs to clarify data entry methods for their

programs and ensure the collection of more accurate, consistent data across programs. This has resulted in several changes reporting data, which were previously described.

The Program Administrator invited FRIENDS to host a training for grantees on how to better utilize data to support their programs. This training was well received and was the first step in a larger rollout plan to implement usage of the Protective Factors Database in Utah. One grantee reported, "I enjoyed the meeting about data and learning how we can use it to improve our client care. I have always viewed data as tedious and confusing. It was helpful to learn how gathering appropriate data and learning how to analyze it can guide the development of our programs."

## EVALUATION

Utah has made progress on improving evaluation efforts in FFY 2022. The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator temporarily eliminated the use of the Protective Factors Survey during the current contract cycle due to much confusion from grantees about its use and the previous database used to collect the surveys. This temporary pause allowed the Program Administrator time needed to reassess each grantee's evaluation process and the state's evaluation needs. It quickly became clear that Utah needed a tool that would allow the same type of progress to be measured among all grantees and outcomes to be compared statewide.

After much planning, Utah is nearly ready to begin using the FRIENDS Protective Factors database. The use of the database will be required in the next contract cycle, with the option for grantees to begin using it as soon as it is live. Grantees are aware that this change is coming, and many are excited to begin using the platform. The Program Administrator also offered the use of the database to allied partners, such as the Family Support Centers, the Home Visiting Program, and the State School Board. These partners were involved in the planning stages and will consider if the database will work for their programs.

For now, the contract evaluation requirements remain 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.
2. A method for internal self-assessment of the program.
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 2022, grantees provided evaluation data for the second annual reporting period of the contract (July 2021 to June 2022) using CBCAP and Children's Trust Annual Reporting Form.

## Program Effectiveness

Some of the tools being utilized by grantees include:

- HOME Assessment.
- Life Skills Progression.
- PAT Family Centered Assessment.
- Protective Factors Survey (PFS).
- Protective Factors Survey, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (PFS-2).
- Parenting Interactions with Children (PICCOLO).
- Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventory (AAPI 2.1).
- Ages and Stages Questionnaire, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (ASQ-3).
- Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social-Emotional, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (ASQ:SE-2).
- Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS).
- Self-designed program outcome measures.

Selected outcomes to highlight:

- Outcomes from Guadalupe home visiting's use of the PFS indicate that all families who participated in their program increased their protective factors. The smallest increment of change was a 2% increase in a family's protective factors. The greatest increment of change was an 84% increase in a family's protective factors. On average, families increased protective factors by 25% from initial to closure.
- 100% of children enrolled in Guadalupe Home Visiting Program received a complete annual child developmental screening during the program year.
- Student knowledge of the dynamics of abuse increased 25.81% between pre- and post-test scores after engaging in Utah Valley Family Support Center's Play It Safe presentations.
- Wasatch Behavioral Health saw an improvement of 10-33% on 4 of the 5 Protective Factors among their families. In the 5th area, Concrete Supports, there was a decrease of 0.59% and it was reported that this decrease is likely due to the stressors many of the families are experiencing with the pandemic and the current economy crisis. This outcome highlighted a need to improve their outreach to help families with related supports.

## Satisfaction

Some of the tools being utilized by grantees include:

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

Selected outcomes:

- More than 90% of the parents who completed STEP classes with Asian Association answered that they “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that the program helped them improve their parenting skills, improved family relationships, and improved communication.
- 100% of parents engaged in Guadalupe home visiting services were satisfied with their experience with their parent educator and trust that their parent educator has the family's best interest at heart.
- Among those who completed the Family Support Center’s Nurturing Parenting courses, 73.3% of clients expressed satisfaction with the course and 79% agreed that their ability to parent their child has improved since taking the course.

## 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.

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 next round of contracts. This new contract will include, at a minimum, a requirement for use of the PFS or PFS-2 and the Protective Factors Database.

FFY 2022 Funded Programs and Special Projects			
Funded Programs	Funded Amount	Evidence Rating	References to Support Rating
Agency: Carbon County FSC Program: Parents as Teachers	\$70,000	Well Supported	Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse
Agency: The Family Place Utah Program: Parents as Teachers	\$75,000	Well Supported	Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse
Agency: Utah County Health Department Program: Parents as Teachers	\$77,000	Well Supported	Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse
Agency: Prevent Child Abuse Utah Program: Parents as Teachers	\$103,000	Well Supported	Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse
Agency: Salt Lake County Health Department Program: Parents as Teachers/Nurse Family Partnership	\$69,000	Well Supported	Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse
Agency: United Way of Utah County Program: Help Me Grow Program	\$50,000	Evidence Informed	N/A
Total Funded Programs:	\$444,000		
Funded Special Projects	Funded Amount	Evidence Rating	References to Support Rating
Project: Utah Family Strengthening Network Description: Materials and Training	\$5,000	Evidence Informed	N/A
Project: CWIC & QIC Meetings Description: Awards and Recognition	\$1,000	N/A	N/A
Project: Joining Forces Conference Description: Prevention-focused conference for providers & parents	\$10,000	Evidence Informed	N/A
Project: Uplift Families Description: Virtual Parenting Event & Online Parent Resource Ctr	\$10,000	N/A	N/A
Total Special Projects:	\$26,000	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$470,000</b>		

## Prevention Continuous Quality Improvement Plan

During FFY 2022, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator worked one-on-one with the DHHS Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Director to create a CQI plan for prevention services. DHHS began using a new CQI framework, Results Based Accountability (RBA), in 2021. CQI plans using RBA principals were developed with each Division during 2021, and the DCFS Prevention Program was the first program-level team to create a CQI plan with department support. The planning process has been extremely helpful to keep high-level goals in mind while creating pathways to achieve those goals over the next several years. Once completed, these goals will help elevate the visibility and reach of DCFS prevention services, including a goal of supporting service expansion. The goals of the plan are detailed in Attachment B. Prevention CQI Plan.

Eighty-four percent of Utah's FFY 2022 CBCAP funding (including state match) was used to support evidenced based programs rated as well-supported by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse. An additional 15 percent of funding was used to support evidence-informed programming. The table below provides CBCAP funding detail.

## CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH AND PUBLIC AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

In FFY 2022, prevention programs held 906 Community Education Public Awareness Activities, reaching 366,674 individuals. The total number reached is more than double what was reported last year (154,954 individuals). Some of this can be accounted for by changes in the way data was collected, although some of these reporting changes were already underway during the last reporting year. Therefore, it appears there may have been a true increase in reach. Some of these reporting changes include:

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 increase understanding of CBCAP guidelines and how to properly 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.



One of Utah's biggest successes this year was rebranding Child Abuse Prevention Month as Family Strengthening Month. This language was an intentional shift to be more strengths-based and reach a broader audience. The shift was very well received by grantees, [media](#), and the public. The following elements were implemented for Family Strengthening Month:

- Utah's Governor declared April 2022 as Family Strengthening Month. [The declaration](#) was written through a public health lens and takes a whole community approach. It also includes protective factors language. The declaration was reviewed and approved by dozens of community stakeholders before its submission to the Governor's Office.
- The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator and the DCFS Public Information Officer created a [toolkit](#) to guide local grantees and communities with their messaging. The toolkit was also shared with media. The toolkit helps contribute to consistent statewide messaging compared to previous years.
- The Program Administrator partnered with 211 to create [a new parenting page](#) on their website. 211 displays resources by category, but the Program Administrator noticed that there was not a category for parenting resources. The new resource page is organized by protective factors. It includes existing resources from 211 as well as new content curated by the Program Administrator. Since its launch, the parenting page has been the most-viewed page on 211's site, other than the main page. The Program Administrator is currently working on an update of the page ahead of next year's Family Strengthening Month.
- The Program Administrator partnered with [My Discovery Destination](#), a local prevention coalition, to host a statewide digital scavenger hunt using the Goosechase platform. The Program Administrator wrote 30 daily challenges to increase protective factors. Once downloaded, the free app would ping participants' phones each morning with the challenge, and families would submit photo evidence of completion. Over 70 families registered to play, and hundreds of submissions were received. Feedback was very positive, and Utah hopes to continue this activity each year, with expanded reach and participation.

During FFY 2022, to further raise awareness about family strengthening resources in Utah, the Program Administrator engaged in the below public awareness opportunities:

- Baby Your Baby [podcast interview](#).
- Baby Your Baby television interview.
- Presentation to Utah County prevention partners.
- Presentation to Utah Court Improvement Program.
- Presentation to Utah Prevention Coalition Association.
- Presentation to Joining Forces Prevention Conference.
- Presentation to Intermountain Health Care social workers.
- Presentation to Primary Children's Hospital social workers.
- Presentation to Salt Lake County Home Visiting Community Advisory Board.

- Presentation to Utah Coalition for Protecting Childhood.
- CBCAP webinar about maximizing funding opportunities with ARPA.

## CHALLENGES, BARRIERS, AND AREAS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The main challenges to moving prevention work forward in FFY 2022 were related to staff capacity and agency structure.

### Staffing Capacity

It has been challenging to implement prevention services well, with only one dedicated FTE. Over the three years that the most recent Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator had been in the position, the workload expanded significantly. The addition of ARPA supplemental funding also presented challenges. The Program Administrator did not realize how much additional workload these funds would add, and in hindsight, might have advocated much earlier for additional staff capacity. The biggest success for this program in FFY 2022 was the creation of a second staff position. This is a permanent position, funding partially with CBCAP dollars and partially with State General Funds, Family Support Center dollars.

A more recent challenge is that the Program Administrator left the position in December 2022. This will result in two new staff learning the program at the same time. The Program Administrator utilized a four-week notice to ensure time to train the new Prevention Program Manager. The Program Administrator will also remain available to mentor the new Program Administrator, once the position is filled.

### Agency Structure for Prevention

It has been challenging to elevate prevention work while housed in an agency that is primarily focused on child abuse intervention work. During the state agency realigning process, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator considered advocating to move child abuse and neglect prevention services to a different department or office, but none of the newly formed offices seemed like a better fit. One year after most of the original merger changes took place, a new Office of Early Childhood was formed. This office may be a good fit for the prevention team; however, at this time, DCFS is considering structural changes that may elevate prevention and resolve some of these challenges.

## American Rescue Plan State Activities

Utah has spent some of its CBCAP ARPA funds and has plans in place to utilize the remaining funds during the allowable program period.

American Rescue Plan State Activities					
Project	SFY 2022	SFY 2023	SFY 2024	SFY 2025	TOTAL
Fully fund existing CBCAP and CTA contracts for remaining contract period (2 yrs.)	\$ 365,265	\$ 397,203			\$ 762,468
Additional 2-year extension for CTA contracts and new FFCU contract*			\$ 132,862	\$ 132,862	\$ 265,724
Fund one additional programs (2 yrs.)	\$ 28,640	\$ 28,640			\$ 57,280
Utah Family Strengthening Network development - Sole Source with PCAU (2 yrs.)		\$ 205,000	\$ 205,000		\$ 410,000
Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment (one-time cost)		\$ 56,510	\$ 56,510		\$ 113,020
New Grant Awards (3 yrs.)			\$ 748,644	\$ 748,644	\$ 1,497,288
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 393,905</b>	<b>\$ 687,353</b>	<b>\$ 1,143,016</b>	<b>\$ 881,506</b>	<b>\$ 3,105,780</b>

### Changes in Data Collection Processes

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 amended the contracts of 12 existing grantees to distribute additional funding, enabling them to completely implement their programming as proposed.

These funds allowed the Program Administrator to fully fund an additional parenting program, the Fathers and Families Coalition of Utah. This program 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 offered additional funding to one other program that was in the same position, but they declined because they did not believe they could secure staff needed to run the program.

The new Prevention Program Manager is currently working on new amendments to extend all existing grantees two more years. This extension will allow time for the SRI needs assessment to be completed before a new Request for Grant Award process is initiated. The amendments will include

some small adjustments to the scope, including requirements to use the Protective Factors Survey and database and to have staff certified in the NFSN Standards of Quality. Some of these contract extensions will be funded with regular CBCAP dollars, and some will be funded with the additional ARPA dollars. These contract amendments will also include additional funding and guidelines for grantees to support families with concrete needs.

## ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A. Joining Forces Conference Agenda

Attachment B. Prevention CQI Plan