

## **2022 Corporation Counsel and Child Support Annual Report**

The Office of Corporation Counsel provides civil legal services including legal advice, assistance, formal opinions and court representation to the County Board, County departments, elected officials and County commissions, boards and committees. The duties of the Corporation Counsel's Office are established by Wis. Stat. § 59.42, and Chapter 2.07 of the Eau Claire County Code of General Ordinances.

The Child Support Agency (CSA) is responsible for establishing paternity and establishing and enforcing child support orders and health insurance orders provided for by Title IV of the federal social security act. Provision of these services by Wisconsin counties is mandated by Wis. Stat. § 59.53(5).

### **Corporation Counsel 2022 Accomplishments**

- Landfill Siting Agreement Completed
- In REM-Revised process for tax delinquent properties incorporated into County Code
- Eau Claire County Fair Committee – Assisted the committee with revisions of By Laws revised and member disputes
- Hired of 2 new Asst. Corp. Counsel Attorneys, training ongoing
- Continued training of new Legal Specialist and cross training for other legal specialist on new case area
- Provided Mandatory Reporter Training for schools
- Adjustments made to increased weekly court case load due to addition of Branch 6 Circuit Court judge
- Assisted DHS in reaching permanency for 30 children through TPR and Guardianship cases.
- Participated in relevant training.

Staff actively participated in the following statewide organizations

- Wisconsin Association of County Corporation Counsel
- Wisconsin Child Support Enforcement Association Board and Child Support Review Committee
- Wisconsin Child Support Enforcement KIDS Modernization Workgroup
- Wisconsin Bar Association, Government Lawyers Section, CLE Committee

Staff actively participated in the following local organizations, committees and teams

- Drug Endangered Children Committee
- Child Death Review Team
- Coordinated Services Across the Lifespan Committee
- Juvenile Justice Collaborating Committee
- Multi-Disciplinary Team
- Suicide Death Review Team
- Presenter for ECASD Mandatory Reporting

- Crisis Team
- Youth Leadership Eau Claire
- 980 Committee to locate house for CH. 980 subjects
- Overdose Death Review Team
- Criminal Justice Collaborating Council

Staff actively participated in the following county committees

- United Way
- ARPA Committee
- Chippewa - St. Croix Passenger Rail Commission
- Communicable Disease Taskforce

## Child Support 2021 Accomplishments

Maintained office morale and performance managing ongoing COVID-19 impacts.

Maintained performance outcomes in areas of paternity establishment and court order establishment, increased performance outcome in area of current support collections.

\$15,867,532.48 in child support collected.

Co-Hosted 2022 WCSEA Statewide Roundtable with Dunn and Chippewa Counties

CSA continued collaboration with Workforce Resource, Inc. by referring non-custodial parents to Workforce Resource for employment and training assistance and resuming monthly job fairs.

Child Support Manager met virtually with local legislature and testified before Joint Finance Committee to request increased funding. Child support funding was increased by \$1.75M GPR per year.

Implementation of WiKids/CCAP Interface.

Implementation of Multifactor Authentication to access State applications.

Hired and trained Child Support Specialist, two Legal Specialist II staff, and two Fiscal Associate II staff.

Participated in the Institute for Research on Poverty- University of Wisconsin Madison study on Child Support Agencies as Connectors study.

Participated in relevant trainings.

Staff actively participated in the following statewide organizations:

- Wisconsin Child Support Enforcement Association Board of Directors- Board Member
- Wisconsin Child Support Enforcement Association Child Support Training Advisory Committee
- Wisconsin Child Support Enforcement Association Legislative Committee
- Wisconsin Child Support Enforcement Fall Conference Planning Committee
- Wisconsin Child Support Enforcement Awards, Nominations, and Scholarship Committee- Committee Co-chair

Staff actively participated in the following county committees:

- United Way
- JEDI Taskforce

## Corporation Counsel Alignment with Strategic Plan

Ensure Financial Stability.	Innovate and adapt.	Improve Collaboration
Maintain/ increase fees for GN/PP Cases.	Prosecute cases in the most efficient manner through use of technology.	Through the use of technology collaborating with the courts, agencies and governmental bodies
Work with DHS and CSA to make sure the county is capturing all the IV-D and IV-E funding for legal services provided	Continue to evaluate and identify possible areas for increased efficiency and reduced costs	

## Child Support Alignment with Strategic Plan

<b>2023 Strategic Priority: Quality and Meaningful Relationships</b>		
<b>Initiative: Pursue Strategies to enhance fiscal resilience and operational effectiveness</b>	<b>Initiative: Enhance employment engagement and resilience.</b>	<b>Initiative: Identify opportunities to strengthen partnerships and collaboration.</b>
Improving performance to increase child support funding	Review and update departmental policies and procedures to better align with post-COVID practices and workforce.	Connect with community resources to assist/refer non-custodial parents.
Establish and enforce child support and medical support to ensure children are supported by both parents	Prepare for department succession due to anticipated retirements in next few years	
Continued advocacy for increased child support funding from the State		
Continue to evaluate and identify potential areas for increased efficiencies, funding sources, and reduced costs		

## Corporation Counsel 2023 Opportunities

- Continue participation in statewide groups such as WCSEA, WACCC, State Bar Govt. Lawyers, so that we are able to remain current with the law and issues that are relevant to the county, the corporation counsel office, and the child support agency.
- Continue to promote training and cross training within the office to expand the capabilities Promote our new and existing staff.
- Initiate State Tax Debt Collection Program in collaboration with Treasurer's office
- Provide training for mandated reporters
- Provide training in TPR cases for Foster parents
- Continue to work with the Department of Human Services on providing timely permanency to children in out of home care.
- Continue to promote a system within the office that allows employees flexibility to work remotely when necessary.
- Continue to work on more paperless system in the office

## **Child Support 2023 Opportunities**

Continue to review and revise policies and procedures.

Continue training newer staff positions and succession planning for upcoming retirements.

Continue to participate in statewide committees and WCSEA Board to provide input and stay up to date on changes to policy and law.

Hosting the 2023 December WCSEA Board of Director's Meeting and 2023 WCSEA Statewide Roundtable.

Focus on performance to increase current support and arrears performance outcomes which affects funding.

Manage impacts of COVID-19 on caseloads and cooperation of customers.

Implementation of changes in state and federal law.

Continue to lobby the Legislature to support funding increases and issues related to birth cost recovery, including testifying before Joint Finance Committee and attending WCA CAP Day.

Continue to host Job Fairs in collaboration with Workforce Resource, Inc.

<b>PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS, GOALS AND OUTCOME MEASUREMENTS</b>					
			2022 Budget	2022 Levy	FTE
<b>#1 General Legal Services</b>			\$789,969	\$755,519	6.98
			<b>2020</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2022</b>
Number of Child Abuse Restraining Orders opened			25	24	12
Number of claims reviewed			13	13	21
Number of contracts reviewed			42	48	62
Number of contracts (all) maintained			251	258	263
Number of county ordinance violations pretrials held			13	42	32
Number of foreclosure cases reviewed			6	3	12
Number of ordinances and resolutions drafted			50	55	67
Number of ordinances and resolutions reviewed and/or revised			140	111	97
Number of juvenile guardianship cases opened			21	13	17
Performance Goal	Outcome Measures	Benchmark	2020	2021	2022
To provide timely review and drafting of contracts, resolutions and ordinances.	97% of contracts will be reviewed within 7 days of receipt.	97%	85%	100%	98%
	97% of resolutions and ordinances referred for drafting will be returned for review or additional information within 7 days.	97%	97%	100%	100%
To provide cost-effective services.	100% of in-house legal services will be provided at a rate less expensive than local private attorney rates as illustrated in annual local attorney rate survey.	100%	100%	100%	100%
To process claims filed against the County within two days of receipt by Corporation Counsel, excluding weekends and holidays.	95% of claims filed against the county, will be processed within 2 days of receipt of the claim by Corporation Counsel, excluding weekends and holidays.	95%	100%	100%	100%
<b>#2 CHIPS, JIPS, TPR'S AND DHS LEGAL SERVICES</b>					
			<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Number of CHIPS cases opened			120	119	99
Number of CHIPS cases involving Meth			79	65	52
Number of CHIPS Petitions filed			103	98	81
Number of CHIPS Petitions filed involving Meth:			68	52	50
Number of JIPS cases opened:			100	114	87
Number of TPR cases opened:			21*	24*	13
Performance Goal	Outcome Measures	Benchmark	2020	2021	2022
To provide timely support and competent representation to DHS staff in prosecuting CHIPS and JIPS cases.	100% of CHIPS and JIPS referrals will be responded to within 20 days of Corporation Counsel's receipt.	100%	100%	100%	100%
To provide cost-effective services.	100% of in-house legal services will be provided at a rate less expensive than local private attorney rates as illustrated in annual local attorney rate survey.	100%	100%	100%	100%

- \*Includes TPR cases that were assigned to outside counsel. \*

<b>#3 CHAPTERS 51, 54 AND 55 AND ANNUAL REVIEWS</b>					
			<b><u>2020</u></b>	<b><u>2021</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>
Number of Chapter 51 cases opened			382	331	367
Number of Chapter 51 (New) cases committed			41	40	28
Number of Chapter 51 recommitment cases continued:			35	31	47
Number of Chapter 51 recommitment cases completed by stipulation:			22	26	30
Number of Chapter 51 recommitment cases requiring court appearances:			13	5	17
Number of Chapters 54 and 55 cases opened:			51	77	59
Number of Chapter 54 Temporary Guardianship cases opened:			26	43	39
Number of Protective Placement Annual Reviews scheduled:			318	281	293
Total of 54 & 55 and Annual Review fees collected			\$25,025	\$29,150	\$26,790
<b>Performance Goal</b>	<b>Outcome Measures</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
To provide timely support and competent representation to DHS staff prosecuting Chapter 51 mental commitments.	100% of Chapter 51 emergency detentions and recommitments, and Chapter 54 annual Watt's reviews will be processed and completed within the statutory time requirements.	100%	100%	100%	100%
To provide timely support and competent representation to DHS staff prosecuting Chapters 54 and 55 guardianship and protective placements and annual reviews.	100% of Chapter 54 guardianship and protective placement petitions will be completed within the statutory time requirement.	100%	100%	100%	100%
To provide cost-effective services.	100% of in-house legal services will be provided at a rate less expensive than local private attorney rates as illustrated in annual local attorney rate survey.	100%	100%	100%	100%

<b>#5 Child Support</b>			2022 Budget	2022 Levy	FTE's
			\$1,356,296	\$98,748	16.02
			<b><u>2020</u></b>	<b><u>2021</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>
Full service (IV-D) cases:			5,613	5,455	5,208
Financial record-keeping only cases (non IV-D):			1,755	1,834	1,954
<b>Performance Goal</b>	<b>Outcome Measures</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Maximize performance-based funding and medical support incentives to minimize county levy for the program.	Court ordered rate will meet or exceed the federal/state target of 80%.	80%	92.29%	93.94%	93.53%
	Paternity establishment rate will meet or exceed federal/state target of 80%.	80%	103.54%	104.43%	104.92%
	Arrears collection rate will meet or exceed federal/state target of 80%.	80%	72.32%	72.35%	71.36%
	Current support collection rate will meet or exceed federal/state target of 80%.	80%	73.02%	72.81%	73.71%
Obtain birth cost repayments and health insurance orders when appropriate to maximize MSL incentives	Receipt of budgeted amount		58,645	64,568	98,749
Provide services per State and Federal regulations, and State/County contract.	There will be no substantiated administrative customer complaints.	None	None	None	None
	100% of contracts will be in compliance with state/county contract requirements.	100%	100%	100%	100%
	There were no violations of federal regulations cited during the fiscal year.	None	None	None	None
<b>#6 COLLECTIONS</b>					
			<b><u>2020</u></b>	<b><u>2021</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>
Number of collections cases referred, and files opened			0	0	0
Number of tax intercept filed			16	0	0
Amount of payments received from tax intercept			\$6935.24	\$4981.59	\$5,587.08
Amount of payments received, excluding tax intercepts			\$165.00	150.00	\$180.00
Corporation Counsel Fees collected			\$285.00	175.00	\$172.20
Total amount collected			\$7,385.24	\$5306.59	\$5939.28
<b>Performance Goal</b>	<b>Outcome Measures</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
To provide timely support and competent representation in collection matters.	95% of tax intercept cases that qualify will be referred to the Department of Revenue ("DOR") within 7 days.	95%	100%	100%	100%
To provide cost-effective services	The cost of collections will be less than the amount of money collected	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Totals</b>			2022 Budget \$2,146,265	2022 Levy \$854,267	FTE 23