

# Position Statement

2020

## Child Welfare Data Sharing between Child Welfare and Public Health

### Proposal

**Issue:**

Although state and federal laws provide opportunities for some data sharing regarding families being served by both the Child Welfare System and Public Health, these laws lack specificity and allow for various legal interpretations and a lack of consistency across the state. Explicit language to allow this data sharing would ease service planning and coordination across the two systems with the roll out of Family First Prevention and Services Act (FFPSA).

**Implementation Strategy:**

MACSSA will support any legislative proposal that allows for this level of data exchange between child welfare and public health, whether it is in support of a pilot project or statewide data sharing plans. WIC data would be excluded from this proposal.

### Systemic Priority Alignment (check all that apply and explain why)

Equity       Service Integration       Fiscal Framework

**Comments:** The child protection system disproportionately impacts American Indian and Black/African American children. This position supports integration of services delivered to families with the belief that better coordination across systems will allow for more public health prevention services as a child welfare response.

### Operational Priority Alignment (check all that apply and explain why)

Behavioral Health       Case Management       Child Well Being       Community Based Settings & Services  
 Health Care       Housing & Transportation       Modernization       Self Sufficiency

**Comments:** Prevention services are a critical part of the child welfare system and a position that supports data sharing for the purpose of offering prevention services supports child wellbeing. It also assists in case planning and service access, thus making the position relevant to case management work.

### Rationale/Background:

The public health model involves a universal approach to target different groups across the community and at different levels of risk to ensure that every child has the right to grow up in a safe environment and to address the complex issues that can lead to child abuse and neglect. Public Health models aim to prevent problems from occurring in the first place by targeting policies and interventions at the known risk factors for the problem, quickly identifying and responding to problems before they occur, and minimizing the long-term effects for the problems.

Public Health uses many evidence-based practices that have been found to be well supported practices and effective interventions. These intervention services are more effective and less costly than deep end child protection services.

An exclusion to this proposal is WIC participant data. MN Statute 13.01-13.99 identifies individual WIC applicant/participant information as private. To ensure data privacy, Local Agencies must:

- Secure WIC participant data (paper records and/or electronic data) at all times, including during collection, printing, storage, and transport.
- Limit the release or sharing of private WIC data to instances in which the participant, custodial parent or legal guardian has provided signed consent to release such data and other instances as required by law.
- Provide annual training on data security to Local Agency staff and maintain documentation of the training. ~~(See Security Training)~~
- Gather information in a private space so that others cannot hear.
- Allow time for participant/caregiver to read (or be read to) the Rights & Responsibilities; inform him/her how information might be used ~~(Exhibit 1-K)~~; and obtain signature from participant/caregiver regarding his/her acceptance of the Rights and Responsibilities.
- Protect participant private data and do not share except as allowed by law or authorized by the participant.
- Use appropriate security at clinic ~~(see Section 9.3 – Security of WIC Information System)~~
- Ensure that private data sent via email is appropriately encrypted, encoded or protected.

#### Additional Information:



Submitted by: Jodi Heurung-Dick  
Approved on: [insert date position was approved]