



Issue One | April 27, 2018 | West Michigan Partnership for Children

WMPC In Action

Creating a community of belonging, resiliency, and hope where children and families flourish.

New at WMPC. . .

WMPC rolled out a new service available to children placed in temporary foster care in Kent County called Enhanced Foster Care (EFC) on December 1, 2017. EFC provides caregivers with additional support to increase their knowledge and skills to effectively parent and nurture children who present with behavioral and emotional needs because of their trauma. Families receive added support from clinical staff at their foster care agency to find creative solutions to assist the child placed with them to heal and build resiliency.

In addition to the assigned foster care case manager, an EFC Clinical Case Manager and Behavioral Specialist work with the family. Families receive personalized training and coaching from the agency and additional financial support. EFC is utilized to divert youth from residential placement, maintain current children who present with complex needs in community placements,

and to return children from residential care back into the community.

As of April 5, 2018, WMPC is serving 26 youth who are receiving EFC services from our five partner agencies: Bethany Christian Services, Catholic Charities West Michigan, D.A. Blodgett-St. John's, Samaritas, and Wellspring Lutheran Services.

Facts in Foster Care

Kent County child welfare providers are meeting or exceeding federal permanency outcomes in all areas with the exception of achieving permanency within 12 months. In the coming month, WMPC and its partners will focus on improving timelines to reunification, adoption or guardianship. WMPC looks forward to working with our partners across the community to achieve this goal.

WMPC oversees the placement and care of approximately 30 children and youth who are placed in foster care in Kent County each month--more than 800 children at any given time. Each child deserves to be cared for by a nurturing and supportive adult. These are our community's children--if you've ever thought about becoming a foster parent, there is no better time! [Email](#) us or visit our [website](#) for more information.

Finances in Foster Care



WMPC began operations on October 1, 2017, with an estimated operating budget of \$35,000,000. Over the first four months, WMPC spent \$10,631,629 on total operations, or 30.4% of the estimated budget. Of the amount spent in total operations, \$10,152,333 (95% of total expenditures) was spent on foster care services through the WMPC partners while \$479,296 (5%) was spent on WMPC staffing and administrative expenses.



