



FAMILY COURT SERVICES BUDGET 2024

Presented 9/11/2023

Located on the second floor of the
Courthouse



BUSY STAFF

- ❖ 8 FULL TIME FAMILY COURT COUNSELORS LICENSED IN MENTAL HEALTH
- ❖ 2 FULL TIME ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT STAFF
- ❖ 1 FULL TIME DIRECTOR WHO IS ALSO A LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST
- ❖ 2 LTE POSITIONS, ONE IS DEDICATED TO BACK SCANNING

SERVICES

- FCS staff work to educate, mediate and evaluate Dane County parents who have been ordered to the office by the Court
- While following statutory guidelines, great effort is taken to assist parents in reducing adverse effects of parental conflict on children
- Each day a counselor is “on call” to answer questions from the public and refer folks to other agencies that may be helpful

2023 NUMBERS

- Mediations assigned through August 2023
 - 294
 - No waitlist
- Family Evaluations assigned through August 2023
 - 111
 - Cases on waitlist: 28
- Brief Focused Assessments assigned through August 2023
 - 4
 - Cases on waitlist: 1

REVENUE COMPARISON

2022

- THROUGH AUGUST
 - \$98,395 COLLECTED BY FCS
 - \$28,260 FROM FILING FEES
 - TOTAL: \$126,655

2023

- THROUGH AUGUST
 - \$96,908 COLLECTED BY FCS
 - \$29,675 FROM FILING FEES
 - TOTAL: \$126,583

LANGUAGE ACCESS

- We have a support staff member who speaks Spanish which is helpful with phone calls and walk in members of the public
- Clerk Of Courts staff assist with scheduling interpreters for appointments and with occasional document translation when available
- Recently purchased subscription to DeepL which allows us to translate documents, emails and letters into Spanish and 30 other languages instantly
- An online Spanish Parent Education option is now available. We do not have a Spanish in-person option.

LANGUAGE ACCESS

- We have a device from IM that allows interpretation of verbal conversations if we know the language being spoken
- Court certified interpreter's are difficult to find for some languages and sometimes we need to reach out unexpectedly. In those instances we use the Language Line.
- Court certified translator's are difficult to find for some languages

UNMET NEEDS

- The need for updated equipment and software continues to affect operations at FCS.
- The FCS training budget has continually been reduced. Counselors sometimes have to pay for training to maintain their required licensure out of pocket. License renewal fees are out of pocket as well. High quality training specific to this field helps counselors feel confident when testifying as the Court's expert witness.
- The database upgrade has not worked as hoped. For instance, we are still unable to run our own reports regarding case assignments, fees outstanding, Parent Education attendance, and data about client populations. This information would help us be responsive to our evolving client base and changing needs.

UNMET NEEDS

The 4 years of backscanning paper files is finishing up and is freeing up some space

Our space is being used differently since the pandemic. The top three priorities are as follows:

- We need a new playroom that is larger and more inclusive of disabilities, older children and larger families
- Designated space for file reviews
- Private staff space

THANK YOU

- County Board Supervisors and staff
- DOA
- IM
- Printing and services
- Corporation Counsel
- Clerk of Courts staff
- Dane County judiciary