

# Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health 2021 Annual Report

## THE POWER OF CONNECTION building bright futures

The Power of Connection is a web-based experience for parents and caregivers that explores the rich emotional lives of babies and toddlers.

*anticipated release in Spring 2022*

### Support

- Reflective Supervision Learning Collaborative
- Website Resources
- On-site Coaching and Implementation Support
- Pyramid Model Coaches Connection

### Connection

- Wisconsin Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Conference
- Chapter Webinars
- Monthly Newsletter
- Communities of Practice

### Collaboration

Participation in statewide and national workgroups focusing on infant and early childhood mental health consultation and equity

### Advocacy

- Speak for Wisconsin Babies Campaign
- Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council
- The Wisconsin Infant Toddler Policy Project

### Professional Development

- IMH Endorsement
- Pyramid Model Academy
- Positive Solutions for Families
- Parents Interacting with Infants
- Facilitating Attuned Interactions
- Pyramid Model Individualized Interventions
- Practice-Based Coaching

# Wisconsin Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Conference

Here's what folks had to say about the 2021 Conference:

*"This was the best conference that I have attended. I am still processing the stories that were shared and the information presented."*

*"I really enjoyed it and it has helped to revive my passion for this important work, especially at a time where my cup was beyond empty."*

*"I am always very appreciative of the great speakers and sessions you provide to all of us. It is truly a rejuvenating conference, even when virtual."*



**"rated excellent or above average"**

<b>Overall Quality</b>	<b>93%</b>
<b>Speakers</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>Sessions</b>	<b>96%</b>

[Learn about the upcoming 2022 conference](#)

## Infant Mental Health Endorsement<sup>®</sup>

We are thrilled to announce that we have reached the milestone of 100 Endorsed<sup>®</sup> professionals in Wisconsin!



**100**

Endorsement<sup>®</sup> for Culturally-Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health is an internationally recognized credential that supports and recognizes professionals who have acquired the specialized knowledge and skills for working with or on behalf of infants, toddlers, and their families within their chosen discipline. Our Wisconsin professionals join more than 4,500 people world-wide who are Endorsed.<sup>®</sup>

Earning Endorsement<sup>®</sup> is good for babies as it affirms a professional has acquired the competencies that equip them with the culturally-responsive and reflective skills to promote early relational health and social and emotional wellbeing, leading to best outcomes for babies and their families. It's the largest and most recognized IMH credentialing system in the United States and it's available here in Wisconsin!

For more information about IMH-Endorsement<sup>®</sup>, including information about how to apply, visit [www.wiaimh.org/endorsement](http://www.wiaimh.org/endorsement).

## Pathways for Mental Health Clinicians

WI-AIMH engaged with clinicians interested in building or expanding their infant and early childhood mental health practice, and with support from Wisconsin Department of Health Services, implemented a program with an array of options.

We reached out to 491 clinicians of which 103 unique clinicians participated in 468 activities. Most chose to participate in multiple activities selected by each clinician, and 80 elected to receive follow-up information and support.



Scholarships



Free Training



Activities



Resources

## National Spotlight

WI-AIMH's Executive Director, Lana Nenide, and Clinical Coordinator, Ashley Bowers, contributed to an article published in the June issue of the ZERO TO THREE Journal.



WI-AIMH was highlighted for work that supported professionals across disciplines and systems in the midst of the pandemic and took a deep dive into exploration of racial justice in the field.

## Caring for Early Care & Education Professionals

Through a highly competitive process, WI-AIMH was selected to implement a statewide program that offered concrete support to Early Care and Education (ECE) providers and administrators during the pandemic. ECE providers and administrators have difficult and often unrecognized jobs—even in the best of times. COVID-19 added to stressors as providers were called on to perform in increasingly difficult situations while maintaining the compassion, understanding, and flexibility needed to work with our most precious and vulnerable populations. WI-AIMH partnered with agencies that wanted to help by offering free professional development options with stipends for completion. 139 ECE professionals participated in the program. Topics were:



Self-care



Reflective Practice



Endorsement



Training in Social and Emotional Practices



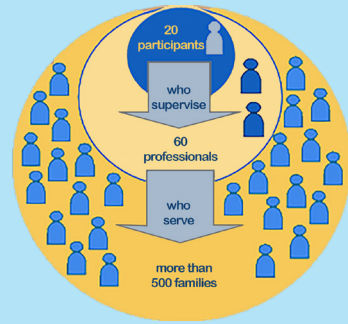
Developing Leadership

*This unique program was made possible through the Preschool Development Grant.*

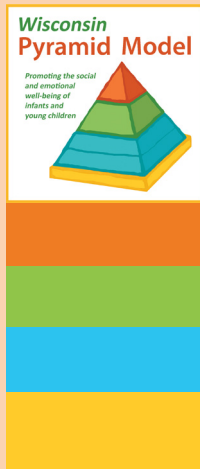
# Reflective Supervision Learning Collaborative

The WI-AIMH [Reflective Supervision Learning Collaborative](#) (RSLC) is a 12-month process comprised of learning sessions and active implementation phases with built-in support throughout the process. Cohort 4 is comprised of 33 participants who are leaders or direct service professionals from Early Care and Education, Child Welfare, Home Visiting, Occupational Therapy, Birth to 3, Mental Health, Head Start, Early Head Start, Family Resource Centers and Public Health sectors.

From participants: *“As a result of participating in the RSLC, I have noticed I am more open, more comfortable with pauses, and more mindful.”* *“I feel like my monthly RS consultant has done a beautiful job of encouraging me and has been very helpful with support in building my foundation.”*



## Wisconsin Pyramid Model



After 12 years of building infrastructure in Wisconsin, 2021 was the time to renew the [Pyramid Model](#) statewide vision and mission. Our previous vision emphasized the creation of professional development. The new vision and mission tell a story of what we’ve learned through providing that professional development—we need to hold the well-being of infants and young children at the heart of the work and we need to strive, together, for all adults to understand the vital role they have in ensuring the success of Wisconsin’s youngest children (see the Pyramid Model Annual Report for more details.)

### Wisconsin Pyramid Model Vision

Each and every Wisconsin infant and young child will experience nurturing and authentic relationships within engaging, culturally responsive environments that honor diversity in all its forms in order to ensure healthy social and emotional development.

### Wisconsin Pyramid Model Mission

We advocate, train and coach to elevate awareness, honor relationships, and support adults to apply skills and strategies that ensure equitable outcomes for infants, young children and their families through intentional implementation of the Wisconsin Pyramid Model in programs and communities.

## WI-AIMH Milestones

### WI-AIMH is 20 Years Old!

Our founders, Donna Harris and Jim Ryan, would be pleased and proud that the organization that they founded and nurtured has grown and continues to do the important work they began. We will celebrate this milestone on October 10, 2022 at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake.



### We moved!

In December 2021, WI-AIMH relocated to an office in Middleton that better meets our growing needs.

6213 Middleton Springs Dr.  
Ste. 204  
Middleton, WI 53562

## WI-AIMH Staff

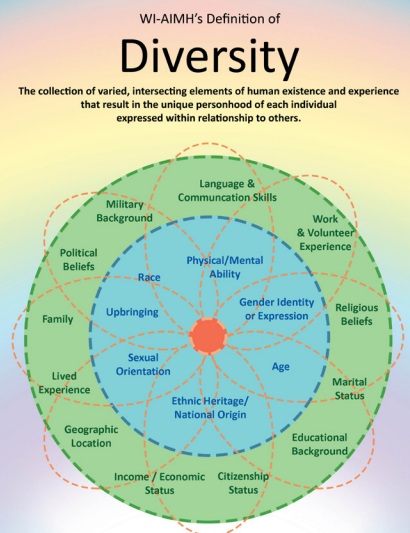
- Lana Shklyar Nenide, Executive Director
- Kathie Magin, Director of Operations
- Julie Betchkal, Director of Wisconsin Pyramid Model
- Ashley Bowers, IMH Clinical Coordinator
- Becky Buck, Northwestern Region Pyramid Model Lead
- Jenny Durand, Southern Region Pyramid Model Lead
- Delechia Johnson, Southwestern Region Pyramid Model Lead
- Marisa Kahler, Pyramid Model Data Coordinator
- Tina Ruckdashel, Northeastern Region Pyramid Model Lead
- Tina Hogle, Communications & Outreach Manager
- Jared Baldwin, Special Projects Assistant
- Sarah Katzman, Office Coordinator

## Board of Directors

- Heather Jordan, President
- Michael Hoffman, Vice-President
- Eric Golueke, Treasurer
- Andrew DeClercq, Secretary
- Romilia Schlueter
- Emilie Braunel
- Connie Dunlap

*WI-AIMH’s staff and board discussed and contributed to the creation of this image that depicts our organizational values and commitment to honoring diversity.*

*Download a copy, in English or Spanish, at [www.wiaimh.org/mission](http://www.wiaimh.org/mission).*



The collection of varied, intersecting elements of human existence and experience that result in the unique personhood of each individual expressed within relationship to others.

We acknowledge, respect, and value the variety, complexity and wide range of attributes, experiences, histories, abilities, identities, and world views that are collectively unique to each and every person.

We believe that differences build strength and versatility.

We intentionally work to be inclusive and equitable in all of our organizational practices, operations, outreach, and services.



# Contributors

- Therese Ahlers
- Alex Atterbury
- Elisabeth and Steve Anderson
- Cheryl Bartlett
- Annette Copa
- Ed and Mary Jo Baisch
- Linda Tuchman-Ginsberg
- Michael Hoffman
- Richard Immler
- Landas and Company
- Ernestine Limestall
- Shelby McCulley
- Michele Meyer
- Angela Mills
- Lois Seefeldt
- Eileen Sperl
- Judith Sweet
- Russell and Katherine Wortley
- the family of Susan Shapiro

## Conference Sponsors

- Quartz/Unity Point Health/Meriter/UW Health
- Wisconsin Department of Children and Families
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services

*We are extremely grateful to all our donors and apologize if we inadvertently missed anyone.*



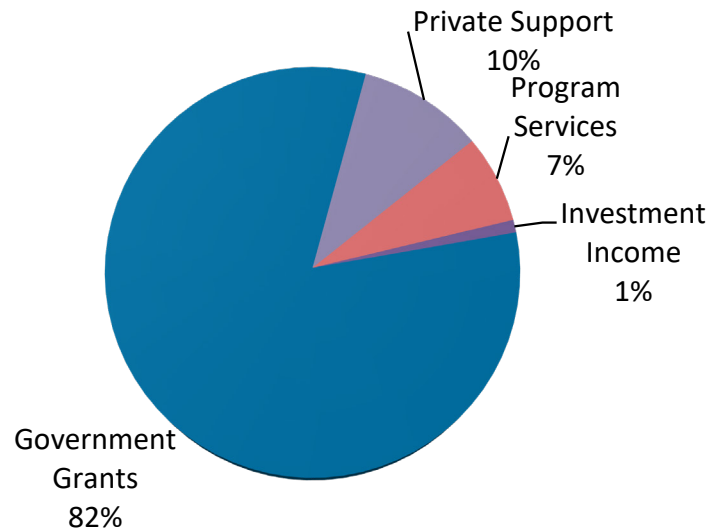
WI-AIMH is an affiliate of the World Association for Infant Mental Health (WAIMH)

and

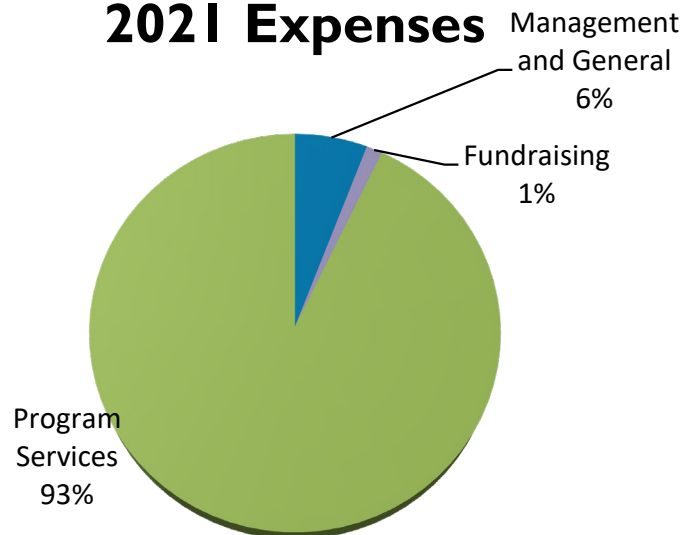


the Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health (AAIMH)

# 2021 Income



# 2021 Expenses



## Major Funders

- Roots and Wings Foundation
- Tides Foundation
- Wisconsin Department of Children and Families
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services



WISCONSIN ALLIANCE FOR  
INFANT MENTAL HEALTH  
— Early Relationships Matter —

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