

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Childcaring Receives COVID-19 Emergency Relief Funding to Offer Trauma Informed Early Childhood Training & Support to Child Care Providers

Mosinee, WI – COVID-19 has produced a unique challenge for child care staff working with preschool age children. Many children have experienced loss and fear for their own health and safety. Some are afraid to return to their child care environment. Child care teachers and caregivers, when equipped with the knowledge of how to be trauma informed and responsive, can play a vital role in not only identifying a need for trauma related intervention and treatment, but can also be a valuable support system for the social/emotional and mental well-being of children and families.

“As children return to care after months at home due to COVID-19, many may exhibit challenging behaviors arising from concerns related to their families’ health and stability. Supporting early childhood educators’ ability to call upon trauma-informed care principles is critical to supporting children’s well-being and the strong foundation they need to start right in life,” said Linda A. Hall, Director, Office of Children’s Mental Health.

Thanks to the generous gift of \$9,700 from the B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation, Childcaring in partnership with Marshfield Clinic Health System and the Wisconsin Afterschool Network, have worked with consultants Quinn Wilder, Quality Youth Development Consulting and Jennifer Smith, Program Coordinator, Center for Community Health Advancement, Marshfield Clinic Health System to develop and facilitate a virtual trauma informed care training geared specifically to 20 teachers and caregivers of preschool aged children, in Marathon County.

The Trauma Informed Care Approach In Early Childhood Training will be held this fall. The sessions will provide resources, information and education needed to support the adults caring for and educating young children. Along with the group training opportunity, participants will be able to access one-on-one technical assistance with the facilitator to discuss their own unique experiences. Teachers/caregivers completing the 15-hour course will also receive a toolkit with resources and learning activities geared specifically towards supporting social and emotional development.

“Children are our future, and it is imperative that we support the caregivers and teachers of our youngest citizens in order to improve the overall health and economic future of our state,” said Kelly Borchardt, Childcaring Executive Director.

Childcaring, your local resource and referral, offers professional development opportunities for child care providers and is dedicated to providing quality child care information, and partnering with parents, care providers, business leaders, and community organizations to make quality care available to Central Wisconsin families. For more information, please contact Childcaring at: 1-800-782-8581 or visit www.childcaring.org.

Support for this project was provided through the B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation.

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About Childcaring

Childcaring’s mission is to enhance and support a quality early childhood education system by providing resource and referral services to families, child care programs, and communities in Adams, Clark, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marquette, Portage, Taylor, Waushara, and Wood counties. To learn more about Childcaring visit: www.childcaring.org and like us on Facebook @ChildcaringInc