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| ANNUAL REPORT  2024 |

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| Black Administrators in Child Welfare of Illinois |  |  |
| BACW - Black Administrators in Child Welfare, Inc.  **Black Administrators in Child Welfare of Illinois**  **Established January 28, 2014**  **Couple meeting with a planner**  [Bacw.il2014@gmail.com](mailto:Bacw.il2014@gmail.com)  Bacwofillinois.gov  **“ *A Strong VOICE”***  ***“ A Powerful FORCE”*** |  |  |

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***MISSION***

The Black Administrators in Child Welfare of Illinois (BACW-I) is dedicated to the development of African American leaders for the purpose of empowering and protecting the rights of children and families.

***VISION***

The Black Administrators in Child Welfare of Illinois (BACW-I) is committed to working in collaboration with state and local human service agencies to reduce disproportionality and address disparate treatment by strengthening the development of families of color. Our intent is to implement lasting changes that cultivate leadership in the child welfare system.

**2024 Year-At-A-Glance**

The 2024 year was a very defining year for Black Administrators in Child Welfare of Illinois. We continued to focus on our commitment to collaborate with community and human service agencies, addressing ongoing issues that impact families of color. Our priority this year dealt with child welfare leadership professional development, sustaining partnerships that support our endeavors of developing projects, enhancing community outreach with focus on racial healing, inequities, and fundraising.

***Collaborative Events***

Fiscal Year 2024 began with a continued focus on activities, tasks and planning of programs and initiatives that would enhance community growth and address racial disparities and civic development. In April of this year, with the support of Healing Illinois, BACW-I sponsored a series of Town Hall Meetings that raised awareness regarding racial inequities in the child welfare system. The event was in partnership with the Chicago Association of Black Social Workers, Illinois State University’s Permanency Enhancement Project, and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Office of Racial Equity and Practice. Town Hall Meetings were held in Peoria, Bloomington, and Champaign in Central Illinois with over 150 community stakeholders in attendance.

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A person in a white shirt

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A group of people sitting at tables in a room

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A group of people standing in a room

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***BACW Illinois Addie Hudson Scholarship***

A scholarship fund was established in 2020 in memory of one of our Charter founding members, Addie Hudson and in partnership with Tougaloo College Alumni Association. The 2024 Addie Hudson Scholarship was awarded to Montel Williams and Carla Smith, both 2024 graduates of Tougaloo College.

***Illinois Legislative Black Caucus***

The Black Administrators in Child Welfare of Illinois continue to support the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus by advocating for changes in policies that impact families of color in Illinois. We continue to support legislation to reform four key pillars of the Illinois government: criminal justice, education and workforce development, economic access, equity, and opportunity.

***Professional Development***

***BACW-I Child Welfare Leadership Institute for Current and Emerging African American Child Welfare Leaders***

BACW – I continued to sponsor and implement our annual community - based African American Child Welfare Leadership Institute in June 2024. The Institute was held in Central Illinois in collaboration with Illinois State University. Thirteen child welfare professionals in Central and Southern Illinois were provided with a platform for capacity building needed for child welfare practice through a racial equity lens. The goal of the Institute was to increase participants’ understanding and practice of racial equity, inclusion, and fairness in the provision of services to children and families. Our priority is to provide information that will support an increase in the number of African American leaders in the child welfare system throughout Illinois. The curriculum was based on the Racial Equity Strategy Areas developed by the National Board of Black Administrators in Child Welfare.

Presenters in the field of Child Welfare, Health, Education, and Juvenile Justice provided the cohort an opportunity to incubate their experiences, knowledge, wisdom, and ideas required to build a system driven by race-equity.

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A group of women speaking into microphones

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A group of people holding certificates

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***BACW-I Annual Fundraiser***

In September 2024, BACW-I sponsored our annual fundraiser entitled: “A Reunion for: DCFS & Child Welfare Private Agencies’ Retirees & Current Employees.” The fundraiser gave child welfare professionals throughout the state an opportunity to reunite, fellowship, and support future programs and scholarships. BACW-I also held an awards ceremony during the fundraiser honoring the following community and child welfare leaders in Illinois: Mable Royster-recipient of the “*Trailblazer of Change Award,* Dr. Doris Houston– recipient of the “*Visionary Leader in Human Services Award”,* Myra Sampson – recipient of the *“Community Impact Legacy Award”,* and Patrushka Sampeur-Thigpen-recipient of the *Black Administrators in Child Welfare of Illinois President’s Award.*

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A group of women standing in front of a banner

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**Partnerships**

Chicago Association of Black Social Workers

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services – African American Advisory Council Permanency Enhancement Program

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Office of Racial Equity and Practice

Sankofa Safe Child Initiative

Lakeside Community Committee

Illinois State University-Office of Equity and Inclusion

**Financial Summary**

Black Administrators in Child Welfare of Illinois maintains a non-profit status. All operational funds are secured from membership dues and donations. Grant funds received are earmarked toward special projects, programs, and events.

**2024 Operational Projections**

To accomplish the overarching goals of community and professional development, the Black Administrators in Child Welfare of Illinois (B.A.C.W.-I) will continue planning and implementing annual programs and activities, including support from community and professional partners in the following areas: Child Welfare Enhancements, Professional Leadership Development, Skill Building, Social Justice, Community Development, and Economic Empowerment.