The Burnout Epidemic: High Turnover in Child Welfare

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- **High Turnover Rates**: Turnover in the child welfare workforce can reach up to 40%, significantly affecting both agencies and the children they serve.
- **Impact of Turnover**: High turnover disrupts relationships between caseworkers and children, leading to mistrust and undermining years of effort to build trust.
- **Causes of Burnout**: Burnout among child welfare workers is mainly due to high-stress environments, heavy caseloads, and resource-poor agencies.
- **COVID-19 Pandemic Influence**: The pandemic has exacerbated burnout and turnover among child welfare workers.
- **Mitigating Strategies**: Reducing administrative burdens and providing stronger support systems, including supportive leadership, can help alleviate burnout.
- **Educational Support**: Programs like the Hawai‘i Child Welfare Education Collaboration (HCWEC) provide stipends and training to encourage retention in child welfare positions.
- **Research and Awareness**: The study highlights the need for awareness about the types of burnouts contributing to turnover and the development of strategies to address these issues.

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