

Leading Together: A Convening of Family-Led and Family-Supporting Organizations

Sample of Family Leadership Resources in Wisconsin Overview

This is a list of activities offered by *Leading Together* member organizations that support families interested in building leadership skills and knowledge.* The list is organized by **Family to Family Connections, Trainings, Mentorship and Technical Assistance, Listservs and Newsletters, and Grants**. You can learn more about these activities on the website links provided and by reviewing the **Family Leadership Activity Chart**.

- A list of *Opportunities to Serve on State Level Committees and Councils* can be found here: www.familyvoicesofwisconsin.com/leadership/family-leadership/
- Please also visit the **Wisconsin Statewide Special Education Professional Development Calendar** for upcoming events and trainings. <http://calendar.wspei.org/>

Family to Family Connections

Family Listening Sessions

Wisconsin Regional Centers for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

The *Family Listening Sessions* engage families with children with special health care needs, face-to-face, to gather their input about their story, their concerns about policies and to assess their readiness to participate in leadership activities.

Audience: Families of Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN)

Contact Information: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/cyshcn/regionalcenters.htm

Family Partners Program at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Regional Centers for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

Led by the Southeast and Northeast Regional Centers for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs, this is a volunteer partnership with families who have received care at any location of Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. Families may be able to participate in short or long-term committees, including the Hospital Family Advisory Committee. There are many opportunities to participate in workgroups, focus groups, meal service, panel discussions, medical presentations and peer-to-peer support. In most aspects of the program, family members sit alongside medical professionals to discuss an array of topics including process improvement, healthcare literacy, communication strategies, telling compelling stories to create system change and improve the patient/family experience. In the Fox Valley, there are opportunities to be paired with a Resident in the Resident Host Training and to serve as a NICU Family Host.

Audience: Families who have children who have received services from Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.

Participation Requirements: Review materials prior to meetings, prepare presentations, and complete assignments as needed.

Contact Information: www.southeastregionalcenter.org www.northeastregionalcenter.org

Foster & Adoptive Support & Preservation Program

Wisconsin Foster and Adoptive Parent Association

This is a peer-driven volunteer network designed to help foster parents. The program utilizes highly trained volunteers to help foster parents navigate the foster care and adoption systems.

Audience: Foster and Adoptive Parents.

Contact information: www.wfapa.org 1-920-922-9627

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Honor the Circles Tribal Gathering

Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program (CYSHCN)

Honor the Circles Tribal Gathering is a support group for families that have similar concerns regarding their children's disability. There is strength in sharing, acknowledging, and validating personal feelings, by finding a healthy release in the sharing of their personal ups and downs. This program offers encouragement, hope, and the importance of turning to other families for support. Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council also provides educational workshops to family members based on the families' interests.

Audience: Families of CYSHCN

Contact information: www.glitc.org 800-472-7207

Living Our Vision-Dane County

UW-Madison, Waisman Center UCEDD

Living Our Visions, (LOV-Dane) is a model demonstration project funded by Dane County and coordinated through the Waisman Center that supports and builds family-led and directed activities including individuals with disabilities, their families, friends and community members building fulfilling and community-centered lives for all citizens. LOV-Dane uses strategies for community organizing to support efforts in areas of interest including: community connections, friendships and peer mentoring, and "moving out."

Audience: Families of children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

Participation Requirements: Commit time and effort to family planning and implementation efforts.

Contact Information: www.lovdane.org 608-516-4285

Parent Cafés

Supporting Families Together Association

A *Parent Café* is a peer-to-peer, self-reflective learning opportunity where parents can gather in person to talk about the joys and challenges they face as parents, while building the five evidence-based Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors that have been shown to help prevent child abuse and neglect. Our Parent Cafés are built on the Be Strong Families Parent Café model that promotes these Protective Factors through authentic, intimate conversations where parents can build their social-emotional skills and learn how to proactively respond to challenging situations. Throughout this process parents acquire the leadership skills to lead Parent Cafés within their own community and build relationships between one another to create a network of support that lasts long after Parent Cafés.

Audience: Families and Families with CYSHCN

Contact Information: www.supportingfamiliesaltogether.org/families/support-your-family/

Parent to Parent Matching

Parent to Parent of Wisconsin

Parent matching occurs between a trained volunteer support parent and a parent who is looking for support from someone with a similar experience that results from raising a child with special health care needs. Matches can be made for a variety of reasons such as surgeries, re-locations, feeding issues, support from someone with a similar experience, etc. The trained support parent is required

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to make the first four contacts with the first contact being made by phone to establish follow-up preferences. Parent matching occurs throughout the state.

Audience: Families of CYSHCN

Contact information: www.p2pwi.org 888-266-0028

Peer Specialist Certification

ACCESS to Independence

Certified Parent Peer Specialists provide peer support and promote the well-being of the families with whom they work. They promote family-driven and youth-guided practices that focus on strengths as part of the solution and ensure families and youth participate as partners in all aspects of their care.

Audience: Parents who self-identify parenting a child with a mental health concern or substance use disorder.

Participation Requirements: On-going participation, provide content expertise.

Contact Information: www.wicps.org/parent-peer-specialists 800-362-9877

Support Parent Training

Parent to Parent of Wisconsin

The *Support Parent Training* prepares parents for their role of providing support to another parent with a child with similar special needs. The training curriculum includes information on confidentiality, supportive communication and active listening skills, self-reflection, crafting our story, role-play, resources and more.

Audience: Families

Participation Requirements: Commitment to accept a match with another parent if available and to follow matching protocol.

Contact information: www.p2pwi.org 888-266-0028

Trainings

Advocacy for Change Family Leadership Institute

Family Voices of Wisconsin

Advocacy for Change Family Leadership Institute is an advocacy training for families with children with disabilities and special health care needs. Participants gain knowledge of current policy issues and develop and practice their message prior to meeting with their legislators at the state Capitol.

Audience: Families of CYSHCN

Participation Requirements: Complete a commitment to action. Families are encouraged to complete the commitment to action within six months following the training.

Contact Information: www.familyvoices.com 608-828-9959

Collective Impact Partners (CIP)

Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health

The *Wisconsin Children's Mental Health Collective Impact (CMHCI)* framework recognizes the importance of having individuals with lived experience at the decision making table in order to

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improve systems and services. Ten of 40 individuals on the CMHCI Executive Council are parents of children with mental health struggles and 5 are youth/young adults who have navigated multiple systems, known as the Collective Impact Partners (CIPs). They are supported by the OCMH Family Relations coordinator. The CIPs meet in Madison on the first Friday of each month. On even months they meet before and after the CMHCI Executive Council meetings to discuss the agenda so they are fully informed and ready to lend their expertise to the collective impact process. On odd months they meet as a small group to form relationships, increase knowledge and understanding of systems, best practices in mental health, receive training and information to increase their knowledge and work together to identify how to effectively use their experiences to inform systems change. The CMHCI has 3 workgroups and each is co-led by a CIP and a provider. The CIP workgroup chairs are supported in their leadership role within those workgroups. Finally, the CIPs take the information they are learning at the state level back to their communities to inform change at the local level.

Audience: Parents of children with mental health struggles and youth/young adults between the ages of 16 and 26 years old, who have navigated multiple systems.

Participation Requirements: Complete an application process and demonstrate understanding of multiple systems. Prepare and attend monthly meetings and assume new leadership roles.

Contact Information: www.children.wi.gov 608-266-9336

District Family Engagement Liaison Training Program

WSPEI

District Family Engagement Liaison Training Program provides information to district identified family engagement liaisons to assist them in providing information to families and educators in their district. Trainings include modules on navigating special education, communication, transition planning and confidentiality. In person training is offered (usually 2 days during school year) across the state in each of the 12 regional Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) areas.

Audience: Parents of children who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

Participation Requirements: Once trained, district liaisons are expected to coordinate engagement activities with their Director of Special Education.

Contact Information: www.wspei.org/training/district-liason-program.php

LEND family and self-advocate discipline

UW-Madison, Waisman Center UCEDD

The Wisconsin Maternal and Child Health (MCH) *Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities* (LEND) Program provides interdisciplinary and disciplinary leadership training in order to improve systems of care that promote the prevention of disabilities and assure access to family-centered, community-based services and supports for children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families. LEND provides advanced training to graduate students, post-graduates, family members, self-advocates, and community professionals who already demonstrate a commitment to promoting quality systems of care for children and their families.

Audience: Families of CYSHCN

Participation Requirements: Application required, upon entry in program participants are expected to complete coursework.

Contact Information: www.waisman.wisc.edu/cedd/wilend/

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Parents in Partnership (PIP)

WSPEI

Parents in Partnership is a statewide program in which a group of parents and other caregivers meet together to share their family stories, challenges, joys and triumphs of raising their children. At PIP, participants will learn about community and statewide resources for children with disabilities; explore issues around health, education, policy making, legislation, inclusion, self-determination, family well-being, and IDEA Special Education Law.

Audience: Parents of CYSHCN

Participation Requirements: Attend all sessions, complete a Community Action Plan.

Contact Information: wspei.org/families/pip.php 608-745-5435

Partners in Policymaking

Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities

Partners in Policymaking is a leadership and advocacy training for parents of children with disabilities. The training is designed to help parents and individuals obtain skills so they can be leaders in system change in their communities.

Audience: Parents of children with disabilities.

Participation Requirements: Complete assignments after each session.

Contact Information: www.wi-bpdd.org/projects/partnersinpolicymaking/

Serving on Groups that Make Decisions

Wisconsin FACETS

Serving on Groups that Make Decisions guide is intended to be a useful tool for anyone who is currently serving, or wants to serve, on a decision-making group. This can include parents, students, educators, administrators, and community members. It was researched, developed, and written collaboratively by a broad stakeholder group of statewide agencies, school representatives and family members across Wisconsin. The result is a guide that focuses on a specific skill set using research-based strategies while being broadly applicable to a diverse audience for a more effective and robust decision-making group.

Audience: Families and Professionals.

Contact Information: www.servingongroups.org/

Volunteer Parent Leader Training

Wisconsin FACETS

Volunteer parent leaders receive information and training on special education issues, the unauthorized practice of law, legal updates from DPI, and family & community resources around the state.

Audience: Parents of children who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Participation Requirements: Parents must be invited to participate in this program. Once invited, parents must complete a 12-hour orientation, annual training, and volunteer at 3 events per year.

Contact Information: (414) 374-4645

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Wisconsin Family Leadership Institute (WiFLI)

UW-Madison, Waisman Center UCEDD

Wisconsin Family Leadership Institute (2016) offers an intensive learning opportunity for family members interested in increasing their leadership skills. Participants will meet face to face and work on a community project between sessions where they will practice and apply skills learned during the sessions.

Audience: Families of CYSHCN

Participation Requirements: Application required, homework between sessions, and work on a community project.

Contact Information: www.waisman.wisc.edu/cedd/wifli.php

Youth Leadership Forum

Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities

Youth Leadership Forum is a self-advocacy and futures planning training for youth.

Audience: Youth with disabilities who are sophomores through seniors in high school.

Participation Requirements: Homework after each session.

Contact Information: www.wi-bpdd.org/projects/YouthLeadershipForum.cfm

Youth in Partnership with Parents for Empowerment (YiPPE)

WSPEI

Youth in Partnership with Parents for Empowerment is a leadership development opportunity for youth with disabilities and their parents to learn about the transition process. They hear from speakers and take part in hands-on activities in parallel programs centered around transition. While some topics may overlap, parents participate in their own sessions while their youth are learning similar information in a youth-friendly format.

Audience: Families who have a youth with a disability aged 15-20.

Participation Requirements: Commit to attend all sessions, complete a community action plan.

Contact Information: www.wspei.org/families/yippe.php

Mentorship & Technical Assistance

Mentorship/Technical Assistance

Supporting Families Together Association

Family Resource Centers provide technical assistance connecting families seeking leadership roles to opportunities in their communities and provides individual mentoring for families serving in leadership roles.

Audience: Families

Contact Information: connie@supportingfamilies.together.org 608-443-4311

Mentorship/Technical Assistance

Alianza Latina Aplicando Soluciones

Alianza Latina Aplicando Soluciones provides individual mentoring for families with children with special health care needs serving in leadership roles and provides technical assistance.

Audience: Families

Contact Information: www.alianzalatiniwi.org 414-643-0022

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Mentorship/Technical Assistance

Wisconsin Regional Centers for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

The *Regional Centers* provide individual mentoring is provided for families with children with special health care needs serving in leadership roles. Regional Centers provide technical assistance and expertise to agencies working on family engagement in their region.

Audience: Families and Providers

Contact Information: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/cyshcn/regionalcenters.htm

Listservs & Newsletters

Family Action Network (FAN) Listserv

UW-Madison, Waisman Center UCEDD, Family Voices of Wisconsin

The *Family Action Network* is a listserv that connects families who have children with disabilities and special health care needs to issues of interest. Some topics include; learning about advocacy, training and leadership opportunities and becoming informed about policy changes that can impact children and families.

Audience: Families and Providers

Contact Information: www.waisman.wisc.edu/cedd/fan.php

To join send an email to: join-fan@lists.wisc.edu

Family Voices Newsletter

Family Voices of Wisconsin

The *Family Voices Newsletter* is a quarterly publication covering state and federal policies impacting families with children with disabilities and special health care needs as well as updates on new leadership opportunities, trainings, resources.

Audience: Families and Providers

Contact Information: www.familyvoicesofwisconsin.com/connect-with-us/ 608-828-9959

Parent to Parent Listserv

Parent to Parent of Wisconsin

The *Parent to Parent Listserv* is a mechanism to share resources and leadership information to trained support and newly referred parents of children with special health care needs. Parent to Parent offers support to family members and leaders who apply for leadership roles across the state.

Audience: Families

Contact information: www.p2pwi.org 888-266-0028

Wisconsin FACETS Listserv & Family Engagement Newsletter

Wisconsin FACETS

The *FACETS Listserv* provides Information about trainings from FACETS and other groups, resource dissemination, parent-to-parent connections. The Family Engagement Newsletter covers a different disability focus each month along with in-home learning strategies, research and statewide events.

Audience: Families, Youth and Providers

Contact Information: <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/wifacets/info>

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Grants

Community-Opportunity-Reciprocity-Enjoyment (CORE) grants

Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities

CORE grants are provided to families designed to help them build community, relationships and opportunities for their children within their communities.

Audience: Families of children aged birth to six.

Participation Requirements: Complete homework activities.

Contact information: www.wi-bpdd.org/connect/ 888-332-1677