

# Circles of Life Conference

May 11 & 12, 2023



Wisconsin's Annual Conference for Families of  
Children with Disabilities and Professionals



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## Birth to 3 Program Town Hall Meeting

**Friday, 9:00 – 12:00 • Wilderness 4**

The Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program Interagency Coordinating Council’s (ICC) mission is to help WI DHS put an effective early intervention system into action. ICC members are a combination of governor-appointed parents and professionals. Every year, an ICC meeting is held at the Circles of Life Conference to hear from parents and professionals.

**Come to the ICC meeting on Friday morning to give your input.** At each ICC meeting, time is reserved for public comments from families, professionals and other stakeholders.

For details visit [b3icc.wisconsin.gov](http://b3icc.wisconsin.gov).

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### **Thank you!**

WisPact and GT Independence for planning and hosting our Financial Literacy sessions.



## Porcupine Auction • Thursday, May 11

**Bidding Open—8:30 am - 6:45 pm • Winners—7:30 pm, Sandstone Ballroom**

1. Buy Tickets
2. Save “Keep This Coupon”
  - The numbers on these tickets are used to confirm winners.
  - **HINT:** To make it easier to check winning numbers, many people leave their “Keep This Coupon” tickets connected to each other.
3. “Bid” on the items you want!

Use the remaining ticket half to bid on an item you want, by placing it into the numbered bag paired with that item. At the end of the day, a winning ticket is drawn for each item.

- **HINT:** Separate these into individual tickets.
  - **HINT:** The more you bid, the better your chances of winning.
4. Winners will be announced at Family Fun Night, Thursday at 7:30 pm.



All proceeds go to the **Elsie Shaw Parent Scholarship Fund**, created to offset the cost of attending the Circles of Life Conference for Wisconsin families.



# Support for Parents and Educators!

Parents are valued contributors and decision makers in all of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Statewide Initiatives. Find out how our programs can help you and your child.

## Wisconsin Statewide Parent Educator Initiative (WSPEI)

WSPEI helps families and educators build positive working relationships that lead to shared decision making and improved outcomes for students.

### Contact WSPEI

- website: [www.wspei.org](http://www.wspei.org)
- [wspei.org/contact/](http://wspei.org/contact/) (to find a WSPEI Family Engagement Coordinator in your area)
- phone: 833-879-7734
- email: [wspei@cesa12.org](mailto:wspei@cesa12.org)

### Support for Students with IEPs


Go to the [Supports for Students with IEPs](#) webpage, or call 1-800-441-4563

*WSPEI is an Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) discretionary grant funded by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and is a co-sponsor of the Circles of Life Conference.*



# Overview

## Schedule at a Glance

Thursday, May 11	
7:45 am – 9:00 am	Check-In and Breakfast
9:00 am - 10:15 am	Welcome and Keynote Address
9:00 am - 11:45 am	SibShop
9:00 am - 4:30 pm	Gathering of Youth
10:15 am - 10:30 am	Break and Exhibitor Visits
10:30 am - 11:45 am	Session A Workshops
11:45 am - 1:15 pm	Lunch and Awards
1:30 pm - 2:45 pm	Session B Workshops
2:45 pm - 3:15 pm	Break and Exhibitor Visits
3:15 pm - 4:30 pm	Session C Workshops
4:45 pm - 6:30 pm	Dinner and Family Voices Listening Session
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm	Family Fun Night—Treasure and Pirates 

Friday, May 12	
7:45 am - 8:45 am	Breakfast
9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Birth to 3 Program ICC Town Hall
9:00 am - 10:15 am	Session D Workshops
9:00 am - 11:45 am	Gathering of Youth
10:15 am - 10:30 am	Break and Exhibitor Visits
10:30 am - 11:45 am	Session E Workshops
11:45 am - 1:00 pm	Lunch—Slide Show, Door Prizes and Closing



# Conference Agenda • Thursday, May 11

## Welcome • 9:00 am

**Special Guest:** Beth Swedeen, Executive Director,  
Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities

## Keynote Address • 9:15 - 10:15

### Not Your Mama's Autism

**Keynote Speaker:** Lola Dada-Olley

Lola's autism and disability journey is a multigenerational one as a caregiver through the lens of first a sibling and now, a mother. In addition to being the older sister to an intellectually disabled autistic man, she is the mother of two children on the spectrum.

Through personal storytelling, she will explain how self-awareness, generational trauma, prioritizing her own mental health, and learning to redefine what success looks like, are all part of how she lives her life today.

### About Lola Dada-Olley:

Ms. Dada-Olley is a writer, mother, attorney, advocate and lifetime caregiver. She is in-house legal counsel at a global banking institution where she sits at the intersection of law, accessibility and technology. She legally advises business partners on matters associated with the Americans with Disabilities Act and related digital accessibility matters.

To learn about Ms. Dada-Olley visit her website, [NotYourMamasAutism.com](http://NotYourMamasAutism.com)







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# Conference Sessions • Thursday, May 11

8:00 am - 4:30 pm • Check-In/Question Desk Open						
7:45 am - 9:00 am • Breakfast—Sandstone Ballroom						
8:30 am - 4:30 pm • Exhibits Open—Sandstone Corridor						
8:30 am - 6:45 pm • Porcupine Auction Open for Bidding—Sandstone Ballroom 						
9:00 am - 10:15 am • Welcome and Keynote Address—Sandstone Ballroom						
9:00 am - 11:45 am • Sibshop—Glacier CD						
9:00 am - 11:45 pm and 1:30 pm - 4:45 pm • Gathering of Youth Sessions—Glacier AB						
Room	Tundra AB	Tundra CD	Tundra EF	Sandstone 8	Sandstone 9	Sandstone 3
<b>Session A</b> 10:30 am - 11:45 pm	<b>A1</b> Creating Self-Advocates by Leading Your Own IEP <i>Melissa Volz, Linnea Bertram</i>	<b>A2</b> High Expectations— from Birth to Beyond <i>Heidi Lehman, Carlene Chavez</i>	<b>A3</b> Road to Success— Transition Journey <i>Parent Panel</i>	<b>A4</b> Your Voice Matters— Becoming a Family Leader <i>Danielle Tolzmann</i>	<b>A5</b> Supported Decision Making— A Young Adult Perspective <i>Jenny Neugart</i>	<b>A6</b> Family Networks— A Powerful Way to Build Community <i>Shanice Baquet</i>
11:45 am - 1:15 pm • Lunch and Awards—Sandstone Ballroom						
Room	Tundra AB	Tundra CD	Tundra EF	Sandstone 8	Sandstone 9	Sandstone 3
<b>Session B</b> 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm	<b>B7</b> Financial Literacy Session #1 Know about Long-Term Supports and Services <i>Vicky Gunderson</i>	<b>B8</b> How to Hire, Train and Retain Respite Providers <i>Val Madsen</i>	<b>B9</b> Did You Know? Now You Know! <i>Brigit Frank</i>	<b>B10</b> Housing and Residential Options <i>Parent &amp; Self-Advocate Panel</i>	<b>B11</b> Adaptations Needed for Children in Early Care/ Learning Settings <i>Jason Rahn</i>	<b>B12</b> <b>English &amp; Spanish</b> Transition IEP Checklist <i>Ann Zielke, Nathaly Silva</i>
Room	Tundra AB	Tundra CD	Tundra EF	Sandstone 8	Sandstone 9	Sandstone 3
<b>Session C</b> 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm	<b>C13</b> Financial Literacy Session #2 Myths of Public Benefits <i>George Zaske</i>	<b>C14</b> Mental Health— Children and Youth Programs through NAMI <i>Megan McLachlan</i>	<b>C15</b> Maintaining Health Coverage for a Child with Health Benefits Check-ups <i>Kleiser, Havermann</i>	<b>C16</b> Planning for Employment— It's Never too Early to Start <i>Beth Wroblewski</i>	<b>C17</b> How to Make Long-Lasting Friendships <i>Ashley Mathy, Cindy Bentley, Nathaniel Lenz</i>	<b>C18</b> <b>Spanish</b> Construya Su Puento/Build Your Bridge <i>Aracely Portillo, Gutherie-Moss</i>
4:45 pm - 6:30 pm • Dinner and Family Voices Listening Session—Sandstone Ballroom						
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm • Family Fun Night and Drawing for Porcupine Auction Winners—Sandstone Ballroom 						

# Conference Sessions • Friday, May 12

7:45 am - 8:45 am • Breakfast—Sandstone Ballroom						
8:00 am - 1:00 pm • Exhibits Open						
9:00 am - 11:45 am • Gathering of Youth—Glacier AB						
9:00 am - 12:00 pm • Birth to 3 Program ICC Town Hall—Wilderness 4						
Room	Tundra AB	Tundra CD	Tundra EF	Sandstone 8	Sandstone 9	Sandstone 3
<b>Session D</b> 9:00 am - 10:15 am	<b>D19</b> Financial Literacy Session #3 Special Needs Trusts and ABLÉ Accts <i>Heather A Wilson</i>	<b>D20</b> Intro to Birth to 3 Program, Children's Long-Term Support Waivers & More <i>Lori Wittemann, Rachel Lettner</i>	<b>D21</b> Introduction to Mindful Self-Compassion <i>Jamie Lynn Tatera, Barbara Moser</i>	<b>D22</b> Community-Based Funding Options <i>Dua Vang-Ramirez, Panel</i>	<b>D23</b> Plain Language—How It Impacts You and Me <i>Molly Cooney, Shanice Baquet, Sydney Badeau</i>	<b>D24</b> Integrated Transition Supports Youth with Developmental Disabilities <i>Guthrie-Moss, Portillo, Panel</i>
Room	Tundra AB	Tundra CD	Tundra EF	Sandstone 8	Sandstone 9	Sandstone 3
<b>Session E</b> 10:30 am - 11:45 am	<b>E25</b> Fearless Future Planning <i>Stephanie Primm</i>	<b>E26</b> <b>English &amp; Spanish</b> Care Collaboration—Family, School and Provider Relationships <i>Panel</i>	<b>E27</b> Financial Literacy Session #4 <i>In Real Life</i> <i>Delores Salis, Philip Temme, Megan Walch</i>	<b>E28</b> The Unique View of Dads <i>Hector Portillo, Tim Markle</i>	<b>E29</b> Let's Talk about Rights <i>Sally Flaschberger</i>	<b>E30</b> No Wrong Door—Identify, Navigate, and Access Needed Resources <i>Borquist-Conlon, Holland</i>
11:45 am - 12:30 pm • Lunch—Sandstone Ballroom						
12:30 pm - 1:00 pm • Slideshow, Door Prizes and Closing—Sandstone Ballroom						

## LISTENING SESSION

Your Voice Matters!

Family Voices is hosting a listening session to hear from families who care for children with disabilities and special health care needs.

**State agency representatives that serve children will take part to hear directly from you!**

**Thursday, May 11 from 5:00 – 6:30**

Sandstone Ballroom • During Dinner





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# Session A: Thursday, 10:30 - 11:45

## **A1 • Creating Self-Advocates by Leading Your Own IEP**

Melissa Volz, Linnea Bertram

Students' voices matter! Student-led IEPs are an empowering and engaging way to motivate students to understand and communicate their disability, skills, strengths, and how to self-advocate. This presentation will provide students, parents and educators with the tools and knowledge needed to implement student-led IEPs in their own schools.

## **A4 • Your Voice Matters—Becoming a Family Leader**

Danielle Tolzmann

You already advocate for your own child; learn how you can take the next step and become an advocate for your community and impact programs and services for all children. We'll talk about ways families can make a difference, including supporting another parent, serving on advisory groups, and communicating with policymakers.

## **A2 • High Expectations—From Birth to Beyond**

Heidi Lehman, Carlene Chavez

High expectations shouldn't start at age 18. It is important that families, IEP teams and community partners recognize that high expectations should be present at an early age and transition planning CAN start at age 3.

## **A5 • Supported Decision Making—A Young Adult Perspective**

Jenny Neugart, Junior Sotelo, Ashley Mathy, Jennie Rojas

There are many benefits of Supported Decision Making. This session explains what it is, how to make the most of it, and think through your options with the unique perspective of a young adult. Young adults will share why choice-making is important to them and the kind of support they need to make their own decisions without losing their rights.

## **A3 • Road to Success—Parent Panel on the Transition Journey**

Panel, Beth Swedeen (moderator)

A panel of parents and their adult children will explore their experiences on the journey from childhood to adult life. What has been most important? Which resources were most helpful? And, what would they have done differently?

## **A6 • Family Networks—A Powerful Way to Build Community**

Shanice Baquet, Cheryl Funmaker

Learn how families can grow their own network of supports. Hear examples of how families have started community support groups to connect with others socially and for empowerment. Get ideas on how to get the support you need. When you bring people together into community, amazing things happen.

# Session B: Thursday, 1:30 - 2:45

## **B7 • Financial Literacy Session #1: Long-Term Supports—What You Need to Know**

Vicky Gunderson

Interested in understanding the long-term services and supports that are available in Wisconsin? In this session you will learn the roles of Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC), IRIS Consultant Agencies (ICA), Managed Care Organizations (MCO) and Fiscal Employer Agents (FEA).

## **B10 • Housing and Residential Options**

Panel, Sally Flashberger (moderator)

This panel of parents, self-advocates and providers will explore the options for adults with disabilities who choose to move out of their family home. We'll cover how to start the process, special considerations and how to find the right housing situation for your family member.

## **B8 • How to Hire, Train and Retain Respite Providers**

Val Madsen

Caregivers in Wisconsin are often responsible for finding their own respite providers and don't know where to start. In this interactive session, learn about places to look for a respite worker, the interview process, and the available training, along with tips to keep workers longer.

## **B11 • Making Adaptations to Meet the Needs of Children in Early Care and Early Learning Settings**

Jason Rahn

This session will focus on things to consider before making adaptations and how to develop the most appropriate adaptations for children in early care and early education setting. Tips and examples for adapting the environment, toys and materials will be provided.

## **B9 • Did You Know? Now You Know!**

Brigit Frank

Learn about all the resources and services for children with disabilities and special health care needs from birth through young adulthood. Topics include private health insurance, Medicaid, long-term support programs, and how to coordinate services.

## **B12 • The Transition IEP Checklist**

Ann Zielke and Nathaly Silva

Session in Spanish and English

This presentation highlights WI FACETS' new brochure, **The Transition IEP Checklist**. This checklist was developed to expand upon the transition section of our IEP checklist resource and is intended to be a guide for both parents and youth during the transition process and before, during, and after transition IEP meetings.

# Session C: Thursday, 3:15 - 4:30

## C13 • Financial Literacy Session #2— The Myths of Public Benefits

George Zaske

The presenter will dispel the myths that go along with public benefits and how public benefits relate when applying for long-term supports and services.

## C16 • Planning for Employment— It's Never too Early to Start

Beth Wroblewski

We will share everyday activities that parents and caregivers can do to support and promote skills for independence and employment.

## C14 • Mental Health—Children and Youth Programs through NAMI Wisconsin

Megan McLachlan

Please join us as we give an overview of mental health programs available through both NAMI Wisconsin and NAMI National for children, youth and parents.

## C17 • How to Make Long-Lasting Friendships

Ashley Mathy, Cindy Bentley, Nathaniel Lenz

It can be especially difficult for people with disabilities to find and maintain healthy friendships. Self-advocates from **People First** will share their journey on discovering how to find and be a good friend. They will share tips and tools, and help you build a game plan for maintaining friendships. Community resource ideas will be provided.

## C15 • Maintaining Health Coverage for Your Child with "Health Benefits Check-ups"

Mana Kleiser, Melissa Havermann

This interactive session will share and display tips and skills to help families obtain, maintain and properly use health care coverage, especially across transitions and fluctuations.

## C18 • Construya Su Puente— Build Your Bridge

Aracely Portillo, Beth Guthrie-Moss

Session in Spanish

Youth and families are often overwhelmed and under-prepared for the transition to adult health care. This presentation will introduce and discuss when to start thinking about health care transition as well as provide helpful tools and resources. This presentation is for Spanish-speaking families and youth.



# Session D: Friday, 9:00 - 10:15

## D19 • Financial Literacy Session #3— What You Need to Know about Special Needs Trusts and ABLÉ Accounts

Heather A. Wilson

This presentation will explain and explore Special Needs Trusts and ABLÉ accounts, and help families understand how to use these financial tools to preserve eligibility for means-tested (“needs-based”) public benefits and allow them to use these funds that would otherwise put them over asset limits.

## D22 • Community-Based Funding Options

Panel, Dua Vang-Ramirez (moderator)

A panel of representatives from community-based and nonprofit organizations (non-governmental) will share sources of funding for families who have children with disabilities. Staff from **Variety**, a children’s charity, will moderate this session and share resources and funding ideas.

## D20 • Introduction to the Programs Available Through the Bureau of Children’s Services

Lori Wittemann, Rachel Lettner

You’ll learn about available programs, eligibility, and how families can access them through the Bureau of Children’s Services. We’ll cover the following: Birth to 3 Program, Children’s Long-Term Support Waivers, Children’s Community Options Program, Care 4 Kids, Wraparound Milwaukee, Children with Medical Complexities, and Katie Beckett Medicaid.

## D23 • Plain Language—How It Impacts You and Me

Molly Cooney, Shanice Baquet,  
Sydney Badeau

What is plain language? Why is it important? Come to our session to hear both the family and organization perspectives about how plain language impacts people. We’ll also talk about what you can do to advocate for its use and what agencies can do to make their materials easier to understand and act on.

## D21 • Introduction to Mindful Self- Compassion—An Essential Skill for Parents and Caregivers

Jamie Lynn Tatera, Barbara Moser

In this presentation, discover how self-compassion can help support you in your caregiving role. You’ll leave with some practical skills you can immediately begin to use in your daily life. You’ll also learn how your self-compassionate example can help your children develop their own inner compassionate voice.

## D24 • Moving Towards More Integrated Transition Supports

Panel, Beth Guthrie-Moss, Aracely Portillo  
(moderators)

You will learn about the Wisconsin Integrated Transition Planning Project (WITPP) and how to get involved. This session includes WITPP staff and partners that are implementing the **Communities of Solutions** model in medically underserved communities.

# Session E: Friday, 10:30 - 11:45

## E25 • Fearless Future Planning

Stefanie Primm

Start the conversation with your family on what happens when your primary caregiver is no longer able to care for you. Learn about the conversations that should be had and how to work with your family to create or strengthen your circle of support for future independence.

## E28 • The Unique View of Dads

Hector Portillo, Tim Markle

Come share your wisdom as a dad with other dads. We will discuss some of the unique challenges and strengths of being a father of a child with special health care needs or disabilities.

## E26 • Care Collaboration— Family, School and Provider Relationships

Suzanne Juzwik, Olen Bowen Graham,  
Paulette Berthelon

Session in Spanish and English

The saying "it takes a village" still rings true. Often providers work in silos, separate from each other. In this session families will learn how to improve collaboration between school and outside providers.

## E29 • Let's Talk about Rights

Sally Flaschberger

The Living Well grant will present on their **Let's Talk about Rights Guide** for families, self-advocates and agencies. This guide teaches about human rights and how to support the person with a disability on how to make choices.

## E27 • Financial Literacy Session #4— In Real Life: Living in the Community

Delores Sallis, Philip Temme, Megan Walch

You will hear from three individuals who know the benefits of accessing long-term supports. You will learn what a day-in-the-life looks like for someone with a disability, living the life of their choosing. Understand how they are involved in their own decisions, able to work and be eligible for long-term supports and services.

## E30 • No Wrong Door— Supporting Families to Identify, Navigate and Access Resources

Jessica Holland, Debra Borquist-Conlon

Department of Health Services staff will share the new **No Wrong Door ARPA initiative** that supports families to find the next step for their family following initial diagnosis or need for assistance. This includes one branded name and one statewide number for the CYSHCN Regional Centers, website resources and information.





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# Sesión A: Jueves, 10:30 - 11:45

## **A1 • Creando autodefensores con la dirección de su propio IEP**

Melissa Volz, Linnea Bertram

¡Las voces de los estudiantes cuentan! Las sesiones de IEP dirigidas por estudiantes son una vía de empoderamiento y participación que motiva a los estudiantes a comprender y a comunicar sus discapacidades, sus habilidades y fortalezas, así como la forma de autodefenderse. Esta presentación ofrecerá a los estudiantes, padres y educadores, los instrumentos y el conocimiento necesarios para poner en práctica sesiones de IEP dirigidas por los mismos estudiantes en sus propias escuelas.

## **A4 • ¡Su voz cuenta! Cómo convertirse en un líder familiar**

Danielle Tolzmann

Usted ya aboga por su hijo; aprenda cómo dar el siguiente paso y convertirse en un defensor para su comunidad y cómo impactar los programas y servicios para todos los niños. Hablaremos sobre maneras en que las familias pueden lograr un cambio, incluido el apoyo a otro padre o madre de familia, el servicio en grupos de consejería y la comunicación con los políticos.

## **A2 • Elevación de expectativas: Desde el nacimiento en adelante**

Heidi Lehman, Carlene Chavez

Uno de los 5 principios del proceso de preparación para la educación secundaria y la carrera es elevar las expectativas. Las familias y los equipos de IEP saben que las expectativas altas influyen los logros académicos y la vida independiente después de la secundaria, así como la exploración de una visión compartida de altas expectativas para la universidad, la carrera y la preparación para una vida en comunidad. Pero las expectativas altas no deben iniciarse a la edad de 18, es importante que las familias, los equipos de IEP y los socios comunitarios reconozcan que esta elevación de expectativas debe estar presente desde muy temprano en la vida y la planificación de la transición PUEDE iniciarse desde los 3 años.

## **A5 • Toma de decisiones con apoyo: La perspectiva de un joven adulto**

Jenny Neugart, Junior Sotelo, Ashley Mathy, Jennie Rojas

La toma de decisiones con apoyo brinda muchos beneficios. Esta sesión explicará lo que es la toma de decisiones con apoyo y cómo sacarle el mayor provecho. También le ayudará a pensar sobre sus opciones por medio de la singular perspectiva de un joven adulto. Jóvenes adultos compartirán con usted por qué tomar decisiones es importante para ellos y qué clase de apoyo necesitan para lograrlo con éxito sin perder sus derechos.

## **A3 • Camino al éxito: Una discusión presentada por un grupo de padres, sobre la trayectoria de la transición**

Facilitadora: Beth Swdeen

Un grupo de padres y sus hijos adultos explorarán su viaje desde la infancia hasta la vida adulta. ¿Qué ha sido lo más importante? ¿Qué recursos fueron de mayor ayuda y qué hubieran hecho de distinta manera?

## **A6 • Redes familiares: Una poderosa manera de construir comunidad**

Shanice Baquet, Cheryl Funmaker

Únase a nosotros para aprender cómo pueden las familias hacer crecer sus propias redes de apoyo. Escuche ejemplos de cómo algunas familias han iniciado grupos de apoyo comunitario para conectarse socialmente con otros y alcanzar más poder y control. Obtenga ideas de lo que puede hacer para conseguir los apoyos que necesita. Cuando usted reúne gente en comunidad suceden cosas increíbles.

# Sesión B: Jueves, 1:30 - 2:45

<p><b>B7 • Sesión de educación financiera #1: Lo que necesita saber acerca de los servicios y apoyos a largo plazo (conocidos como CLTS, por su sigla en inglés)</b></p> <p>Vicky Gunderson</p> <p>Representantes de varias agencias, que incluyen a Aging and Disability Resource Center, una consultora de la agencia IRIS, Family Care MCO, y la agencia de exenciones de CLTS, ayudarán a los participantes a comprender el papel de los programas y servicios disponibles en Wisconsin para niños y adultos con discapacidades.</p>	<p><b>B10 • Presentación sobre vivienda y opciones residenciales</b></p> <p>Facilitadora: Sally Flashberger</p> <p>Esta discusión de padres y autodefensores, dirigida por personal de Board for People with Developmental Disabilities, explorará las opciones que tienen los adultos con discapacidades cuando deciden salir de sus hogares familiares. Hablaremos sobre cómo iniciar el proceso, sobre consideraciones especiales y sobre cómo encontrar las condiciones adecuadas de vivienda para su miembro de la familia.</p>
<p><b>B8 • Cómo contratar, capacitar y retener proveedores de respiro</b></p> <p>Val Madsen</p> <p>En Wisconsin, los cuidadores son, con frecuencia, responsables de hallar sus propios proveedores de respiro y no siempre saben por dónde comenzar. En esta sesión interactiva, entérese de los lugares donde pueden buscar trabajadores de respiro; aprenda sobre el proceso de la entrevista y las capacitaciones disponibles y obtenga consejos para retener a estos trabajadores por más largo tiempo.</p>	<p><b>B11 • Adaptaciones para satisfacer las necesidades de los niños en ambientes de cuidados tempranos y aprendizaje temprano</b></p> <p>Jason Rahn</p> <p>Esta sesión se enfoca en consideraciones que deben tomarse en cuenta antes de hacer adaptaciones, y en cómo desarrollar los ajustes más adecuados para los niños en ambientes de atención temprana y aprendizaje temprano. Incluye consejos y ejemplos para adaptar el ambiente, los juguetes, los materiales y otras cosas.</p>
<p><b>B9 • ¿Usted sabia...? ¡Ahora lo sabe!</b></p> <p>Brigit Frank</p> <p>Conozca todos los recursos y servicios para niños con discapacidades y necesidades especiales de atención médica desde el nacimiento hasta la edad adulta. Los temas incluyen seguro médico privado, Medicaid, apoyos a largo plazo y cómo coordinar servicios.</p>	<p><b>B12 • Lista de verificación de transición de IEP</b></p> <p>Ann Zielke, Nathaly Silva</p> <p>Sesión bilingüe - inglés y español</p> <p>Durante esta presentación, estaremos destacando el nuevo panfleto de WI FACETS: The Transition IEP Checklist. Un recurso que ha sido desarrollado con el fin de ampliar la sección de transición de nuestra lista de verificación de IEP, cuya meta es servir de guía para padres y jóvenes durante el proceso de transición, así como antes, durante y después de las reuniones de transición de IEP.</p>

# Sesión C: Jueves, 3:15 - 4:30

<p><b>C13 • Sesión de educación financiera #2—Los mitos de los beneficios públicos</b></p> <p>George Zaske</p> <p>Los presentadores de esta sesión ayudarán a disipar los mitos asociados con los beneficios públicos y cómo se relacionan éstos con la solicitud de servicios a largo plazo.</p>	<p><b>C16 • Planificación para conseguir empleo—Nunca es demasiado temprano para empezar</b></p> <p>Beth Wroblewski</p> <p>Compartiremos actividades cotidianas que los padres y los cuidadores pueden realizar para apoyar y promover destrezas que faciliten una vida independiente y un empleo.</p>
<p><b>C14 • Salud mental. Programas para niños y jóvenes por medio de NAMI Wisconsin</b></p> <p>Megan McLachlan</p> <p>Por favor, únase a nosotros para darle un vistazo a los programas de salud mental disponibles para niños, jóvenes y padres, a través de NAMI Wisconsin, y también de NAMI a nivel nacional.</p>	<p><b>C17 • Cómo lograr hacer amistades duraderas</b></p> <p>Ashley Mathy, Cindy Bentley, Nathaniel Lenz</p> <p>Es difícil para todos encontrar amistades saludables y mantener esas relaciones, pero esto puede ser particularmente difícil para personas con discapacidades. Por tal razón, los autodefensores de People First Asley Mathy, Cindy Bentley y Nathaniel Lenz desean compartir su experiencia descubriendo maneras de encontrar amigos y cómo ser buenos amigos. Ellos compartirán consejos y herramientas y le ayudarán a desarrollar un plan de acción para mantener amistades. The Management Group (TMG, por su sigla en inglés), apoyará esta presentación agregando ideas sobre recursos comunitarios.</p>
<p><b>C15 • Manteniendo la cobertura de salud de su hijo con "Health Benefits Check-ups"</b></p> <p>Mana Kleiser, Melissa Havermann</p> <p>Esta sesión interactiva servirá para presentar y compartir con usted consejos y habilidades que ayudarán a las familias a obtener, mantener y utilizar adecuadamente la cobertura de cuidados de salud, especialmente durante períodos de transición y fluctuación.</p>	<p><b>C18 • Construya su propio puente</b></p> <p>Aracely Portillo, Beth Guthrie-Moss</p> <p>Los jóvenes y sus familias, con frecuencia se sienten abrumados y faltos de preparación para transicionar hacia los cuidados de salud de adultos. Esta será una sesión de introducción con una discusión acerca de cuándo empezar a considerar tal transición; además, se proveerán instrumentos y recursos de gran utilidad. Esta presentación es para familias y jóvenes de habla hispana.</p>



# Sesión D: Viernes, 9:00 - 10:15

<p><b>D19 • Sesión de educación financiera #3—Lo que usted necesita saber sobre un fideicomiso de necesidades especiales y una cuenta de ABLE</b></p> <p>Heather A. Wilson</p> <p>Esta presentación explicará y explorará cuentas de fideicomiso de necesidades especiales y de ABLE y ayudará a las familias a comprender estas opciones y las diferencias entre ambas cuentas.</p>	<p><b>D22 • Opciones de financiamiento en la comunidad</b></p> <p>Dua Vang-Ramirez</p> <p>Un grupo de representantes de organizaciones comunitarias y sin fines de lucro (no gubernamentales), compartirán recursos de financiamiento con las familias que tienen niños discapacitados. Personal de Variety, A Children's Charity, moderará esta sesión y compartirá recursos e ideas de financiamiento.</p>
<p><b>D20 • Introducción al programa de nacimiento hasta los tres años (Birth to Three), al programa de servicios y apoyos a largo plazo (CLTS), y a otros programas del Bureau of Children's Services (la oficina de servicios para niños)</b></p> <p>Lori Wittemann , Rachel Lettner</p> <p>Las familias aprenderán un poco sobre cada programa, quién es elegible para cada uno y cómo pueden tener acceso a cada programa del Bureau of Children's Services. Los programas que se presentarán incluyen: Birth to 3, Children's Long-Term Support Waivers, Children's Community Options Program (programa de opciones comunitarias para niños), Care 4 Kids, Wraparound Milwaukee, Children with Medical Complexities y Katie Beckett Medicaid.</p>	<p><b>D23 • Lenguaje sencillo: ¿Cómo nos impacta a usted y a mí?</b></p> <p>Molly Cooney, Shanice Baquet, Sydney Badeau</p> <p>¿Qué es lenguaje sencillo? ¿Por qué es importante? Participe en esta sesión y escuche ambas perspectivas, la de la familia y la de las organizaciones, sobre cómo el lenguaje sencillo impacta a las personas de ambas partes. También hablaremos de lo que usted puede hacer para abogar por el uso de un lenguaje sencillo y lo que las agencias pueden hacer para hacer que los mensajes de sus materiales sean de fácil comprensión para poder actuar.</p>
<p><b>D21 • Introducción a una conciencia plena de autocompasión—Una habilidad esencial para los padres y los cuidadores de niños con discapacidades</b></p> <p>Jamie Lynn Tatera, Barbara Moser</p> <p>Para los padres y los cuidadores de niños que enfrentan la vida con discapacidades, la autocompasión es una habilidad esencial que les permite realizar sus responsabilidades cotidianas, y que su vez, redundan en un grado permanente de compasión hacia sus niños. Adicionalmente, tal ejemplo de autocompasión puede ayudar a esos niños a desarrollar su propia voz compasiva interna. En esta presentación, descubra cómo la autocompasión puede apoyarlo en su papel de cuidador y aprenda algunas habilidades prácticas que puede poner en práctica de inmediato en su vida diaria.</p>	<p><b>D24 • Hacia una transición más integrada de apoyos para niños y jóvenes con discapacidades de desarrollo</b></p> <p>Beth Guthrie-Moss, Aracely Portillo y un grupo de miembros de familias</p> <p>Los participantes aprenderán sobre Wisconsin Integrated Transition Planning Project (WITPP) y cómo involucrarse. WITPP reúne autodefensores, miembros de familias y personas que trabajan en educación, en empleo y en servicios de salud, con el fin de ayudar a identificar cuál información y qué tipo de recursos se necesitan para crear un plan de transición integrado que oriente a los adultos hacia una vida plena y significativa. Esta sesión incluirá a un miembro del personal de WITPP y a socios locales que están implementando el modelo Communities of Solutions en comunidades médicamente marginadas, tanto en áreas rurales como urbanas.</p>

# Sesión E: Viernes, 10:30 - 11:45

<p><b>E25 • Planificación de un futuro sin miedo</b> Stefanie Primm</p> <p>Inicie la conversación con su familia respecto al tema de qué sucederá cuando los proveedores primarios de servicios ya no sean capaces de cuidarlo. Aprenda sobre las conversaciones que deben tener lugar y sobre cómo trabajar con su familia para crear y fortalecer un círculo de apoyo que le permita una independencia futura.</p>	<p><b>E28 • El punto de vista único de los papás</b> Hector Portillo, Tim Markle</p> <p>Venga y comparta la sabiduría adquirida como papá con otros papás. Conversaremos sobre algunos retos y triunfos particulares de ser el padre de un niño con necesidades especiales de salud y/o discapacidades.</p>
<p><b>E26 • Colaboración para los cuidados— La familia, la escuela y las relaciones entre proveedores</b> Suzanne Juzwik, Olen Bowen Graham, Paulette Berthelon Sesión virtual bilingüe - inglés y español</p> <p>Durante esta sesión, las familias aprenderán cómo mejorar la colaboración entre la escuela y los proveedores externos. El dicho "it takes a village" (se requiere de toda una aldea), todavía tiene resonancia. Con frecuencia, los proveedores trabajan en silos, separados unos de otros. Como padre y defensor de su niño, usted tiene el poder de pedir que los proveedores y la escuela colaboren entre sí. Usted puede ayudar a dirigir esa colaboración para obtener mejores resultados.</p>	<p><b>E29 • Hablemos sobre derechos</b> Sally Flaschberger</p> <p>Living Well presentará su guía para familias, autodefensores y agencias, bajo el título: "Let's Talk about Rights" (hablemos sobre derechos). Esta guía instruye sobre derechos humanos y sobre cómo apoyar a una persona con discapacidades en su toma de decisiones.</p>
<p><b>E27 • Sesión de educación financiera #4—"En la vida real" Historias sobre la vida en comunidad</b> Delores Sallis, Philip Temme, Megan Walch</p> <p>El grupo que dirigirá esta sesión compartirá historias relacionadas con los servicios y apoyos a largo plazo, la vivienda, el empleo, la educación superior, la toma de decisiones con apoyo y mucho más.</p>	<p><b>E30 • "No Wrong Door" (no hay puerta equivocada) – Apoyo a las familias de Wisconsin que tienen niños con necesidades especiales de salud, para que puedan identificar, navegar y tener acceso a los recursos que necesitan</b> Jessica Holland, Debra Borquist-Conlon</p> <p>Personal del Departamento de Servicios de Salud (DHS, por su sigla en inglés), compartirá la nueva iniciativa de ARPA "No Wrong Door", la cual ayudará a las familias de niños con necesidades especiales a encontrar el paso siguiente apropiado para su familia luego de recibir un diagnóstico inicial, o de presentarse su primera necesidad de ayuda. Esto incluirá un nombre y un número en particular, a nivel estatal, para CYSHCN Regional Centers, un sitio de la red con recursos del DHS e información para familias, proveedores y profesionales.</p>



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## What is People First Wisconsin?

It is an advocacy organization run by people with disabilities for people with disabilities. We help people learn to speak up for themselves and work on advocacy issues important to our members.

### Get involved virtually or in person



Find us at:

<http://www.peoplefirstwisconsin.org>  
Reach us at 414-483-2546

People First Wisconsin

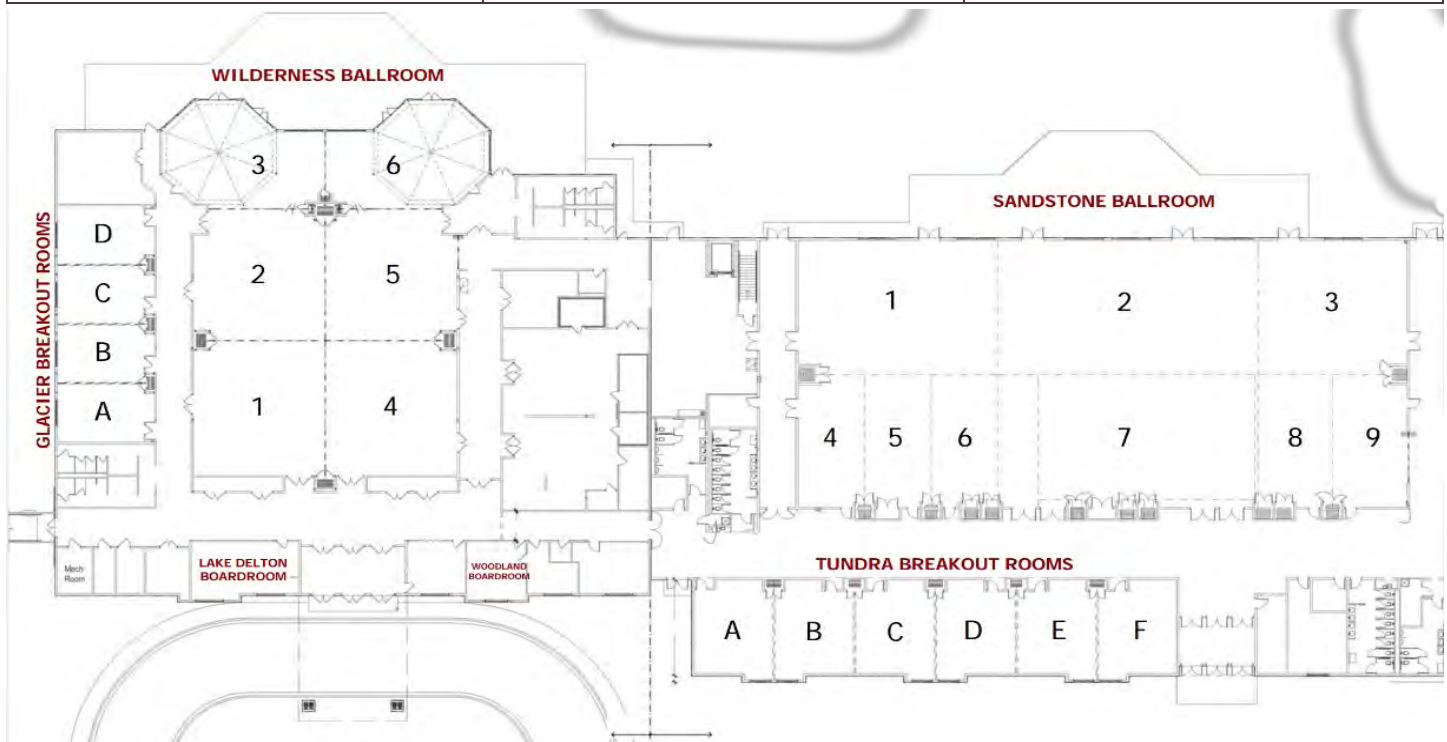


See Our **disAbility**



# 2023 Exhibitors

Access: allaboutaccess.com	Dulce Respite Services: Dulce Respite Facebook page	My Choice Wisconsin: mychoicewi.org
Acumen Fiscal Agent: acumenfiscalagent.com	Elsie Shaw Scholarship Fund: elsieshaw.org	People First Wisconsin: peoplefirstwisconsin.org
An Exceptional Chorus: facebook.com/AnExceptionalChorusWI	Employment Resources, Inc (ERI): eri-wi.org	Premiere Financial Management Services: premier-fms.com
Aspire Therapy and Development Services: aspirewisconsin.com	Family Voices of Wisconsin: familyvoiceswi.org	Rehab Resources: rehabresourcesinc.com
Board for People with Developmental Disabilities: wi-bpdd.org	Fiscal Assistance, Inc: fiscalassistance.org	Respite Care Association of Wisconsin: respitecarewi.org
Clarity Care: claritycare.org	Game-U: Accelerate Program: game-u.com/pages/accelerate-program	TMG: tmgwisconsin.com
Connections: lsswis.org/service/connections	GT Independence: gtindependence.com	St. Coletta of WI: stcolettawi.org
Consumer Direct Care Network: consumerdirectwi.com	iCare: icarehealthplan.org	Secure ID, LLC: secureidcard.biz
CYSHCN—Regional Centers: dhs.wisconsin.gov/cyshcn/regionalcenters.htm	iLife: ilife.org	Swedee’s Handmade Jewelry: facebook.com/swedees
Department of Public Instruction— WSPEI: dpi.wi.gov	J&B Medical: jandbmedical.com	WI FACETS: wifacets.org
Disability Rights WI: disabilityrightswi.org	Lakeland Care: lakelandcareinc.com	Wispect: wispect.org
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation: dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr	Life Navigators: lifenavigators.org	WisconSibs: wisconsibs.org
Down Syndrome Association of WI: dsaw.org	Michelle’s Action Angels Community Outreach Inc: michellesactionangels.org	WI State-wide Institute on Best Practices in Inclusive Education: beloinandbrandl.com
Dose Health: dosehealth.com	Midstate Independent Living Center: milc-inc.org	





*The Elsie Shaw Parent Scholarship Fund would like to say "Thank you" to those who have donated their time and resources to make the fund possible.*



***The Elsie Shaw Parent Scholarship Fund would also like to thank...***

Barbara Gadbois  
Todd Shaw  
Tim & Tracy Markle  
Kelly Beckland  
Hodge  
Sarah Kate Johnson  
Wynne Cook  
Genelle Baun  
Dick & Jean Shaw  
Barry & Ruby Shaw

Delores Sallis  
Nancy Wally & Nick Olson  
Robin Mathea  
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Joy Reichenbach  
Judy Shaw  
Mark Shaw & David Bahl  
Bob Shaw  
Joleen Nielson  
Philippe & Arlette Sormani  
Beth Wroblewski  
Scott Shaw

***And to the many, many people that we may have missed:***  
*Thank you for helping to make the conference affordable and a reality for parents of children with disabilities in Wisconsin.*

***For more information about The Elsie Shaw Parent Scholarship Fund:***  
***[www.elsieshaw.org](http://www.elsieshaw.org)***

# Elsie Shaw Foundation Annual Awards

Each year the Elsie Shaw Foundation honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to supporting families and strengthening services for the families of individuals with disabilities. Awards will be presented at the conference, **Thursday, May 11 at 12:45.**

## The Kasidhe Olson Outstanding Parent Award

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The Kasidhe Olson Award recognizes a parent who has made outstanding efforts to improve the lives of families of children with disabilities in their community.



### **Heidi Lehman • Rhinelander, Wisconsin**

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Heidi is a tireless advocate for her four children who are on the autism spectrum, a WSPEI Family Engagement Coordinator, an active member of several boards and committees, and a friend to many across the state. Her colleague states, "Heidi's compassion and resilience are evident. She shows every day how much she cares for others and acknowledges their struggles. Her relentless effort to build connections with and infuse confidence in families has been appreciated by many."

## The Shaw Brothers Outstanding Professional Award

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The Shaw Brothers Award honors a professional who goes above and beyond the call of duty to assist families of children with disabilities.



### **Alejandra Espejo • Madison, Wisconsin**

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Alejandra serves as a Bilingual Family Resource Specialist at LOV, Inc. In this position, she serves Spanish-speaking families in Dane County by providing culturally responsive, one-on-one support to address pressing needs and connecting families to services and supports. Her colleagues state that they want Alejandra to be recognized for her deep commitment to the disability community and her work to address disparities in access to services for Spanish-speaking families. "Through her work, Alejandra has helped families gain a sense of control and power as they navigate the complexities, joys, and challenges of supporting their loved one."



# Elsie Shaw Foundation Annual Awards

## The Barb Breen Educator Advocate of the Year Award

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The Barb Breen Educator Award recognizes someone from the education field who has worked to support inclusion and leadership development in schools.



### **Adam Paul King • Racine, Wisconsin**

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Adam is the Assistant Principal at Dr. Jones Elementary in Racine. The parent who nominated Adam states, "Mr. King is truly an inspiration to me and others. The tolerance and mentoring talent he shows to others is the main thing that kept my son at the job and helped him succeed. It takes compassion and kindness and care for society. I see all this in Mr. King."

## The Sharon Fiedler Scholarship

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The Sharon Fiedler Scholarship is given to an outstanding student in the UW Oshkosh, Department of Special Education in memory of Craig Fiedler who was the department head.



### **Angelica Kluz (Jelly) • Appleton, Wisconsin**

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Angelica shared, "I have a strong passion for working and growing with students who have disabilities. Ever since I was 10 years old, I knew that I wanted to be working in the field of education. My caring heart and dedication to teaching keep my mind open and my life full. I will finish this semester with a Bachelor's degree in Special Education from the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh. I hope to use my passion and open-mindedness to allow students to understand themselves and believe that they are destined for greatness."

# Elsie Shaw Foundation Annual Awards

## A Special Tribute



### Meg Steimle • Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

We want to thank Meg Steimle for her many years of service to Wisconsin families who have children and youth with disabilities. Meg worked for 19 years at the Southeast Regional Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs, including as Project Manager for Youth Health Care Transition. Her coworker states, "During her career, Meg served thousands of families, connecting them to resources, empowering them through training, and advocating for them in every space of her life. Meg additionally volunteered her time in the community and for various boards across Wisconsin, and in Milwaukee. Meg's integrity was carried through her work and all interactions." Additionally, Meg has volunteered countless hours as an active member of the Circles of Life Conference Planning Committee for many years.

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# Youth Programs

## Gathering of Youth • Glacier AB

Thursday, 9:00 - 11:45 and 1:30 - 4:30 • Friday, 9:00 - 11:45

Gathering of Youth is a fun conference track for teens and young adults, ages 13 to 22, who have disabilities. Teens connect with peers to learn about self-determination, advocacy and employment.

Parents/Guardians, please pick up your teen at mealtimes and check in with them during conference breaks. Make sure the program has your cell phone number if they need to contact you.

**Program Contact:** Katrina Johnson, Gathering of Youth Facilitator, **608.553.0279**

## SibShop • Glacier CD

Thursday, 9:00 - 11:45

Sibshops are celebrations of the contributions made by sisters and brothers of kids with special health or developmental needs. This session is open to 8 to 13-year-olds. Kids have fun, connect and share their experiences of having a sibling with disabilities.

Siblings are welcome to attend and support their brothers and sisters at the Gathering of Youth Program on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning.

**Program Contact:** Tessa Lewis, Sibshop Facilitator, **920.939.4250**

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For children and teens:

- Registered provider of **Sibshops** for ages 6-12
- ★ **Sibshop Facilitator Training** June 9-10 Lambeau Field
- Teen Sib Leadership Program**
- SibDays of Summer** for ages 6-12
- Sib Camps** for ages 9-16

For adult siblings:

- Journey Forward** future planning for adult siblings & their families
- Adult Sibling peer support**
- WisconSibsREAD** virtual book club
- Social and state-wide networking opportunities**
- Chapter of National Sibling Leadership Network**

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IC2854\_C\_DHS approved 4/10/23

## Family Fun Night

Thursday, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm • Sandstone Ballroom



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We are a proud sponsor of the Circles of Life conference.

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For Long-Term Care options contact your local [Aging and Disability Resource Center](#).

[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/adrc/](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/adrc/)

DHS Approved 8/16/2021

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Sandstone Ballroom

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## Wisconsin Resource Organizations

**Regional Centers for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs** Wisconsin has five regional centers dedicated to supporting families with children and youth with special health care needs and the providers who serve them. Free and confidential services include information, referral and problem solving, parent support, help understanding insurance coverage and applications, transition planning and connections to community resources.

[dhs.wisconsin.gov/cyshcn/regionalcenters.htm](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/cyshcn/regionalcenters.htm)

Northern Regional Center: 866.640.4106

Northeast Regional Center: 877.568.5205

Southern Regional Center: 800.532.3321

Southeast Regional Center: 800.234.5437

Western Regional Center: 800.400.3678

**Advocacy & Benefits Counseling for Health, Inc. (ABC for Health)** is a Wisconsin-based, nonprofit public interest law firm dedicated to linking children and families, particularly those with special needs, to health care benefits and services. Experienced staff can help families who have received a Medicaid or private insurance denial, lost coverage or need help finding health coverage.

[safetyweb.org](https://safetyweb.org), 608.261.6939

**Alianza Latina Aplicando Soluciones (ALAS)** promotes the independence of people with disabilities by providing information and support to them, their families and their service providers in areas relate to education and health. In English or Spanish, parents and families are supported with information and connections to community resources.

[alianzalatiniwi.org/ALAS.htm](https://alianzalatiniwi.org/ALAS.htm), 414.643.0022

**Arc Wisconsin** develops programs and advocates for public policy to give people with disabilities the opportunity to learn, live and work inclusively in the community. The Arc provides social, recreational and educational programs to people with developmental disabilities and their families.

[arcwi.org](https://arcwi.org), 608.422.4250

**Birth to Three Program** is part of the Bureau of Children's Services at the Department of Health Services as a federally mandated program providing early intervention services to support families of children with delays or disabilities under the age of three.

[dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3/index.htm](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3/index.htm), 800.642.7837


**Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW)** a private, nonprofit organization designated by the governor to ensure the rights of state citizens with disabilities through advocacy and systems change. DRW helps residents access services and opportunities through its advocacy and legal expertise.

[disabilityrightswi.org](https://disabilityrightswi.org), Madison 608.267.0214, Milwaukee 414.773.4646, Rice Lake 715.736.1232

**Family Voices of Wisconsin** helps families navigate health care and community supports and services through learning sessions, resources and information. As a family-run organization, we support families in their own leadership and advocacy journey, and promote family-centered care and family/professional partnerships. Website resources include fact sheets, newsletters and videos.

[familyvoiceswi.org](https://familyvoiceswi.org)





**Independent Living Centers (ILCs)** are regional, non-profit organizations that provide information and referral, peer support, independent living skills training, transition services and advocacy. Wisconsin has eight ILCs, some have additional services like community education, training, personal care and service coordination. ILCs are also device loan centers as part of the WisTech Assistive Technology Program.

[dhs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/physical/ilcs-contact.htm](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/physical/ilcs-contact.htm)

**Mental Health America of Wisconsin** A community-based network dedicated to helping all Americans live mentally healthier lives through advocacy, education and the delivery of urgently needed programs and services.

[mhawisconsin.org](https://mhawisconsin.org), 866.948.6483

**NAMI Wisconsin** works to improve the quality of life of people affected by mental illness and promotes recovery by providing education, advocacy, and support.

[namiwisconsin.org](https://namiwisconsin.org), 800.236.2988

**Parent 2 Parent of Wisconsin** provides support to parents of children with special needs through a one-to-one connection with another parent who has similar experience and who knows firsthand about the feelings and realities that come with having a child with special needs.

[p2pwi.org](https://p2pwi.org), 833.361.6300

**Supporting Families Together Association (SFTA)** is Wisconsin's statewide member association for organizations and individuals committed to making every early childhood a great one. SFTA has ten Child Care Resources and Referral Agencies that assist in finding the child care that meets the needs of each family.

[supportingfamiliesaltogether.org](https://supportingfamiliesaltogether.org), 888.713.KIDS

**Waisman Center, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities** supports the full inclusion and self-determination of people with developmental disabilities and their families. The Waisman Center promotes and strengthens the participation of families with disabilities in partnerships with professionals and providers, community members and elected officials.

[ucedd.waisman.wisc.edu](https://ucedd.waisman.wisc.edu), 800.532.3321

**Well Badger Resource Center** is a statewide information and referral hotline and online database to assist Wisconsin families and providers working with children and youth with special needs.

[wellbadger.org](https://wellbadger.org), 800.642.7837

**WI FACETS (Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training & Support)** Provides and broadens opportunities to enhance the quality of life for children and adults with disabilities and their families with an emphasis on educational support for underserved families.

[wifacets.org](https://wifacets.org), 877.374.0511

**Wisconsin Board for People with Development Disabilities** advocates on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities to foster welcoming and inclusive communities and improve the disability service system. The Board's mission is to help people with developmental disabilities become independent, productive and included in all facets of community life.

[wi-bpdd.org](https://wi-bpdd.org), 608.266.7826



**Wisconsin Educational Services Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WESP-DHH)**

is a program under the Department of Public Instruction and supports students who are deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind. This includes the resources, outreach programs, and the Wisconsin School for the Deaf.

[dpi.wi.gov/wesp-dhh](http://dpi.wi.gov/wesp-dhh)

**Wisconsin Family Ties** is a statewide not-for-profit run by families for families that include children with emotional, behavioral and mental disorders. Parent-peer specialists provide support, education, advocacy and information, as well as referrals for families. Parent representatives are also involved to build awareness of family needs on the local, state and national level.

[wifamilyties.org](http://wifamilyties.org), 800.422.7145

**Wisconsin Foster and Adoptive Parent Association** is a peer- and volunteer-based organization that supports and advocates for foster and adoptive parents through training, support programs and creating and supporting different legislative measures with our fellow representatives in Madison.

[wfapa.org](http://wfapa.org)

**Wisconsin Head Start** is a federal program for preschool children from low-income families. Nonprofit organizations, schools, community action commissions, or other local grantees operate the program. Head Start supports Parent Affiliates to help guide the work of Wisconsin Head Start.

[whsaonline.org](http://whsaonline.org), 608.442.6879

**Wisconsin Medical Home Initiative** promotes the concepts of medical home for primary care clinicians, families and service providers throughout Wisconsin. Training, technical assistance and resources are provided to support medical home implementation with a focus in the areas of early identification of and timely referrals for children with developmental concerns and behavioral health integration into pediatric primary care.

[chawisconsin.org/initiatives/medical-home](http://chawisconsin.org/initiatives/medical-home)

**Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative's (WSPEI)** experienced CESA-based family liaisons work with families, educators and school districts to promote positive partnerships and provide technical assistance and information to parents in their CESA area.

[wspei.org](http://wspei.org), 833.879.7734

**Wisconsin Sound Beginnings Program** is part of the Maternal and Child Health Program at the Department of Health Services and promotes and supports universal newborn hearing screening and follow-up services statewide. Sound Beginnings also helps connect families to Support Parents through "Parents Reaching Out."

[dhs.wisconsin.gov/newbornscreening/hearing.htm](http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/newbornscreening/hearing.htm)

**This listing was provided by Family Voices of Wisconsin**







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DHB Approval 10/5/20

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Vicky Gunderson

✉ [vgunderson@gttd.org](mailto:vgunderson@gttd.org)

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Contact your Aging & Disability Resource Center for your long-term care options.





# Wispack



***Special Needs Trusts help preserve the assets of people with disabilities without endangering their eligibility for public benefits.***

Because of the limitations on assets to qualify for means-tested public benefits (primarily Medicaid, SSI), a person with a disability with assets of more than \$2,000 only has two choices: immediately spend all the money, or put the money in a Special Needs Trust. With large sums (e.g., from an injury settlement, inheritance), it is often impractical to quickly spend all the money.

However, by putting their assets into a Special Needs Trust, a person with a disability can receive public benefits and conserve his or her assets. These assets can be later used to pay for certain expenses which will improve the quality of their life.

***For more information about Wispack trusts and how they can help, call 608-268-6006 or visit the Wispack website at [wispack.org](http://wispack.org)***

Madison, WI  
608-268-6006  
[wispack.org](http://wispack.org)



# Wispack

**LIVING BEYOND LIMITATIONS**