



Circles of Life

Wisconsin's Annual Family & Provider Conference

www.wfv.org/circle

April 26 - 27, 2007

Marriott Madison West
1313 John Q. Hammons Dr.
Middleton, Wisconsin 53562
RESERVATIONS: 1-800-228-9290

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CIRCLES OF LIFE
C/O The Arc-Wisconsin
600 Williamson Street, Suite J
Madison, WI 53703

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
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Madison, WI
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IMPORTANT DATES & REMINDERS

TO REGISTER, remove the Registration Form from the center of this brochure and complete it. Make your check payable to **Stedman Accounting**. Return your registration and payment to: Circles of Life, c/o The Arc-Wisconsin, 600 Williamson Street, Suite J, Madison, WI 53703. If registering more than 4 people, make a copy of the form and send all forms together with payment. You can also download a registration form (PDF format) from the Web at www.wfv.org/circle

For general conference questions, call (608) 266-8276.

Registration Deadline: Post Marked by March 21, 2007, or when the conference is full. No walk-in registrations.

Refunds: If needed, refunds can be made until March 21, 2007. You may transfer your registration to a different person at any time.

Hotel Reservations: Call Marriott Madison West directly for reservations at 1-800-228-9290 to obtain conference rates until March 21, 2007.

Scholarships: Obtain scholarship applications by **March 9, 2007** by calling 608-266-7707, or send an email to john565671@yahoo.com. Return completed scholarship applications as instructed no later than **March 15, 2007**.

Childcare: CHILDREN MUST BE SUPERVISED AT ALL TIMES. The conference does not provide childcare. Families may bring a friend, relative or provider to assist them with childcare in the hotel room. Your child and childcare provider may join you for meals at no additional cost (But must be noted on the registration form). Note: there is no lifeguard on duty. **Please register your child and provider for meals on the registration form.**

Respite: On-site respite care is available for a limited number of children with disabilities through South Central Respite. We will not have room for non-disabled siblings. Unregistered walk-ins will not be accepted. Please do not bring children who are ill with a fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or upper respiratory illnesses. Please give all medications to your child before the conference, during lunch and after workshops that day. SCR will not be responsible for medications. To obtain registration for respite, contact Toni Arnison, Program Director at SCR at 608-429-3439. The deadline for respite registration is Monday March 21, 2007

Porcupine Auction: This great fundraiser depends on great donations. Please donate an item for the auction, or bring it with you to the conference on Thursday. If you have questions about the auction you may call Linda Rowley at 608-263-5973 or e-mail her at Circles@FvofWI.org.

A Gathering of Youth: Registration due March 21, 2007. See page 10.

Sibshops: "Something special for 25 brothers and sisters ages 5-14 who are siblings to people with special needs" See insert.

The Elsie Shaw Foundation AWARD CATEGORIES

The Elliott Shaw Award

In the spring of 2000 Elliott Shaw (Barry's brother and son of Elsie) passed away from cancer. Part of his final wishes was to have money donated to the Elsie Shaw scholarship fund. This specific pot of money is to go to families where there is an occurrence of cancer, and the family wishes to attend the conference. Money for this scholarship is donated by the Shaw family on an annual basis (brothers Richard and Barry and Elliott's wife Teresa). In his memory the Elliott Shaw Distinguished Professional Award was established.

The Elliott Shaw Award is given in recognition and honor of a group or professional who has gone the extra mile to provide quality services and programs for people with developmental and related disabilities and their families. Award selection will be based on the individual's performance above and beyond the requirements of their employment.

The Kasidhe Olson Award

In the spring of 2001 a new fund was established called the Kasidhe fund. It was started in memory of Kasidhe Olson, daughter of Nancy and Wally Olson and sister of Nick Olson and Ryan Backes. Since Kasidhe was a special needs adoption child, this fund is used for parents who have an adopted child and wish to attend the conference. In her memory the Kasihe Olson Distinguished Parent Award was established.

The Kasidhe Olson Award is given in recognition and honor of a parent who has made outstanding efforts and given of them to enrich the lives of all families of children with disabilities across Wisconsin.

The Barb Breen Award

In the fall of 2003 Barb Breen, a long time parent advocate passed away suddenly at home. Barb was involved in many different activities in the disability community. She was committed to support parents of children with disabilities through her work as a Parents in Partnership facilitator. She also coordinated the statewide WISPEI project. Barb also was a coach for Special Olympics in Eau Claire Wisconsin for many years. Along with this barb was active in developing a local parent support group. It is through this award that we remember Barb.

The Barb Breen Memorial Award is given to the parent educator of the year. This person is one who has shown dedication to helping parents who have children with disabilities and has gone above and beyond their job description. In the spirit of Barb this person would have dedicated themselves not only parents but also may have done work with youth who have disabilities.

The Elsie Shaw Foundation

Annual Awards Nomination Procedure

Each year The Elsie Shaw Foundation, Inc. recognizes and honors individuals and/or groups who have made outstanding contributions to supporting families and strengthening services statewide.

Award nominations will be reviewed and approved by the Elsie Scholarship Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.



The following criterion needs to be met for a nomination to be considered:

1. Nomination should be submitted using The Circles of Life Nomination Form.
2. Completed nominations need to be received by April 14, 2007 Please use a separate form for each nominee.

Only one award will be granted in each category. Deadline for submission is April 14, 2007. Final selection will be made by the Board of Directors. Awards will be presented at the annual Circles of Life Conference.

The Elsie Shaw Foundation Award Nomination Form

AWARD CATEGORY (one only) _____

NOMINEE'S NAME (individual or group) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ (H) _____ (W)

NOMINATING AGENCY/PERSON _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ (H) _____ (W)

Briefly summarize the qualifications of the nominated individual or organization which qualify the nominee for the award category above. Attach additional pages as necessary.

Overview of Program Schedule

THURSDAY, April 26, 2007		FRIDAY April 27, 2007	
8:00 - 9:00 am	Registration and Breakfast	7:30 - 8:30 am	Breakfast Buffet
9:00 - 10:15 am	Welcome & Keynote	8:30 - 10:00 am	Session D
10:15 - 10:30 am	Break - Exhibits and Auction bidding open	10:00 - 10:30 am	Break for Checkout
10:30 - Noon	Session A	10:30 - Noon	Session E
Noon - 1:15 pm	Lunch - Awards, Exhibits and Auction bidding open	Noon - 12:15 pm	Break
1:15 - 2:45 pm	Session B	12:15 - 1:45 pm	Luncheon, Closing Slide Show
2:45 - 3:15 pm	Break - Exhibits and Auction bidding open		
3:15 - 4:45 pm	Session C		
5:00 - 6:30pm	Dinner on your own, or Evening Listening Session		
6:30 - on	Fun Night! for everyone		
6:30- 9:30	GOY Dance		
7:30 - 8:30pm	Porcupine Auction Results		

THURSDAY, 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

A Winning Collaboration: Assuring Quality through Family-Centered Care

Come listen as a physician, parent, and youth with complex medical needs share the story. Against all odds, Mitch Hamilton is living a full, satisfying life as a contributing member of his community. He is an active and equal partner in his own health care. Mitch, his mom, Linda, and Dr. Deb will describe their efforts to enable Mitch to direct his health care and how physicians and families can work together to ensure quality.

Speakers: Dr. Deb McLeish, Linda Rowley, & Mitchell Hamilton

PORCUPINE AUCTION: Results of the auction will be held after the Ice Cream Social on Thursday evening! All proceeds go toward the Elsie Shaw Scholarship Foundation.

FUN NIGHT - THURSDAY EVENING: Join in for an ice cream social, loads of music, dancing, and fun and games for kids of all ages!

EXHIBITOR BOOTHS: Be sure to stop by while you are attending the conference!

CELEBRATING CHILDREN & FAMILIES SLIDE SHOW, FRIDAY

Join us for a trademark closing ceremony with slides of our children and families.

Want a photo or two of your family in the next Family Slide Show?

Do one of the following:

- E-mail jpg images to circlesoflifepictures@yahoo.com by March 21, 2007.

- US Mail a CD with images by March 30, 2007

- US Mail a maximum of 3 photographs with an SASE by March 21, 2007 They will be scanned and returned to you in the SASE.

- Send CD or pictures to: Lisa Pugh, 5605 Rustic Woods Drive, Madison, WI 53716

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Session A

Thursday, April 26, 2007

10:30 am - Noon

Supporting Communication Development Using Sensory Strategies

This session will explore the basics of sensory processing, relationship based speech development and ways to integrate the two in daily life to promote regulation and communication.

Gretchen Crabb, Occupational Therapist & Amber Dalsing, SLP

IEP: The Process & Product

The IEP is an important document for children with disabilities. Parents and school staff work together collaboratively to write the IEP. The Federal Law, IDEA 2004, has made changes in regard to the IEP. This workshop will let participants know what those changes are so they can work together to come up with a plan to best meet the needs of each child.

Mary Sobczak, North Central Coordinator & Jill Gonzalez, WI FACETS

Creating a Vision and Plan for Your Child's Future

Participants will learn how to plan for their child's future. Topics covered include: self-advocacy, four-year high school course plan, and a plan of strategies and activities to meet the student's vision for their future.

Cheri Sylla, CESA I & Lori Turim, CESA I

Tale of Two Cities – How Parents in Two Very Different Districts Created Active Parent Groups

This session focuses on the experiences of two great parent groups in different settings – one large urban district and one small rural district – creating and sustaining active parent groups.

Helen Hartman, Lisa Pugh, Barbara Katz, Deb Ramacher, and Debbie Brennan, Parent Leaders

Thoughts on Diversity from Women of Color with a Disability

Ideas for celebrating cultural diversity as it relates to self-determination from an African-American woman with intellectual disabilities.

Cindy Bentley, People First WI, Lynn Carus & Debra Gillespie

Medical Home Raising Forum

A panel of parents, providers, and advocates will discuss Medical Home services and give insights on developing family and service provider partnerships to promote the concept.

Bobby Peterson, ABC for Health

Bullying Primer: What Can Schools & Families Do To Address Bullying?

Why do kids become bullies and why do they succeed? What contributes to children becoming their targets? How can schools work as partners with students, staff and the community to address this critical problem? This session will provide an overview of the research and strategies to address this behavior.

Kathy Eidsmoe, CESA I

Session B

Thursday, April 26, 2007

1:15 pm-2:45 pm

Understanding Research: Ten Tips for Parents

This session will be framed around a set of Ten Tips that provide specific questions to evaluate research on the effectiveness of intervention options and give parents the skills and knowledge to make informed decisions for their child.

Loraine Lucinski, Public Health Educator

Sibshops

REGISTRATION FORM

Parents,

This information form must be completed for all who wish to participate in Sibshops during the 2007 COL Conference April 26th & 27th. Please return your child's registration form to: Circles of Life, % The Arc-Wisconsin, 600 Williamson Street, Ste. J Madison, WI 53703 by: March 21, 2007. Thank You

(PLEASE PRINT)

Date: _____ Child's age: _____

Parent(s) names: _____

Child's name: _____

Birth date: _____ Child's grade: _____ Gender: _____

Child's address: _____

Home Phone number: (____) _____

Alternate phone: (____) _____

Child's e-mail: _____

Ever attended Sibshops before: Yes No

If yes, where? _____

Name or description of disability or health concern:

What do you hope your child will gain from the COL Sibshops? Are there any particular topics you would like addressed?

Does your enrolled child have any special needs such as dealing with anger, anxiety, depression, or ADHD, food allergies or other health restrictions of their own that we should know about?

Please provide any other information that you feel would make Sibshops a more enjoyable and educational experience for your child:

I hereby give my child permission to participate in the 2007 COL Sibshops program. I also agree to hold the COL Conference volunteers and coordinators harmless from any and all liability incurred as a result of my child's participation. Further, I grant full permission to use any photographs, videotapes, recordings or any other record of this program for the purpose of Sibshops/COL activities, education and promotion of Sibshops/COL. If my child is enrolled in Sibshops/COL for brothers and sisters of children with special needs, I understand that Sibshops/COL is a not-for-profit service.

_____ Date:

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Additional registration forms and information are available by calling:
Rose Helms (608) 758-0956

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" Something special for 25 brothers and sisters ages 5-14 who are siblings to people with special needs"

Sibshops are the lively celebrations of the contributions made by the brothers and sisters of kids who special needs. In a relaxed recreational setting, participants have the chance to:

- Meet other participants like them
- Play games - Have fun! No worries!
- Talk about things important to Sibshop participants
 - Make new friends

A special Sibshop will be held during the 2007 Circles of Life Conference!

(Participants attend **both days**)

How to Register for Sibshops:

On the conference registration form, please check the Sibshop box for the child that is interested in attending the Sibshop. **Participants are expected to attend both days of the Sibshop.** Be sure to check "both days" on the conference registration form and include full payment according to the pricing chart on the registration form.

Sibshops participants will:

Eat lunch with their parents

Be notified prior to Circles of Life Conference

Parents, please be sure to bring your child to Sibshops 15 minutes early. There will be an information sheet and waiver form all parents must review and sign before each child will be permitted to stay at the Sibshops.

Registration is limited to 25 participants. Please return your registration form as early as possible!

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Self Determination, the Family System and Community Life.

An exploration of Self-Determination as it relates to the family system and community life. (for parents of children with disabilities, teachers, and support professionals.)

Naomi Silver, Western WI Alliance for Self-Determination & Dennis Harkins, Self-Determination Wisconsin

Multi-Sensory Approach to Reading, Spelling and Comprehension

Learn core activities as well as teaching strategies to promote self-discovery, confidence, and independence for any individual struggling with making these connections.

Colleen Kurkowski & Mikki McCarville, Imagine a Child's Capacity

Finding Success in Applying for Katie Beckett and Children's Long Term Support Programs

We will discuss Medicaid/Children's Long Term Support programs for CYSCHN, their differing eligibility requirements, preparing for the Functional Eligibility Screen, and rules and legal strategies to appeal denials.

Ellen Escalera, Staff Attorney/Client Services Manager ABC for Health

Health and School: Tips for Inserting Health Concerns into the IEP

Health has a huge impact on a student's ability to learn and participate in school. Learn strategies for including health information in the IEP.

Beth Swedeen, Children/Youth with Special Health Care Needs and Wanda Sperry, NE Region Children/Youth with Special Health Care Needs

Athletabilities

Come learn the importance of participating in community events and athletics! Athletabilities will give you first hand accounts and the resources needed to get out there.

Tyler Halatek, Caleb Heisz and Manda Halatek

Now, Where Did I Put That Paper?

Are you overwhelmed by the amount of information you need to stay on top of in order to coordinate your child's care? Come learn how to create your own online health care file using MS Word and Excel Templates. Instructions on how to add password protection to free web space will be distributed. Some familiarity with these programs and using a computer recommended.

Linda Rowley, Waisman Center

Session C

Thursday, April 26, 2007

3:15 pm - 4:45 pm

The Runaway Train, Dealing with Explosive Behaviors

This presentation uses the visual concept of linking up train cars to describe effective strategies for derailing meltdowns. Also discussed are things that speed up the runaway train and make meltdowns worse.

Judy Endow, Autism Consultant

Benefits Counseling 101: Where to Go in Wisconsin

Many youth and families are confused about how benefits change at age 18 and into adulthood. Learn where to go to get much needed benefits counseling that can assist with eligibility for benefits and/or maximize work experiences without losing benefits.

Molly Bandt, Disability Rights Wisconsin & Terri Lannan, Medicaid Infrastructure Grant

Transition - High School to Community

I will talk about TEAM while I was in high school, how my parents helped get an apartment complex for our area which I am living in and my three part-time jobs in the community.

Lisa Gilson, President of People First Wisconsin

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I have Lots of Questions!

Parents have lots of complex questions about services and supports and often wonder who they can ask. This workshop will consist of an expert panel of Regional Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Center staff who provide information and assistance, service coordination, make direct referrals, assist in navigating the service delivery system and who are skilled at creative problem solving to address challenging situations. The session will begin with an overview of the role and functions of the centers and then the experts will field information and assistance questions from the audience. This is a session with active participant involvement.

Kristin Aasen-Gowan, Meg Steimle, Wanda Sperry, Julia Stavran and Wynne Cook: all from CYSHCN Regional Centers

Inclusive Education: Giving All Students a Seat in First Class

A diverse group of staff from Sherman Middle School in Madison will share their holistic vision of inclusive schooling. Participants will learn concrete strategies for team teaching, receive tips on how to differentiate instruction and understand how structural supports assist to create inclusive learning communities.

Amanda Bell & Ann Yehle, Sherman Middle School

Take 5 for Families

Sometimes a simple phone call can make all the difference. Take 5 for Families is a project funded by the Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities to start building relationships with your local elected officials. Come learn about the legislative process and how you can make a difference with just a few minutes.

Chris Thomas-Cramer & John Shaw, WCDD & Kelli Betsinger, Parent & Project Co-Coordinator

Long-Term Supports for Children: Update on Reform Efforts

Participants will learn about current initiatives to improve supports and services for children with long-term support needs in Wisconsin from Children's Council members and DHFS staff.

Liz Hecht, Waisman Center & Beth Wroblewski, WCPM, CSW

Session D

Friday, April 27, 2007

8:30 am - 10:00 am

Ready, Set, Grow: A Campaign for High Quality Early Learning for All

For the first time, a broad range of Wisconsin early care and education organizations, including Disability Rights Wisconsin, have joined together to campaign for investment in high quality early learning. The organizations represent services to children with disabilities/special needs child care, Head Start, and public schools. The Early Learning Coalition believes that arriving at common goals across all these early care and education programs will provide a strong voice for young children and families. Come to this session to hear about the campaign for improving the quality of early learning in Wisconsin, why quality early education is so important to your child and to Wisconsin's future, and how you can be part of a dynamic effort for change.

Jill Jacklitz, WI Council on Children and Families & Jeff Spitzer-Resnick, Disability Rights Wisconsin

The Wisconsin 2007 "Special Education in Plain Language" Update Important Information for Parents and Educators.

The Wisconsin "Special Education in Plain Language" 2007 edition was updated by a group of parents and educators representing the WI Family Assistance Center for Education, Training and Support (WI Facets) and the WI Council of Administrators of Special Services (WCASS). This effort was in con-

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FECHAS IMPORTANTES Y RECORDATORIOS

PARA REGISTRARSE, remueva y complete la Forma de Registración en el centro de este folleto. Escriba un cheque a nombre de **The ARC of Wisconsin**. Envíe su registración y el pago a: Circles of Life, PO Box 1542, Madison, WI 53701-1542. Si registrase más de 4 personas, haga una copia de la forma y envíe todas las formas juntas con su pago. Usted también puede bajar la forma de registración (formato PDF) buscando en la pagina de red www.wfv.org/circle

Para preguntas generales en Español sobre la conferencia y la registración, llame al (877) 374-0511 con Nelsinia Ramos. Fecha Limite para Registrarse Marzo 26, 2007, o cuando no haya cupo. *No hay registraciones en el mismo día de la conferencia.*

Traducción de Talleres: Un total de dos talleres por cada sesión serán ofrecidos en español a través de un sistema de audífonos. Los talleres a traducir serán seleccionados antes de la conferencia y serán basados en los intereses de las familias que deseen este servicio.

Reembolsos: Si fuese necesario, los reembolsos se podrán dar hasta Marzo 26, 2007. Usted puede transferir su registración a otra persona en cualquier momento.

Reservaciones de Hotel: Llame directamente al Marriott Madison West al 1-800-228-9290 para obtener las tarifas de la conferencia hasta Marzo 26, 2007.

Becas: SI USTED DESEA UNA BECA Y NECESITA ASISTENCIA EN ESPAÑOL, por favor contacte a Nelsinia Ramos al (877) 374-0511. En Ingles obtenga aplicaciones para becas hasta **Marzo 9, 2007** llamando al 608-266-7707, o envíe un e-mail a john565671@yahoo.com. Devuelva la aplicación para beca como se le indica no más tarde de **Marzo 15, 2007**.

Cuidado de Niños: LOS NIÑOS DEBEN TENER SUPERVISION TODO EL TIEMPO. La Conferencia no provee cuidado de niños. Las familias pueden traer un amigo, familiar o proveedor que les asista con el cuidado de niños en la habitación de hotel. Su hijo y el proveedor de cuidado de niños pueden participar de las comidas sin costo adicional. Note: no hay guardavidas o vigilante disponible. **Por favor registre en la forma a su hijo(a) y a su proveedor para las comidas.**

Respiro: Un cuidado de Respiro está disponible para un número limitado de niños con discapacidades gracias a South Central Respite. No tendremos ningún cuarto para los hermanos sin discapacidades. Personas sin registración previa no serán aceptadas. Por favor no traer niños que estén con fiebre, vomito, diarrea, o enfermedades respiratorias. Favor darle las medicinas a su niño antes de la conferencia, durante el almuerzo y durante los talleres del día. SCR no se hace responsable de medicamentos. Para obtener la registración para Respiro, contacte a Toni Arnison, Directora del Programa SCR al 608-429-3439. La fecha límite para la registración de Respiro es el Lunes Marzo 26, 2007

Subasta Porcupine: Esta grandiosa recaudación de fondos depende de grandes donaciones. Por favor done un artículo para la subasta, o tráigalo con usted el día de la conferencia el Jueves. Si usted tiene preguntas acerca de la subasta usted puede llamar a Linda Rowley al 608-263-5973 o por correo electrónico al Circles@FvofWI.org.

A Gathering of Youth: Registraciones antes de Marzo 23, 2007. Ver página 9.

Sibshops/Talleres para Hermanos: " Algo especial para 25 hermanos y hermanas entre edades de 5 a 14 quienes son hermanos de alguien con necesidades especiales" Ver página central.

NOCHE DE DIVERSIÓN – JUEVES POR LA NOCHE: únase para tomar una nieve/helado, disfrutar la música, baile, diversión y juegos para niños de todas las edades!

MESAS DE INFORMACIÓN: Asegúrese de para y chequear mientras usted este atendiendo la conferencia!

CELEBRANDO LOS NIÑOS Y LAS FAMILIAS—EXPOSICION DE FOTOGRAFIAS, VIERNES Quiere una o dos fotos de su familia para la siguiente Exposición de Fotografías Familiar? Busque Información Pág.3

Thursday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM:

Family Voices of Wisconsin Sponsors

Parent Listening Session

You are invited to share your thoughts about ways in which statewide initiatives that impact your child's health care and community supports can be improved. This interactive session will allow you to inform Family Voices of Wisconsin, the Survival Coalition and the Council for Children with Long Term Support Needs about your concerns, experiences, and solutions to strengthening statewide programs which serve your child.

Pizza and salad will be served.

Thursday Fun Night!

After enjoying your Thursday evening meal, you are invited to join in many activities planned for young and old alike!

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM



Ice Cream Social! sponsored by the Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities



Lively Musical Entertainment by



www.kiddopublishing.com



Fun 'n' Games for kids of all ages!

6:30 - 9:30 PM: The Gathering of Youth dance is open to all!

7:30 PM - 8:30 PM: Porcupine Auction Results

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junction with WI Department of Public Instruction. The panel, composed of representative from WI Facets, WCASS and Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative (WSPEI) will highlight the "Special Education in Plain Language" changes that were necessitated by IDEA 2004 and the realignment of WI Chapter 115 with IDEA 2004. Written in "Plain Language", this document should be used by every parent and educator in special education.

Nissan Bar-Lev, CESA 7; Mary Skadah, WSPEI & Courtney Salazar, WI Facets

Who is Likely to Get Caught: Kids with Disabilities and the Justice System

Kids with disabilities are disproportionately represented in the justice system. This is particularly problematic when kids are tried in adult court. Learn more about the system and how to advocate for developmentally appropriate treatment for kids in court. Included in this session will be information about proposed legislation to make sure kids under 18 are kept in the juvenile court, as well as tips on how to use educational needs as a positive in court.

Wendy Henderson, Policy Analyst

Transition Partnership School

The Transition Partnership School is a combined effort of the Menomonie Public Schools and the Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute providing independent living, vocational and residential programming.

Al Noll, Director of development, Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute & Lindsay Wood, Wisconsin Statewide Transition Initiative Youth Advisory Board

From Emotion to Action

Parents, community organization staff, and a physician share their experiences and practical tips for working together and moving forward from unexpected diagnoses to create positive change in the community.

Andrea Wipperfurth, Executive Director, Madison Area Down Syndrome Society & Lexy Austin, Physician Assistant, Parent; Sarah Kreckman, Madison Area Down Syndrome Society

Using the Ladder of Support to Help All Children Achieve

When parents and staff communicate easily and often, children will do well. Sometimes, though, communications may get off to a bad start, for various reasons, and then it's hard to get back on track. Members of the Family Involvement Team for the DPI REACH (Responsive Education for All Children) Initiative will share ideas on how parents and school staff can communicate so each child can be successful.

Mary Sobczak, WI FACETS & Jane Grinde, Director of Community Learning and Partnerships, DPI

Using & Understanding "Opening Doors: A Guide to Disability Funding Sources" and "A Guide to Adult Services"

It is important to understand early on, the services that are available and which services your child may be eligible to use in adult life. Also important is an understanding of how these services are funded. This session will explore these issues through the drafts of the new handbooks – "Opening Doors: A Guide to Disability Funding" and "Opening Doors: A Guide to Adult Services".

Sharon Rybacki, Author, "Opening Doors: A Guide to Disability Funding Sources"

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Session E

Friday, April 27, 2007

10:30 am - Noon

Should I Be Worried? Social/Emotional Development and Mental Health Concerns in Infants and Young Children

Can young children even have mental health problems? What are some of the signs that should alert you to mental health concerns in infants and young children? Then what?

Nancy Marz, Dept. of Health and Family Services & Therese Ahlers, WI Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Assoc

Birth to 3 & Beyond - Eligibility for Birth - 3 & Early Childhood Special Education Services

The Wisconsin criteria for qualifying for special education services from Birth to 3 & Early Childhood will be presented. The similarities and differences between these two programs will be discussed, and how they support families

Marianne Smith, EC Consultant & Missy Kueht-Becker, MS CCC SLP

How Can I Maximize My Child's Medicaid Benefits?

Do you know all of the benefits that the Medicaid card and Medicaid Waiver programs provide? Come to this interactive session to unravel some of the mysteries of Medicaid and leave with important information and materials.

Barbara Katz, Family Voices of WI

The Effectiveness of the Wisconsin Special Education Mediation Option In Resolving Disputes Between Parents And Schools.

This panel presentation will focus on the users of the mediation (or IEP Facilitation) option and their experiences during the process. The panel will include parents, advocates, school representatives, a mediator and the Wisconsin Special Education Mediation System Intake Coordinator.

Nissan Bar-Lev, CESA 7; & Wendy Handrich, The Learning Curve of WI; Jan Serak, Nelsinia Ramos, WI Facets & Judy Fassbender, Parent

A Parent's Guide to Response to Intervention

This presentation will provide a basic understanding of Response to Intervention and its relationship to IDEA 2004 and identification of specific learning disabilities.

Kathy Laffin, DPI Consultant for Specific Learning Disabilities & Cynthia Hirsch, Parent

"A Day in Your Life": Creating Child and Family Outcomes Through Routines-Based Intervention

Regardless of a child's age, outcomes can be developed and organized by exploring a child's daily routine. From morning wake-up to bedtime rituals, every family has its strengths and challenges. When we look at family routines, it is possible to develop outcomes that are functional, relevant and useful. We will offer the theory behind Routines-Based Intervention (RBI) and a glimpse into how it can be put into practice.

Lynn Havemann and Arianna Keil, Wisconsin Birth to 3 Personnel Development Project staff

Raising Siblings of Children with Special Needs: Tips for Parents

Reviewing the literature and sharing personal anecdotes, the speaker will outline specific ways parents can promote the development of siblings of children with special needs.

Maura Taggart, New Directions Coaching



Learn - Share - Dream - Make friends - Have fun!

A Gathering of Youth is a hands-on conference planned by and for youth with disabilities. Only Youth will participate in the sessions –NO parents allowed!!

Sessions this year will include Keeping your dreams alive, College, Working, Stress Relief, Self-Defense and a special session for guy talk and girl talk. There will also be a dance on Thursday night.

Registration is limited to 25 participants and is first come, first served. You may only register if this will be your first or second time coming to the conference. If you have attended at least twice call to find out about volunteer opportunities.

Youth who need one-to-one personal care or other assistance to participate must bring their own attendant (but not a parent!). If you need ideas about how to find someone to come with you, contact Kirsten at the number below.

To find out more about the Gathering of Youth and how to register please call Kirsten Engel at (608) 242-8484 x228.

Registration deadline for Gathering of Youth is March 21, 2007