



Wisconsin Family Ties

Mission

Changing lives by improving
children's mental health

Wisconsin Family Ties, Inc.

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Wisconsin Family Ties

- * Family-run organization (FRO)
 - Governed by parents; employees are parents
- * Target populations
 - Families that include children, adolescents, or transition-age youth with social, emotional, behavioral, or mental health challenges
 - Child-serving professionals and other adults interested in the wellbeing of our youth
- * Founded in June 1987 by 40 parents representing 9 support groups
- * Recognized as one of the leading FROs in the nation

Wisconsin Family Ties

Our Purpose

- * To improve outcomes for children and families by delivering high-quality parent peer support
- * To improve children's mental health policy and practice in Wisconsin through advocacy and through work with child-serving professionals and other adults

WFT Key Practice Beliefs

- * Resilience in youth can be fostered by adult actions
- * Affirmation and understanding are foundational to personal change (i.e., trauma-effective approach)
- * Best way to address challenging behavior is to prevent it
- * Youth outcomes can be improved by changing adult perspectives, attitudes, and approaches
- * Youth outcomes can improve with increased focus on opportunities and skill development (and less focus on motivation)

Wisconsin Family Ties Programs

- * Parent Peer™ Specialist Program
- * Training Program
 - Children Come First Conference
 - Parent / Family Training
 - Child-serving Professional Training
- * Public Policy
- * Warm Heart Fund

WFT Parent Peer™ Specialist Program

- * Peer support designed for parents of children & youth with mental health needs
- * WFT PPS model has been honed over 30 years
- * WFT recognized as national expert on parent peer support
- * Delivered by WFT employees who match the characteristics of the target population
- * Consistent record of outstanding results

Parent Peer™ Specialist

A Wisconsin Family Ties parent peer specialist is an individual who has:

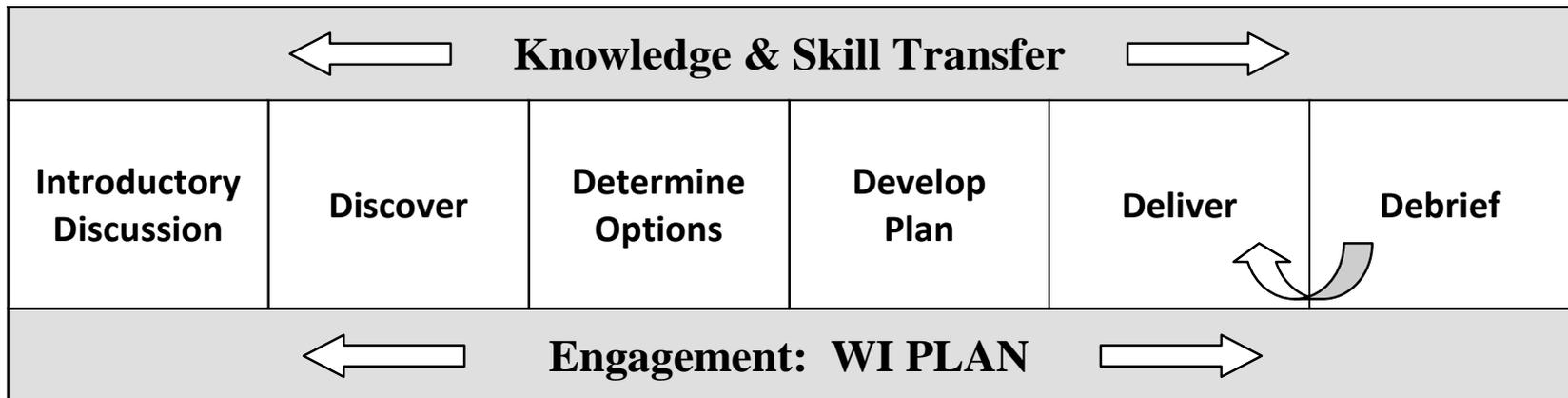
- * at least one year of experience as a parent or primary caregiver involved in the day-to-day care of a child or adolescent with social, emotional, behavioral, or mental health challenges;
- * successfully navigated the process of obtaining mental health services for his/her child, the need for which has persisted for a period of at least one year;
- * received specific training to provide support to families and to help equip parents with the confidence and tools to better meet their families' needs.

WFT PPS Training

- * Assessment upon hiring
- * Develop individualized training plan in addition to intensive instruction in the WFT PPS model
- * Multi-faceted training approach
 - * Formal coursework, self-paced learning, group book review, coaching, on-the-job skill acquisition
- * Proficiency measured against core competencies

WFT PPS Service Delivery Model

(Proprietary)



WFT Parent Peer™ Specialist Services

- * Supplying information so families can better understand and participate in the systems serving their children
- * Helping families get their needs met
- * Giving emotional support and guidance through a maze of services
- * Helping families to identify strategies that they can use in their homes to reduce conflict and encourage pro-social behavior
- * Helping families identify and implement strategies to develop collaborative working relationships with service systems
- * Acting as an objective liaison between families, schools, case managers and service providers
- * Ensuring that school plans are effective and appropriate
- * Providing support at times needed by families
- * Offering hope and encouragement in challenging times
- * Helping families become better advocates for their children

Systems Navigation

- * Mental Health System
- * County Human Services
- * Medicaid / other funding sources
- * Public Education
- * Juvenile Justice
- * Child Welfare
- * Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Wisconsin Family Ties Increases Parenting Skills & Confidence

96%

of parents report that they are better able to cope with their family situation

83%

of parents note that they are more capable of dealing with the various systems that serve their child since connecting with the parent peer specialist

96%

of parents indicate that they are better advocates for their child since connecting with the parent peer specialist

Wisconsin Family Ties Prevents Child Abuse and Neglect

- 1 Resilience:** 96% of parents note that they feel better able to cope with their family situation since connecting with Wisconsin Family Ties.
- 2 Social Connections:** 96% of parents say that Wisconsin Family Ties provides a place to turn for support.
- 3 Knowledge Base:** 92% of parents now know the steps to take when they are concerned about the services their child is, or is not, receiving.
- 4 Concrete Supports:** 83% of parents report feeling more capable of dealing with service systems.
- 5 Emotional Competence:** 83% of parents say that Wisconsin Family Ties helped improve their family situation.

Wisconsin Family Ties Improves Family-School Relationships

83%

of parents surveyed indicate that Wisconsin Family Ties worked with them on school-related issues.

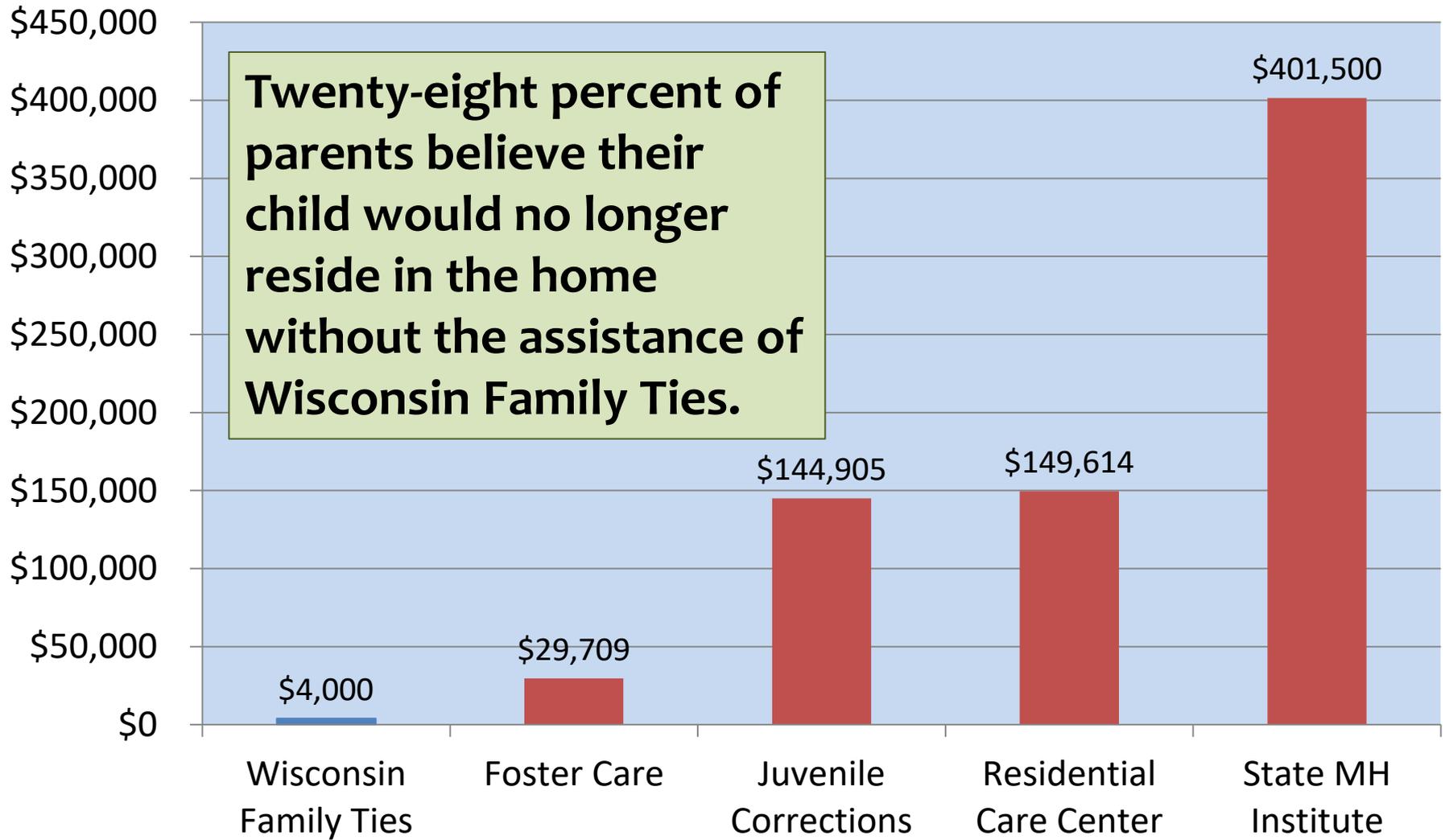
100%

of the parents above state that the parent peer specialist models behavior for respectfully interacting with the school.

85%

of the parents above report at least one improvement in the school situation/relationship since connecting with the parent peer specialist.

Wisconsin Family Ties Saves Families and Saves Money



* Annual cost per child for services