



WAUKESHA COUNTY
CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
| AUGUST 2020 |

Children's Long Term Services (CLTS) Waiver Program Updates

Parental Payment Liability (PPL): Effective March 1st, 2020, the PPL fees for the CLTS Waiver Program will be calculated by services that have been rendered and received by the youth instead of authorized services. Your PPL will be based off the calculated percentage and the amount of services which were claimed by the provider in that calendar month. Providers have up to 90 days to bill for their services. Therefore, you may receive a bill that shows services for up to 3 months prior as billing is based off of paid claims. In addition, since families continue financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CLTS Waiver Program will be issuing a hardship Waiver to all participants for the calendar months of March through August 2020 waiving all PPL fees during these months. This means that you will continue to not be charged your PPL percentage for any services which were rendered and billed by providers to the program during these months.

Face-to-Face Visits: Effective May 13, 2020, in-person Service Coordination contacts required by the CLTS Waiver Program may be completed either face-to face or remotely. Service Coordinators must work with families to affirm their acceptance of face-to-face or remote Service Coordination during this health pandemic. Discussion with families must include information about available home visit options and risks associated with each option. The family leads this decision and the Service Coordinator ensures the family's decision is authorized in compliance with program requirements. If face-to-face contacts occur, face masks must be worn while practicing social distancing to ensure the safety of all participants. This is in effect until more direction is given by DHS.

Department of Health Services—Bureau of Children's Services

Announcement of CLTS Waiver Renewal Initiative —We Want to Hear From You: DHS is asking for feedback from families to help improve supports and services for children on the Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Waiver. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is preparing for the renewal of the CLTS Waiver Program. Your input will help shape how services are delivered for children with disabilities and their families for the next CLTS waiver cycle, which will start in 2022 and run through 2027. DHS is gathering feedback from stakeholders, including participants and families, to build this vision together. **What is the Waiver Renewal?** The renewal application is submitted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for review and approval before its January 2022 implementation. The CLTS Waiver Program is renewed every five years. You can email them [here](#).

First Lady Kathy Evers Launches Office of Children's Mental Health's Feelings Thermometer to Help Families Feel Better: Wisconsin First Lady Kathy Evers' video message today launched the Office of Children's Mental Health's Feelings Thermometer to help families feel better during these stressful times. The Feelings Thermometer is a visual tool to post on the refrigerator that helps everyone — from kids to adults— measure how they are doing emotionally with tips on how to shift your mood from angry to calm. Research tells us that just identifying a calming activity can reduce anxiety. Download the Feelings Thermometer or order a magnetized version for easy posting.



Getting Ready for Back To School!

Waisman Center Resources: The Waisman Center has compiled a list of resources for families in regard to returning to school (i.e. school safety, child care, parent support, school preparedness during a pandemic, etc.).

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): The CDC also has many suggestions on a successful return to school (i.e. decision making tools for parents, preparing for the return to school, etc.).

Caregiver Assistance

Respite care: Looking for a break in caregiving? Check here to look for a provider: Respitecarewi.org

Child Mind Institute: Why Self-Care is Essential to Parenting—A great article to remind our important parents to take care of themselves too (exhaustion, asking for help, getting out and about and marriage).

American Psychological Association: Advice for Caregivers of Children with Disabilities in the Era of Covid-19—Strategies to ease stressors and other additional resources.

Mental Wellness

YouTube: [Moovlee](#) offers yoga and meditation exercises for kids that are led by a cartoon monkey. [Cosmic Kids](#) has fun mindfulness exercises for kids. [GoZenOnline](#) offers anxiety relief songs, relaxation exercises and tips for parents.

Child Mind Institute: Hosts daily live streams at 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Eastern with therapists on its [Facebook page](#).

Keeping Youth Busy

Wide Open: Virtual Camps and academics activities for over summer. wideopenschool.org

Common Sense Media: Free Online Events and Activities for Kids at Home. Educational, Arts, Music, Films, Virtual Tours and more!

7 Virtual Summer Activities Perfect for Kids With Disabilities: From film making to dancing to music and photography; here are some great ideas!

Resources

Well Badger Resource Center: Family resources for WIC, BadgerCare Plus, Wisconsin Well Woman, services for children and youth with special health care needs, mental health services, and many more. www.wellbadger.org

Autism Little Learners: Resources and ideas for families and educators. Social Stories, activities, communication and more.

Family Voice of Wisconsin Resource List: Playing & Having Fun, Social & Emotional Well Being and General Resources.



Spending Time Together

100 Summer Fun Ideas for Kids and Parents: Ideas include enjoying nature, staying inside, going to local sites, academics, art activities, getting moving outdoors, nighttime fun, time with friends, and cooking.

Special Services Advisory Committee (SSAC)

What is the Special Services Advisory Committee? This committee is comprised of parents of children with special needs, providers, county and school representatives, and voting committee members that meet on a quarterly basis. Our goal is to make all members feel welcome to listen, share, learn and build connections with both community members, providers, and other families. It is the intent of this committee to assist its parent members with networking opportunities, sharing of resources, educational opportunities, and the ability to hear program updates within the Children’s Long-Term Support Waiver and Children’s Community Options Programs. Members of the committee are able to provide feedback and suggestions on program operations within the Children with Special Needs Unit.

SSAC Mission Statement: The mission of the Special Services Advisory Committee is to promote an understanding of the unique needs that families face while caring for a child with a developmental, physical, or mental health disability. It offers collaborative opportunities between the program administrators, SSAC members, and parents on ways program implementation can be optimized for the benefit of families who are enrolled in Children with Special Needs programming. It includes resource sharing, networking, and educational components that seek to provide information on topics that affect children with disabilities. **These meetings are open to the public and all are welcome and encouraged to join.**

2020 Meetings: Due to COVID-19 all meetings will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams from 12pm-1:30pm

Next Meeting: September 17, 2020 - 12PM to 1:30PM

Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 414-435-2078

Conference ID: 175 245 619#

COVID-19 Resources

Helping children cope with stress during the Covid-19 outbreak

Covid-19: Planning for Face-to-Face Service— Guidance from the WI Department of Health Services



Children with Special Needs Program Staff

Vickie Smith (CLTS Waiver Coordinator) 262-548-7704

Mardy Juhl (Supervisor) 262-548-7252

Dan Borchardt 262-896-8532

Melissa Lipovsek 262-548-7348

Katie Miller 262-548-7363

Sara Rydzik 262-548-7997

Ted Wuerslin 262-548-7269

Erin Zellmer 262-548-7381

Leslie Zersen 262-548-7228

Chelsea Dinamarca (Supervisor) 262-896-6881

Laura Eichsteadt 262-548-7292

Alissa Hetzel 262-896-6829

Megan Jacobson 262-548-7862

Gina Kocinski 262-548-7338

Emily Partlow 262-548-7772

Jessica Wegner 262-548-7353

Melissa Weir 262-548-7341

Julie Kunath (Supervisor) 262-970-4794

Maddy Attewell 262-896-6829

Taji Bergson 262-970-6647

Paige Blanchette 262-970-6629

Mia Guido 262-548-7232

Rebecca Messnick 262-896-8569

Brianna Wright 262-970-4718

Lauren Polahar (Supervisor) 262-548-7298

Allison Anschutz 262-970-6685

Tiara Daniels 262-548-7719

Amanda Hutchison 262-548-7716

Nikki Leibhan 262-548-7442