



## CHILDREN'S VOICE

# WAUKESHA COUNTY'S CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

| October 2020 |

### Waukesha County—Children's Long-Term Services (CLTS) Waiver Program Updates

Remote or In Person? The Decision is Up to YOU! The Department of Health Services (DHS) has made it clear that our children will continue to get needed services and families will lead the decision on how supports will be provided. Families can choose to receive services face-to-face or continue to use telehealth. DHS has stated that, "Families and support and service coordinators (SCs) will work together to find the best ways to connect during this time and determine the types of contact that work best for the family."

#### All in for Kids

All in for Kids Bulletin is a newsletter created to keep you and your family informed about the supports and services available through the CLTS Waiver Program. The newsletter is published by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.



**Dear Ardy,**

I am a parent of a 14 year old girl whom has Autism. I am looking for a good read to help me bring up "the birds and bees" with her. Because she has Autism, should I wait to for "the talk" with her, this makes me very nervous!

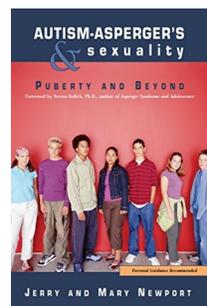
Sincerely,  
Bee Eger

Dear Bee,

I am so happy you asked this question! It is never too early, or too late to have "the talk" with your child. I would like to recommend : Autism-Asperger's & Sexuality: Puberty and Beyond By: Jerry Newport. This book goes a long way toward filling in the gaps. It takes a candid look at aspects of sex and relationships as they apply to people on the autism spectrum including: building self-confidence, dating, personal grooming, dealing with rejection, and how to build a loving relationship.

Good luck to you with your conversations with your daughter. I know you will do great, especially after reading this book!

Best to you,  
Ardy





### We would love your feedback!

The Children with Special Needs Program would like your feedback in regards to our newsletter! What can we add? What should we change? Please email Mardy Juhl, CSN Supervisor at: [mjuhl@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:mjuhl@waukeshacounty.gov)

#### Trainings

**Parents United:** Empowering parents of children with disabilities with information with lectures and free presentations offered each school year.

**Northern Regional Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs:** Free Training Thursdays in October.

**Wisconsin Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Conference:** Information about promoting social and emotional development in everyday activities for infants, young children, and their families. October 19-21.

**Self-Determination Virtual Conference:** Free Virtual Self-determination conference for people with disabilities and the people who support them. October 26-28.

**2020 Fall FASD Forum:** Virtual Forum regarding essential supports for people with FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders). October 30th 8:30am-12p.

**Family Voices of Wisconsin:** What's after high school. Planning a youth's future, transitioning to adult healthcare, guardianship and advocacy. October 22nd & October 28th.

#### Opportunities

**Christmas Assistance Application:** The Christmas Clearing Council of Waukesha County (CCC) promotes and coordinates giving to families in need during the Christmas season.

#### Mental Wellness

**Mental Health Connection:** Education, services and support, and resources for mental health in Waukesha County.

**Child Mind Institute:** Helping kids through COVID-19 and Beyond. Inspiring videos and online resources to families.

**Waukesha County Department of Health and Suman Services Crisis Intervention Services:** Mobile assessment, suicide assessment, safety planning, crisis de-escalation, information and referrals.

#### Resources

**Transition to Adulthood Discussion Series:** Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin, has a series designed to bring together youth with Autism, their parents, and other professionals to learn about and discuss emerging topics throughout the transition from youth to adulthood.

**Common Sense Education:** Help Students Think Critically About "October Surprises" and Their Impact on Elections . Teach students how to recognize and analyze this curious election season phenomenon.

**Should I let my tween girl use social media?:** Those with special vulnerabilities may need extra attention.

**Supporting Resiliency in Uncertain Times:** This gathering will offer opportunities that improve experiences for students on the autism spectrum or with other developmental disabilities.



### 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: November 19, 2020 - 12PM to 1:30PM**

Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 414-435-2078

Conference ID: 175 245 619#

### COVID-19 Resources

**Well Badger Resource Center:** Well Badger is ready to assist those impacted by COVID-19. Sign up for text/email updates, and visit the COVID-19 resource guide for families.

### COVID Special Education Updates and Resources:

The Department of Public Instruction's Special Education and resource to help answer the questions families have about school-based services.

## Children with Special Needs Program Staff

Vickie Smith (Interim Division Manager)

262-548-7704

Mardy Juhl (Supervisor) 262-970-6672

Dan Borchardt 262-896-8532

Melissa Lipovsek 262-548-7348

Sara Rydzik 262-548-7997

Ted Wuerslin 262-548-7269

Leslie Zersen 262-548-7228

Erin Zellmer (Interim Supervisor) 262-548-7381

Katie Miller (Training Coordinator) 262-548-7363

Casey Vullings (Program Manager) 262-548-7727

Allison Anschutz 262-970-6685

Laura Eichsteadt 262-548-7292

Alissa Hetzel 262-896-6829

Kim Ohlund 262-722-0191

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

Leslie Chisoholm 262-722-0187

Tiara Daniels 262-548-7719

Kai Goldenstein 262-548-7338

Rebecca Messnick 262-896-8569

Brianna Wright 262-970-4718

Lauren Polahar (Supervisor) 262-548-7298

Amanda Hutchison 262-548-7716

Courtney LaBuy 262-722-0188

Nikki Leibhan 262-548-7442

Cailey Moran 262-722-0190

Jessica Pagel 262-722-0189



Wisconsin Department of Health Services wants to hear ideas from participants and families about improving the CLTS Waiver Program for the waiver renewal including: ways to increase families' access to program services, how to keep the CLTS Waiver family focused, suggestions for new services or improvements.

The following are three ways to share ideas about new or better supports or services:

1. **Send an email to:** [DHSCLTSWaiverRenewal@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSCLTSWaiverRenewal@dhs.wisconsin.gov) by October 16, 2020.

2. **Register to attend an online input session:**

Wednesday October 7th 6-7:15pm: [dhs.wisconsin.gov/webinar/register/WN\\_VzJcgFZOTzib1UDuVavlAA](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/webinar/register/WN_VzJcgFZOTzib1UDuVavlAA)

Thursday October 8th 2-3:15pm: [dhs.wisconsin.gov/webinar/register/WN\\_6PnVgl2bSwuQP0cUKu-n8w](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/webinar/register/WN_6PnVgl2bSwuQP0cUKu-n8w)

Friday October 9th 10:30-11:45am: [dhs.wisconsin.gov/webinar/register/WN\\_72qPMc0KSseLLCHa6ZJvYg](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/webinar/register/WN_72qPMc0KSseLLCHa6ZJvYg)

3. **Fill out a quick anonymous online survey:**

Do **not** include any information that could identify a person, such as a family member or child. The survey is intended to collect anonymous responses.

## **Fun Fall Activities:**

### **Old World Wisconsin Fall Family Fun Drive**

October 10-11, 17-18 9am-3pm. Pile in your car and head to Old World Wisconsin for drive-thru tour of the site.

### **Boo at Zoo Drive Thru**

October 22-October 25 from 5:30-9pm. Drive through the zoo and see a variety of Halloween-themed areas. It is a 30 minute 1.5 mile drive. Tickets must be purchased ahead of time online.

### **October Pumpkin Walk**

The City of Waukesha is doing a Pumpkin Walk on 10/28 along the Riverwalk. They are offering a free Do-It-Yourself craft and snack to take home with a prior registration. Carved Jack-o-Lanterns to view.

### **Howl-At-Home**

Virtual Scare-Free Halloween Fun! October 26th-October 30th.

### **Friends of Retzer Nature Center's Scarecrow Lane**

Take a self-guided walk around Scarecrow Lane at Retzer Nature Center to enjoy the unique scarecrow displays and changing colors of autumn. Open daily through October 31st.

### **Zachariah Acres**

Zachariah's Acres is a place where kids with special needs and their families can enjoy nature and experience the outdoors. Zachariah's Acres currently offers several free events, exclusively for children with special health care needs, & their families. Campfire Worship: October 31st 6pm-8pm.