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

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

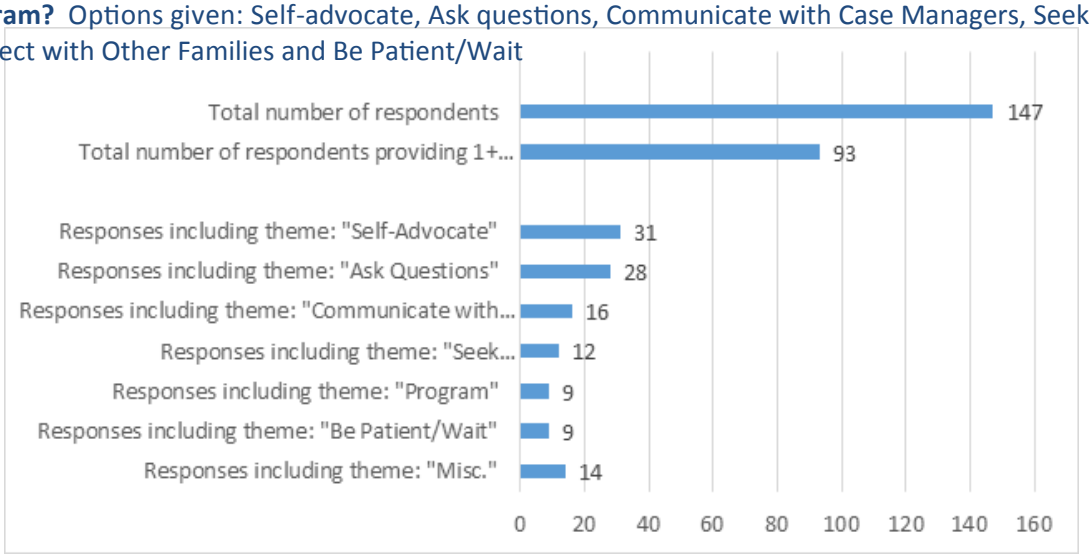
Monthly Contacts for Children Actively on the CLTS Waiver: Your Service Coordinator wants to get to know you! Please remember that your Service Coordinator will be reaching out to you monthly. In order to better serve you and your family, please respond to your Service Coordinators emails or phone calls and of course reach out at any time for questions or any needs that you may have. We want to support our families the best way we can!

New Staff hired!: The CSN Unit has recently hired six new staff that will being training in early September to help work towards eliminating our waitlist. This is great news for our families, however, it does take multiple months to adequately train a Service Coordinator. Waukesha County wants to ensure all of our families are served with quality service.

Functional Screens-Directive from the State on August 20,2020: From March 2020—February 2021, the annual Functional Screens will be automatically renewed by the State and will resume March 2021. Service Coordinators will be continuing with home visits, but the calculation of the Functional Screen for eligibility is on hold through February 28, 2021.

CSN 2019 Survey Results: The CSN Consumer Quality Assurance survey is sent annually to parents/guardians of every child who received services in 2019. Take a look at how we are doing (click the link & scroll down towards the bottom of the page). We use this survey to work on program improvements to better serve all of you! For families currently receiving services, look for the 2020 survey to come out in October! For new families, check out the advice below.

What type of advice would you offer to families or parents of children with special needs that are new to the program? Options given: Self-advocate, Ask questions, Communicate with Case Managers, Seek Support/ Connect with Other Families and Be Patient/Wait



We Want 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? What should we name the Newsletter? Please email Erin Zellmer, the CSN Lead Social Worker at **ezellmer@waukeshacounty.gov**.

Caregiver Assistance

Finding Respite Care for your Child with Special Needs: KidsHealth article about the importance of respite care and how to find someone to fulfill this need.

5 Minutes for Mom: Website from two work-at-home moms to inspire, encourage & empower parent(s) of children with special needs.

Support Groups: List of national organizations that may be able to provide support and assistance related to either your child's diagnosis or, more generally, to parents of children with special needs.

Parent to Parent of Wisconsin: Connect with other parents that have children with special needs for support, or become support to another parent for another parent.

Mental Wellness

Three Good Things App: This app encourages kids to practice gratitude. A study from Duke University found that simply listing three good things each day in a particular way increased happiness more effectively than Prozac! This an app based closely on that study. Find on your android or apple app store.

Take On the Day on **GoNoodle**: Start the day by harnessing energy and focus with this energizing breathing video!

Shine Through: Children's Wisconsin is committed to addressing the mental and behavioral health crisis facing our children.

Returning to School

Waisman Center Resources: The Waisman Center has compiled resources for families in regard to returning to school (i.e. reopening schools, health services, child care, how to have a safe return, etc.).

Children's Hospital WI Back to School and COVID Q&A : Doctors share a little bit of what they have experienced, thoughts on masks, symptoms for children, testing, school reopening, mental health of children and answer parents questions.

Resources

Free Virtual Transition Training for Families of Youth with IEP's: Go to **Wisconsin Statewide Parent Educator Initiative** (WSPEI) to see the **flyer** and to register!

Ability Fest: Rescheduled and now called **Everyone1In**. Planned for 10/31-11/1/2020 Virtual and In Person options.

Hoopla: Digital media service offered by your local library that allows you to borrow movies, TV shows, audiobooks, etc. to watch on your electronic device and/or TV.

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

COVID-19 Resources

Virtual Education & Students With Disabilities Resource Guide: Supporting Student Success in the Time of COVID-19 and Beyond—This guide includes resources that can help pave the best educational and social-emotional path possible during this pandemic for students with a disability, or parents with a child with a disability.

Waukesha County Public Health: The website provides up to date information in regards to COVID-19—the latest news, updates, safe schools, staying safe and more.

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