

Wisconsin Assembly Approves Free UW System Tuition for Some Foster Children

By: Laurel White, Wisconsin Public Radio

The Wisconsin Assembly has unanimously approved a bill that would provide free tuition for some foster children at University of Wisconsin System schools and Wisconsin technical colleges.

Under the proposal, foster children who meet certain requirements for the amount of time they were in foster care will receive up to 12 semesters of free tuition.

"Many of these kids can't get a student loan, they have no one to co-sign for them, so this is a big thing," said Rep. Todd Novak, R-Dodgeville, the bill's sponsor.

Novak said state surveys show many foster children want to go to college, but not many end up there.

"So we wanted to make sure that they had a full measure of no hurdles as far as fees and tuition to be able to reach those goals," said Rep. Patrick Snyder, R-Schofield, one of the co-chairs of the Assembly Speaker's task force on foster care.

Supporters of the measure also cited statistics that foster children are more likely than their peers to be homeless or incarcerated as adults. They argued encouraging higher education could help combat those trends.

The bill is part of a package of foster care legislation that stemmed from the Speaker's task force.

All 12 of the remaining bills in the package were also approved Tuesday.

Those proposals would:

- Provide more funding for 2-1-1 Wisconsin, a statewide network that provides information to parents about health services, crisis intervention services, and a variety of social services. The bill passed with a unanimous vote.
- Require school districts and schools to be notified when a child is placed in foster care. The bill passed on a voice vote.
- Allow health care providers to disclose some of a child's mental health treatment records to child welfare agencies without written consent of the child or biological parent. The bill passed on a voice vote.
- Allocate \$500 million in federal money to child abuse and neglect prevention grants. The bill passed on a voice vote.
- Provide \$400,000 in the 2018 fiscal year for a grant program, to be overseen by the state Department of Children and Families, aimed at providing money to counties, nonprofits and tribes to help them provide incentives, education and financial reimbursements to foster care parents. The bill passed with a unanimous vote.
- Expanding state funding for the Court Appointed Special Advocate Association, which oversee volunteers who serve as court-appointed advocates for foster children. The bill passed with a unanimous vote.

Foster Care Recruitment Effort

In an effort to raise awareness for the need of additional foster parents in Waukesha County, we have been participating in indoor and outdoor events across the County. Our booth includes information on how to become a foster parent, frequently asked questions, steps to become a foster parent, and promotional materials. We also give PowerPoint presentations, followed by a question and answer session. If you know of an event where we can have our booth, or would like us to come and speak for an organization, please contact Libby Sinclair at esinclair@waukeshacounty.gov.

Assembly Speaker's Foster Care Task Force

One of our foster parents, Monica Begley, had the opportunity to speak at the taskforce in October, representing Waukesha County, regarding making changes within the foster care system. Monica shared the following: "Based on this testimony, I was then able to testify in front of the Assembly and Senate on gaining very useful information from our foster child(ren) mental health providers. The response from lawmakers was very positive, and has allowed the bill to move quickly and pass! Work is being done to help fix a broken system, and we as foster parents have a powerful voice to bring light to those issues, and we are being heard. I am pleased to say positive changes are being made in the best interest of our foster children!"

Easing the Effects of Daylight Savings Time on Kids with Autism

By: Susan Keith

It's likely that when daylight savings time was implemented in the early 1900s, the difficulties that time changes create for people with autism were not considered. Many individuals on the autism spectrum deeply value routines. As a result, adjusting to changes can be difficult and can cause people to feel out of control of their environment.

Daylight savings time changes can be especially tough for children. Younger children are still developing routine sleep patterns and habits. And kids with autism may need days, weeks, or even months to adjust to a change in the time of day.



Typically, the biggest challenge for kids on the spectrum is centered on how long it stays light after the time changes. For a child with autism, it can be very disorienting when it begins to stay lighter and they don't feel tired at the regular time.

Tips for Managing the Time Change:

- Prepare for the time change by talking about it - what day it's going to happen on and what to expect. For example, explain that it will begin to get dark later (e.g. at dinnertime, while the child is watching cartoons, etc.).
- Create a social story with which to walk your child through what to expect from the time change. Include references to daily places and specific objects in your child's life.
- A week before the actual time change, start shifting your child's bedtime. Ten- to fifteen-minute increments can be helpful, resulting in the full hour adjustment by the time the clocks change.
- Studies have shown that exercise can aid the body in adjusting to a new schedule.
- Keep your child busy so that he or she tires by bedtime.

The Clothing Closet is Busting at the Seams!



The Clothing Closet is running out of room with donations of infant and toddler clothing. All of the clothing is in good condition with no stains or imperfections. We have some really nice things in there, and many items still have store tags on them!! We are hoping that Kinship and Foster Families will use this resource. Please contact Linda Finn, one of our Human Services Support Specialists, at 262-548-7254, to arrange a personal appointment to come in and "shop" in the clothing closet!



R & R Club

R & R Club is a drop-off evening of fun for any child that has a disability from birth to age 21 and any siblings. This is a chance for parents to enjoy an evening out. The R & R Clubs are run by Broadscope staff (who are present during all Club events) and volunteers from the area. There will be a respite provider to assist the children with any toileting or personal care needs. Children are divided into the following groups: birth - 7 years, 8 - 12 years, 13 - 21 years, and siblings. Each group participates in arts and crafts, fun, games, and group activities. A snack will be provided, please let staff know of any food restrictions. Group participation is encouraged, but children are not required to attend any specific activities. It's just a night to have fun and relax! One-on-one supervision is available if your child has any specific needs. Registration must be received at least two (2) days prior to the class date.

All classes are held on Friday evening from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. R/NR Fee is \$9/\$13 for each class. Min: 10 Max: 30

DATES	CODE
March 9, 2018	9500.101
April 13, 2018	9500.102

Schuetze Recreation Center

Instructor: Sara Baron, Broadscope Disability Services,
sbarron@broadscope.org, Direct: (414) 329-4512

NOTE: Registration for this program is through WPRF. This program is assisted by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.



Jennifer and Kevin Poston

Jennifer and Kevin Poston have been licensed foster parents with Waukesha County since March 13, 2014. The family has taken on two placements of young children; their first placement being somewhat long term. The Postons did an excellent job at joining with the birth mother and shared parenting; so much so that Mr. Poston was asked to be the Godfather of his former foster child. The Postons state that, despite the ups and downs, they were able to recognize the birth mother's need for support and role modeling, as well as making decisions that were in the best interest of their foster child.

The Postons have five birth children ranging from 6 to 15 years of age. Despite the natural challenges in raising their own large family, the Postons felt called to help support a foster child in need of a stable and loving home. Kevin Poston is the minister of music and worship at Atonement Lutheran, and his wife Jennifer is currently working as a preschool teaching assistant at Atonement Lutheran School. The couple continues to demonstrate their genuine altruistic nature, and the Waukesha County Foster Care program and staff would like to recognize the Poston family for their support and commitment. You are truly amazing!



New Shared Services Supervisor, Michelle Lim

Michelle Lim has accepted the position of Shared Services Supervisor in the Intake and Shared Services Division. Michelle comes highly recommended by her supervisors and peers. She is actually returning to Waukesha County, as several years ago, she was an intern in our foster care division. Michelle has worked in the critical areas of Caregiver Support and Recruitment. Her last position before coming to Waukesha County has been a foster care licensing supervisor with a trauma-informed focus. She is also the co-founder of the non-profit organization, Project Shoe Box, which has donated over 1000 care packages for children in foster care to welfare agencies.

Kaiden's 16th Birthday!

Kaiden is turning 16 years old, and he didn't want a big party. He wanted to do a fundraiser and raise awareness and/or needs for a local charity. So he has decided to have a fundraising event to benefit Waukesha County Foster Care! Below is a flyer of the fundraiser, being held March 31! What a great kid, at 16, to want to give back!!



Kaiden's 16th Birthday

Donations to benefit
Waukesha County Foster Care.
Items in need for children 0-17:
Backpacks, books, hygiene
products, small toys, diapers,
wipes, or socks.

OPEN SINGLES HANDICAPPED 8 BALL MARCH 31ST - SUNSET BOWL (WAUKESHA)

One day tournament due to Easter - cap at 48 players.

Winners Side - Max race to 8 Min race to 4

1 game handicap per 75 points in MPS

Unknown Players AA

\$45 entry (includes greens fee) plus donation (see above).

Double Elimination. 50/50 Raffle.

Doors open: 10:00 am, Sign up: 10:30 am,

Side pot and Calcutta start: 11:00 am

Additional Training and Events



Required Training

Required Training For All Relative Care Providers, Level 1 and Level 2 Foster Homes

Foster Parent Orientation – The Foster Parent Orientation is open to anyone interested in becoming a foster parent. **If you are currently in the process of becoming a licensed foster parent, you are required to attend this Orientation class prior to the approval of your foster care license.** Please complete the on-line Pre-Placement training prior to attending the Orientation session. The online Pre-Placement training is located at <http://wcpwps.wisc.edu/FCC.htm> Please save the certificates after you have completed each Module. These are required to become licensed.

WHEN: March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 8, November 13, December 11, 2018

TIME: 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

WHERE: Waukesha County Human Services, 514 Riverview Ave., Waukesha, WI

RSVP to Libby Sinclair at esinclair@waukeshacounty.gov (There is no childcare available.)



Parent Café

Parent Café's are an educational opportunity for parents to come together and deal with the stressors, worries and challenges of parenting in a supportive environment.

A light dinner and daycare will be provided.

March 20, June 5, September 4, December 4, 2018

6:00 PM - 7:45 PM

Waukesha County Human Services

514 Riverview Ave., Waukesha, WI

RSVP for this training:

<http://parentcafe2018.eventbrite.com>

Support Group For Dads

A group to enhance group members' experience as fathers. Topics of discussion will include coping with stress; developing a better relationship with partner/spouse/child's mother; identifying positive role models in your life; identifying how you are a positive role model for your child(ren); discussing your role as a father and what you would like to change or improve.

Fourth Tuesday of each month

March 27, 2018

April 24, 2018

6:00PM - 7:30PM

Parents Place

1570 E. Moreland Blvd., Waukesha, WI

262-549-5575

Foster Parent Support Group

Our foster parent support group will now be facilitated by Susan Peck. This is a valuable opportunity for you to connect with other providers in order to have an open and candid discussion regarding the rewards and challenges of the critically important work you do. In order to receive ongoing training credit, an educational topic or article will be discussed.

On-site daycare is available, but you must register in advance by contacting Parents Place.

First Thursday of each month

March 1, 2018

April 5, 2018

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Parents Place

1570 E. Moreland Blvd., Waukesha, WI

262-549-5575

On-going Trainings

DATE: See below

TIME: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

WHERE: Waukesha County Human Services, 514 Riverview Ave., Waukesha, WI

All of the on-going trainings are open to foster parents, as well as relative caregivers. A light dinner and daycare will be provided.

You must register the number of adults attending, as well as the number of children for child care, for each individual session at:

<http://waukeshafostercaretraining.eventbrite.com>

Mental Health in Children and Adolescents

March 15, 2018

Presented by: Mary Madden, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI Waukesha)

Mary will talk about mental health issues in children and adolescents. She will also answer any questions that you may have.

Effects of Abuse and Neglect on Children

April 19, 2018

Presented by: Anna Boeck, Women's Center

Anna will talk about the effects that abuse and neglect have on children, as well as some tips and/or techniques that foster parents can use with the foster children.



Contact Numbers:

Waukesha County Health & Human Services
262-548-7212

Michelle Lim, Foster Care Licensing Supervisor
262-970-4761

Susan Peck, Foster Care Level 2 Coordinator
262-896-8574

Libby Sinclair, Relative Foster Care Level 1 Coordinator
262-548-7277

Megan Quandt, Kinship & Foster Care Coordinator
262-548-7373

Jessica Morris, Kinship & Foster Care Coordinator
262-548-7256

Angie Sadler, Ongoing Social Work Supervisor
262-548-7272

Eric Calvino, Ongoing Social Work Supervisor
262-548-7271

Social Workers:

Kimberly Dudzik 262-548-7347

Stephanie Engle..... 262-548-7424

Megan Fishler 262-896-8570

Abbey Girman 262-548-7695

Sharon Godwin 262-548-7684

Mallorie Hebeker 262-896-6857

Laura Jahnke..... 262-548-7359

Jamie Kasten..... 262-548-7265

Jessica Larsen..... 262-548-7346

Maria Maurer 262-548-7345

Chelsey Nisbet..... 262-896-6896

Rachel O'Sullivan..... 262-548-7639

Elizabeth Russo 262-548-7349

Kim Sampson..... 262-548-7273

Linda Senger 262-548-7698

Brittany Sutton..... 262-548-7262

Sara Waldron..... 262-548-7371

Amy Weast 262-548-7336

Jamie West 262-548-7264

Children's Mental Health Outreach
262-548-7666

Medical Emergency: 911

Family Emergency: 211 or
262-547-3388

If an Allegation of Abuse or Neglect has been made against you, please call:

FASPP
Norma Schoenberg
920-922-9627