



Convening Wisconsin's Family Support Coalition The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread - August 2017

Six Month Progress Report

Since the initial convening of Wisconsin's family support coalition on August 3, 2017 at the Johnson Foundation at Wingspread the 30 original participating organizations have recruited additional allies and continue to make progress in addressing challenges and promoting promising practices. The Coalition has since formed the ***Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance*** which launched a web page in March 2018:
<http://wisconsincaregiver.org/alliance>

Steering Committee members who volunteered to lead the ongoing work of the Coalition continue to meet monthly to formalize and actualize the group's 6 identified strategies. Steering Committee member organizations include: The Arc Wisconsin; Family Voices of Wisconsin; Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources; Parent University; Respite Care Association of Wisconsin; WisconSibs, Inc; Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities; Wisconsin Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources.

Supporting organizations of the Alliance continue to grow. The current list is linked [here](#).

Early work of the ***Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance*** included developing a mission and vision statement:

Vision Statement

Our communities will be accepting places for people of all ages and abilities to live with the supports needed for the person, their families and caregivers.

Value Statements:

We believe...

- our communities are stronger when we work together to support each other.
- when family caregivers know information, have options and access to opportunities, they can better advocate for their needs and the needs of their loved one.
- the needs of the caregiver drive the prioritization of our shared resources.
- in encouraging one another to strive for positive outcomes and evidence-based decisions to further our mission and mutual goals.
- the community of family caregivers is a growing and changing population served best when diversity is respected and celebrated.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to raise awareness of family and caregiver support needs and increase the availability of and access to services and supports (both paid and unpaid) which will keep people across the lifespan engaged in their community as long as they desire.

Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance Workgroups

Six targeted workgroups of the Alliance (which include allies beyond Steering Committee members) continue to meet either in person or by phone monthly to make progress on the strategies originally identified at The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread. These six workgroups include:

Expanding Respite Options & Providers Workgroup

- Expand the availability of respite services to families who need it.

System Navigation and Access Workgroup

- Improve family access to necessary information and resources; Increase the level and quality of assistance families receive to coordinate services and navigate through the service system.

Employer Engagement Workgroup

- Create a more flexible and supportive employer environment for employees who are supporting and caring for family members.

Underserved Families Workgroup

- Build community and statewide networks which can deliver the emotional, personal and peer support that families need.

Future Planning Workgroup

- Make affordable, high quality future planning available to all families in Wisconsin who need it.

Background Check Workgroup

- Explore the possibility for making culturally necessary exceptions to background checks and professional credentials.

Progress on Strategies

The Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance has made considerable progress since the convening at The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread. Key areas of progress are noted below aligned with 6 strategies identified originally at the Conference.

Strategy 1: Continue to identify challenges and available resources in Wisconsin by re-convening the family support coalition. The coalition will advance work in this plan and in the draft Caregiver Strategy advanced by Wisconsin's Department of Health Services. This coalition will particularly seek to advance work related to expanding respite options, improving supports to families of color, engaging with employers, improving access to information, improving quality of and coordination of supports, and expanding availability of future planning.

The Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance Steering Committee provides overall support and direction to the Alliance's 6 workgroups with a lead focus on promoting outreach and awareness. In addition to establishing template forms and google drive support for each workgroup, steering committee members discuss

progress of groups monthly. As part of its goals to increase awareness and change the dialogue around caregiving issues, the Steering Committee is developing exhibitor materials to showcase the Alliance and related caregiving resources at 4 upcoming statewide conferences that disability, aging and employer audiences.

The Alliance is also assisting the Governor-appointed Wisconsin Women’s Council in hosting Caregiver Community Listening Sessions statewide. As of this date sessions are planned in the following communities: in:

Event Date	Locality	Partner(s)
May 31 (Thurs)	Racine	ADRC of Racine County
June 19 (Tues)	Stevens Point	ADRC of Portage County WisconSibs
June 20 (Wed)	Dodgeville	ADRC of Iowa County
June 26 th (Tues)	Menomonie	The Arc of Dunn County
Date yet to be determined:		
TBD	Eau Claire	The Arc of Eau Claire & ADRC
TBD	Hayward (Sawyer County)	Senior Resources Center, Lac Court Oreilles tribe, ADRC
Sept. TBD	La Crosse	ADRC of La Crosse County
Tentative	Rhineland area	ADRC of the Northwoods

Finally, the Alliance plans a major education and outreach effort for November 2018 with a focus on promoting activities during National Family Caregiver Awareness Month.

Strategy 2: Encourage greater connection among organizations and agencies that support families by creating a workgroup that will explore a key area of need in Wisconsin - respite. The workgroup will seek to create respite hubs at the local, regional, and state level. These hubs will make it easier for people to find and coordinate respite services.

In addition to supporting the expansion and reach of the Respite Care Association of Wisconsin (RCAW), the Alliance will participate in a Technical Assistance Summit hosted by the ARCH

National Respite Network and Resource Center in Madison in June 2018. In preparation for the ARCH National Respite Network Technical Assistance Summit in June, RCAF has partnered with UW Madison School of Nursing to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the current respite care system in Wisconsin. Alliance members will have a significant role in this effort.

Wisconsin's goals for the summit will be to connect policymakers, researchers, family caregivers and statewide partners to exchange knowledge and expertise, leading to the development of a statewide strategy for strengthening the respite care system for Wisconsin families.

Strategy 3: Address the needs of historically underserved communities by analyzing and recommending updates to government agencies to amend current caregiver background check policies to ensure that families can hire the care providers that they want to. The coalition will also improve peer supports and culturally competent programming for families of color by reviewing existing programs to identify ways to fund programs and expand access to peer support resources.

The Background Check workgroup continues to strategize with the state's IRIS Advisory Committee to advocate for changes to IRIS background check policy for participant hired workers. The state is currently reviewing these policies and has expressed commitment to necessary changes.

Since the convening at Wingspread The Arc Wisconsin has been selected to convene focus groups for families experiencing a dual diagnosis of intellectual and developmental disabilities and mental illness. Two focus groups, one in Milwaukee and one in Madison, will be hosted in partnership with the Family Support Research and Training Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago and The Arc of the United States. This opportunity will allow Wisconsin to identify Family Support recommendations to support families with dual diagnosis who are typically underserved.

Members of the Underserved Families workgroup continue to meet monthly at the African American Women's Center, hosted by Parent University. Information provided by panelists at the Wingspread conference are being turned into educational tools and policy recommendations.

Strategy 4: Improve coordination and information-sharing to promote family support by encouraging business association and employers to be partners in supporting family caregivers and by analyzing existing employer resources and making recommendations on promotion strategies for employers.

The Employer Engagement workgroup has developed a survey to employers about supporting their employees with caregiving responsibilities. Plans are to distribute this survey in Spring 2018 with a goal to use the information to develop essential resources. In addition, the workgroup is currently developing an employer recognition program to identify and celebrate Wisconsin employers with best practice caregiver policies and supports. Members of the Alliance shared resources with employers at the Statewide Workplace Wellness Conference in Oshkosh on Friday, April 6.

Strategy 5: Encourage the development of a No Wrong Door system by developing a job description for “Navigators” and “Community Connectors” in the disability and aging systems. These positions will be focused on being a one-stop-shop to support families to connect with meaningful resources.

The Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Alliance Underserved Families Workgroup has developed and is gathering feedback on a Family Navigator job description that builds upon discussion from the convening at Wingspread that focused on the need to better engage families with persons who had “walked in their shoes”. Currently the Department of Health Services is analyzing “No Wrong Door” reforms in the Children’s Long-Term Supports System as a state agency budget initiative for 2019. The Family Navigator position description developed by WFACSA has been shared with the Department.

Strategy 6: Encourage organizations to educate families about future planning and to provide resources to support families to plan for the future by recruiting case managers and service providers to participate in train-the trainer activities to better understand and promote future planning and by presenting on future planning and related tools at annual conferences in Wisconsin.

In November 2017, 30 professionals and parent advocates from across the state met in Stevens Point, WI for a day-long train the trainer session coordinated by The Arc Wisconsin and the University of Illinois Chicago Family Support and Research Training Center. The result of this training was the establishment of The Arc Wisconsin’s Future Planning Network: <https://arcwi.org/2017/10/05/part-wisconsin-future-planning-network/>

The initial cohort of trained Future Planners continue to participate in monthly technical assistance calls and share monthly outreach logs reporting on progress with families they are supporting to develop future plans.

The Arc Wisconsin is partnering with Alliance member TMG to make Future Planning the featured educational topic at Your Meeting Place events statewide including Milwaukee, Eau Claire, Oshkosh and Racine.

Goals for this workgroup now include establishment of billing codes for Future Planning services to ensure future planning supports are available to people statewide through their home and community based services waiver plans.

More Information

For more information on the Alliance check out our website:

<http://wisconsin caregiver.org/alliance>

To contact us about membership send an email to wfacsa@gmail.org or contact Co-Chairs Lisa Pugh Pugh@thearc.org or Lynn Gall Lynn.Gall@dhs.wisconsin.gov