

Summer Planning Guide

Warmer weather means its time to start planning for your child's summer! This newsletter will provide families with resources for finding camps, recreational activities and other school and community-based options for children and youth with disabilities and special health care needs.

Finding Local Programs

If your family works with a service coordinator s/he can help to direct you to programs and activities in your community. You can also talk to staff at your child's school (social worker, therapists or special education teachers) who may be able to connect you to appropriate summer camps, clubs or other programs. Contacting your CYSHCN Regional Center is also a good place to start (see page 3). Talking to families who have a child with similar challenges can be another great way to find programs that are available in your area.

Summer Camps for Children with Special Needs

Below is a listing of overnight and day camp options for children with special needs. Go to the insert to find more details.

- Diagnosis-specific camps, like camp AweSum (for children with a diagnosis of Autism), WI Lions Camp (for children who are blind/visually impaired or deaf or hard of hearing), and camps for children with epilepsy (Camp Phoenix).
- Camps that work on specific skills like a camp for those who use augmentative communication devices (Authentic Voices).
- Camps for children with a range of disabilities, like Easter Seals Camps and Wisconsin Badger Camp.
- Faith-based camps that serve children with special needs (Camp Matz)

Inclusive Summer Camps

Many camps for typically developing children are able to provide supports for those with disabilities. Most YMCA camps will work with families and many school district-based programs offer inclusive programming. In some cases, community agencies (e.g., United Cerebral Palsy) can train camp staff and provide direct support so that children with special needs can be included.



Extended School Year (ESY) Programming

Your child's school can provide services during the summer months if he or she qualifies for extended school year (ESY) programming. Your child's IEP team will need to show that your child will experience severe or substantial regression or has an emerging skill or breakthrough opportunity. Go to the DPI website or call WI FACETS at **1-877-374-0511** to learn more.

Summer Employment for Youth

Starting at age 14, summer employment or paid or unpaid internships may be a great way for your teen to learn more about their interests and explore career options. High school staff may be able to help you find work experiences, job shadowing or volunteer summer service positions.

Recreational Activities

Look for adaptive sports programming like the YMCA's adaptive swimming or adaptive baseball programs (e.g., Miracle League). Special Olympics also schedules many events during the summer.

Go to the Family Voices website
www.familyvoicesofwisconsin.com/camps/
to find links to camps, sports leagues and other options for summer fun.



Did You Know? Now You Know!

Summer Therapy

School Based and Community Based Services



WEB WATCH

For additional resources related to the articles in this newsletter, you can visit the following sites:

National Office of Family Voices

www.familyvoices.org

Family Voices of Wisconsin

www.familyvoicesofwisconsin.com

Special Olympics Wisconsin

www.specialolympicswisconsin.org

Easter Seals Camps

camp.eastersealswisconsin.com

WI Lions Camp

www.wisconsinlionscamp.com

Family Care / IRIS 2.0

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/familycareiris2/index.htm

Does your child receive physical, occupational or speech therapy at school and would you like your child to continue to have therapy during the summer?

As with other summer planning, starting early is critically important to ensure that therapy is available. Once you have found a provider you need to make sure your health plan or WI Medicaid will cover the cost of therapy services.

Comparing School Therapy to Summer/Community Therapy

School Based Therapy

- ◆ Therapy at school is a related service to special education and is provided only if the child needs therapy to function in the educational setting.
- ◆ The amount and type of therapy is determined by the IEP team, with input from families and the child's doctor.

Community Based Therapy

- ◆ Community based therapy (at a clinic, hospital, at home or other setting) focuses on a child's medical and functional needs.
- ◆ A child's doctor, the family and the therapist make the decisions about the amount, type of therapy and how often your child is seen.

Starting the Process

Many community based therapists will set up an initial visit with you and your child, evaluate your child's needs and set goals for the summer. He or she will then need to complete an insurance or Medicaid prior authorization (PA) request. In order for Wisconsin Medicaid to cover therapy the PA must show that it is **medically necessary**.



As a parent or family member, you can participate with the provider in setting goals and making sure they are different from what are stated in your child's IEP for school therapy and that the treatment is medically necessary.

Avoiding Duplication of Services

A common reason for insurance or Medicaid to deny covering therapy is due to a "duplication of services" in the prior authorization request, meaning that the school based therapy is already working on the same goals. It is important to remember that school therapy goals are based on **educational necessity** and community therapy goals are based on **medical necessity**.

To learn more go to the new Family Voices fact sheet called, "Insurance and Medicaid Prior Authorizations" at www.familyvoicesofwisconsin.com/resources/affordable-care-act/family-voices-fact-sheets

Welcome Susan Latton to Family Voices of Wisconsin

It is with great delight that the staff of Family Voices announces that we have hired Susan Latton to be our new Family Leadership Coordinator! Susan has been serving as the Coordinator for Special Initiatives for the Wisconsin Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program since 2012 and has been a key leader for the statewide Family Leadership Strategic Plan and the Leading Together Initiative.

Susan will bring a wealth of knowledge and insight as we continue to build a strong network of family leaders and advocates around the state. Susan will start in early May.



Family Voices Spring Training Schedule

Join us for one of these highly interactive training sessions to learn about supports and services for children and youth with special needs. All sessions are free and a resource binder and meal are provided.

Did You Know? Now You Know! explains resources and services for children with disabilities and special health care needs from birth through young adulthood. Learn about health insurance and how to best use your benefits, Medicaid, long-term supports and community resources.

What's After High School? is a broad overview of the transition to adult life for youth with disabilities and special health care needs. Topics include the role of schools, long-term supports, transitioning to adult health care, legal options and the fundamentals of self-determination.

- ◆ **Milwaukee (Gaenslen School) - April 27, 10:00am - noon** - A *Did You Know? Now You Know!* training. To register contact the Southeast Regional Center at **1-800-234-5437** or **bholman@chw.org**
- ◆ **Eau Claire - May 3, 5:00 -7:30pm** - A *What's After High School* transition training. To register contact the Western Regional Center at **1-800-400-3678** or Rose at **Rmarsh@co.chippewa.wi.us**
- ◆ **Wausau - May 5, 5:00 -7:30pm** - A *Did You Know? Now You Know!* training. To register contact the Northern Regional Center at **715-261-1906** or **Mandy.Myszka@co.marathon.wi.us**



Policy/Legislative Update

Family Care/IRIS 2.0 Concept Plan Goes to WI Legislature

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services submitted their **Family Care 2.0 Concept Plan** to the Joint Finance Committee on March 28th. The Plan outlines proposed changes to the long term care system. It will be reviewed and must be approved by the WI Legislature. DHS will then develop a waiver and/or state plan to be submitted to the federal Centers on Medicare and Medicaid Services. A new FAQ document is available on the DHS website at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/familycareiris2/paper-faq.htm

Achieve a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Accounts

The state of Wisconsin has chosen not to move forward with developing Wisconsin-specific ABLE accounts. However, federal law now allows families and individuals to open ABLE accounts in any state that makes them available. Several states will be launching ABLE accounts in the next few months, including Michigan and Ohio. To learn about different state plans go to www.ndss.org/Advocacy/Legislative-Agenda/Creating-an-Economic-Future-for-Individuals-with-Down-Syndrome/State-ABLE-Programs/ A new FAQ document is available at legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/88/macco/able-explanation-and-faqs/

CYSHCN REGIONAL CENTERS Call with your questions!

Northeast Region

Children's Hospital of
Wisconsin - Fox Valley
1.877.568.5205

Northern Region

Marathon County Health
Department
Wausau
1.866.640.4106

Southeast Region

Children's Hospital
Milwaukee
1.800.234.5437

Southern Region

Waisman Center
Madison
1.800.532.3321

Western Region

Chippewa County Dept of
Public Health
Chippewa Falls
1.800.400.3678

Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council (GLITC)

Lac du Flambeau
1.800.472.7207



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About Family Voices of Wisconsin

Family Voices of Wisconsin (FVW) is a state affiliate organization of the national Family Voices organization and serves as Wisconsin's Family-to-Family Health Information Center. Additionally, FVW is recognized as the Family Leadership Hub for Wisconsin's Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) partnership.

Family Voices focuses its work on health care and community supports in three areas:

- Education and information development and dissemination, including trainings, fact sheets, and newsletters;
- Family leadership activities, including the annual Advocacy for Change institute; and
- Public policy and systems change activities.

Feedback Welcome

We want to make sure that this newsletter is an effective resource for you. If you have any comments, or wish to provide news and information for us to publish, please contact Lynn at Lynn@fvofwi.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AND JOIN THE FAMILY ACTION NETWORK LISTSERV
(join-fan@lists.wisc.edu)

Would you prefer to have this newsletter emailed to you?
Contact Lynn at Lynn@fvofwi.org

Summer Program Listing

Below is a sample listing of camps and program for children and youth with disabilities and special health care needs. Family Voices does not endorse or recommend any of these programs. We encourage families to contact camp staff and talk to them about their child's medical, behavioral or other needs and challenges before enrolling in a program.

Wisconsin Badger Camp - www.badgercamp.org

Wisconsin Badger Camp serves adults and children with developmental, physical, emotional/behavioral disabilities in a residential summer camp setting near Prairie du Chien. The camp has an activity building, wheelchair accessible swimming pool, petting farm, nature center, basketball court, and paved paths.

Easter Seal Camps - camp.eastersealswisconsin.com

Easter Seals has several camp programs including Camp Wawbeek and Respite Camp (both overnight camps) and Camp Kee-B-Waw (a day camp). All camps are held in the Wisconsin Dells and are open to youth and adults with disabilities.

Easter Seals - Wil-o-way Camp - www.easterseals.com/wi-se/our-programs/camping-recreation/?referrer=http://county.milwaukee.gov/WilOWaySummerCamp

Easter Seals of Southeast Wisconsin sponsors several camps, including their summer respite camps for children ages 7-21, and other activities for youth and adults with disabilities/special health care needs.

iCan Bike National Program Summer Camp - asew.org/bikecamp2016

Autism Society of SE Wisconsin hosts this learn to bike camp for children and adults, held in Cedarburg - participants register for a 75-minute session for five consecutive days. (*Volunteers are still needed for summer 2016*).

Camp Lakota - www.diabetes.org/in-my-community/diabetes-camp/camps/lakota

Camp Lakota is an American Diabetes Association sponsor camp (located at the WI Lions Camp in Rosholt). Campers participate in traditional camp activities, gain independence, grow in self-confidence, discover new skills, learn respect for each other and the great outdoors.

Wisconsin Lions Camp – www.wisconsinlionscamp.com

Lions Camps include camp programs for children and adults who are blind or visually impaired or are deaf or hard of hearing as well as for children with intellectual disabilities including autism. WI Lions Camp is in Rosholt (near Stevens Point) and is located on a lake and 400 acres of land.

Camp M.A.S.H. (Make Arthritis Stop Hurting) - www.arthritis.org/wisconsin/juvenile-arthritis/ja-camps.php

Juvenile Arthritis (JA) Foundation hosts a 6-day and a 1-day camp at the Easter Seals Camp, Wisconsin Dells, for children ages 8 - 17. The goal is to build mutual support and encouragement and those with JA.

Camp Listing—Continued

Camp Firefly - www.jcfs.org/campfirefly

Camp Firefly is an overnight camp for children, ages 9-18, who are diagnosed with social disorders, such as Autism, Asperger's, non-verbal learning disorder, Social Anxiety, OCD, or ADHD. The camp is near the WI Dells.



One Step at a Time Camp - www.onestepcamp.org/programs/summer-camp/

One Step at A Time Camp gives kids with cancer and leukemia an opportunity to have fun while enjoying the outdoors, learning new skills and testing their limits.

Camp Phoenix - www.epilepsy.com/get-help/services-and-support/camps/epilepsy-camps#wisconsin

Camp Phoenix is a 1 week overnight camp for children and teenagers with epilepsy. Trained staff, nurses and counselors provide a safe, medically monitored setting.

Below are a few examples of summer programs for youth with special needs:

Authentic Voices of America Camp - www.uww.edu/ce/camps/other-camps-events/authentic-voices

Authentic Voices of America (held at UW-Whitewater) is a camp for teens and adults who used augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) and have the potential for post-secondary education.

Camp Campus - <http://www.uwec.edu/CSD/insights/>

Camp Campus is a one week on-campus university experience for high school juniors and seniors diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome or High Functioning Autism. The camp provides an immersion into college life and is located at UW-Eau Claire. Contact Julia at 715-836-4774 or Kay at 715-836-4054.

Wisconsin Youth Leadership Forum - www.wi-bpdd.org/projects/YouthLeadershipForum.cfm

The WI Youth Leadership Forum is a one week career awareness and leadership training program for high school juniors and seniors with disabilities, sponsored by the Board for People with Developmental Disabilities. The forum is held at Edgewood College in Madison.

Paying for Summer Programming

Below are a few ideas for how families get help paying for summer camp or other summer programs.

- ⇒ **Scholarships:** Talk to camp or program staff about scholarships or other ways to decrease the cost of the program. *Keep in the mind that the earlier you request financial help the better chance you have for being considered for a scholarship.*
- ⇒ **Service Clubs or Charitable Organizations:** Contact local service clubs (Lions Club, Rotary, Elks, Optimists, Kiwanis) to find out if they have grants to help pay for a summer experience for children with special needs. The Children's Miracle Network and other charitable organizations also provide support to families for camps. (see the Easter Seals WI camp application for a sample letter and other ideas at camp.eastersealswisconsin.com/register)
- ⇒ **Paying in Installments:** Some programs may be able to work with families to pay for camp in smaller amounts over time rather than paying the tuition all at once before camp starts.