The New Children’s Community Options Program:
What Does it Mean for Wisconsin Families and How Can Families Have a Place at the Table?

Circles of Life 2016

Liz Hecht
Family Voices of WI
liz@fvofwi.org
What is CCOP?

The Children’s Community Options Program provides funding for community supports for children with significant disabilities and their families.

• Services allow the child to remain in the community

• An individualized assessment identifies the child’s and family needs

• Service plan identifies which services will be used to meet needs.

https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/fsp/index.htm
What is CCOP?

• Like the Family Support Program, CCOP provides a small amount of money to help families support their child with disabilities.

• There is not a menu of services. Funding can be used to meet a family’s needs and identified outcomes for the child.

• Families work with a service coordinator to develop a plan and identify needed supports and services.

• Services can not replace those available through Medicaid, schools or private insurance.
What changed in 2015?

• In 2015 the WI Department of Health Services proposed the elimination of the Family Support Program and the creation of a Children’s COP

• The WI Legislature passed this recommendation into law in July 2015.
  • $.9M (1.9AF) provided to serve children on CLTS wait lists
  • A three percent (3%) CLTS- base budget increase

• Changes became effective January 2016

• Most changes are administrative and allow counties to more effectively use the funding to serve children and families.
Why did this happen?

• The CCOP is the result of merging the Family Support Program (FSP) and the portion of Community Options Program (COP) into a single allocation to counties with one set of requirements for use of the program funding.

• “This was intended to simplify program oversight and eliminate redundant administrative requirements”.

• “Through efficiencies that include one set of statutory requirements, a single advisory board, and streamlining the eligibility and enrollment systems more resources can be directed to an emphasis on qualitative approaches to meeting the needs of children and families without duplicative administrative processes”.

Family Voices of Wisconsin
What does this mean for families?

Families should experience **no change in access or services beyond the two restrictions noted here:**

- Prohibiting funding for room and board in CCOP. (COP could fund room and board, FSP could not); and
- No use of the funds for individuals over age 22. (FSP allowed exceptions for use up to age 24), the statute limits use of program funds to age 22.

- Counties can decide how to implement
FAMILIES AS ADVISORS
Why are families essential allies?

• We know about protecting scarce resources; we manage tight budgets every day
• We can see inconsistencies that professionals may not recognize
• We have valuable information to bring changes to a system – we live the system every day
• We know what works and what doesn’t work.
• We are creative and have great ideas
• We see the inefficiencies and can offer practical solutions
How can I influence implementation of CCOP in my county?

WI law requires every county or administering agency to appoint members to a CCOP advisory committee or appoint an existing committee as the CCOP-AC. The advisory committee is composed of:

- a majority of parents representative of the various disability, racial, and ethnic groups in the service area
- the county department
- school districts,
- local health departments
- community social services social or educational
- Providers of services to children who have disabilities other than the providers specified
The administering agency shall cooperate with the committee to prepare a program plan. The program plan shall include all of the following:

1. A description of the proposed program operations.
2. The estimated number of families that will be assessed and served.
3. A list of specific groups, if any, that will be given priority for available funding.
4. A description of the outreach procedures that will be used to ensure that the program will be made available to children with physical, emotional, and developmental disabilities.
CCOP County Advisory Committee

5. The procedures that will be used to determine family needs.

6. A description of the methods that will be used for the development and monitoring of service plans and for coordinating the provision of services and goods to participating families.

7. A description of the methods that will be used to promote the creation of informal support and advocacy systems for families.

8. A description of the method that will be used to monitor the children’s community options program.

The county then submits the proposed program plan to the department upon approval by the children’s community options program advisory committee.
Examples

“A portion of the FSP funds will be set aside for emergency funds for all families on the waiting list. We will set aside $4500 for emergency situations in 2001. An emergency is defined as the following three possibilities:

1. Family is requesting placement of the child into an institution or foster home.
2. Reunification of the child with his/her birth family can occur if the FSP becomes involved.
3. Child or parent has serious medical emergency or safety issues, which requires immediate response”.

“Crisis is defined as follows:

• A high level of stress in the family resulting in a loss of ability to provide sufficient care to the
• child including, but not limited to; an illness or urgent medial need of a caretaker, financial
• hardship due to lay off, job loss, or natural disaster”.

Family Voices of Wisconsin
Examples

• “X County is planning to use FSP funds as match to the Children’s waivers whenever possible. Some FSP funds will be used to fund items/activities that the Children’s Waivers do not allow. A policy will be developed to address the use of FSP funds.”
Examples

“The Family Support Program Advisory Committee has approved a priority listing for reserved funds and exceptions to a waitlist. In Winnebago County, a family may wait for funds and still have the opportunity to work with a service coordinator to identify natural supports and other community-based funding options.

• The FSP allocates funds on a 12-month basis, first come first serve.
• $16,000 is set aside for emergency use. One-third of $16,000 is released every quarter to meet the waiting list needs.
• $50,000 is set aside for children who will be fully served by Family Support funds
• Remaining FS funds may be used for matching a DD waiver (CLTS, CIP1B)”
How do I apply for membership on my county advisory committee?

• Call your county Human Services office, your CLTS service coordinator or get a listing of county contacts at:
  https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/cop/contacts/counties.htm
Additional resources

• Guidebook for Serving on Groups
  http://www.servingongroups.org/guidebook