



Circles of Life Conference 2023

Conference Workshop Sessions Available for Virtual Attendees

Thursday, May 11, 10:30 – 11:45

A1 - Creating Self-Advocates by Leading Your Own IEP – Melissa Volz - Virtual Session

Students' voices matter! Student-led IEPs are an empowering and engaging way to motivate students to understand and communicate their disability, skills, strengths, and how to self-advocate. This presentation will provide students, parents and educators with the tools and knowledge needed to implement student-led IEPs in their own schools.

A2 - High Expectations: from Birth to Beyond – Heidi Lehman - Virtual Session

One of the 5 beliefs of the College and Career Ready process is High Expectations. Families and IEP teams know how high expectations influence academic achievement and post-secondary independence and explore a shared vision of high expectations for college, career, and community readiness. But High Expectations shouldn't start at age 18. It is important that families, IEP teams, and community partners recognize that High Expectations should be present at an early age and transition planning CAN start at age 3.

Thursday, May 11, 1:30 – 2:45

B7 Wispact Financial Literacy session #1: What you need to know about Long-Term Supports & Services – Virtual Session

Representatives from a variety of agencies, including an Aging and Disability Resource Center, an IRIS Consultant agency, Family Care MCO, and CLTS waiver agency will help participants understand the role of programs and services available in Wisconsin for children and adults with disabilities.

B8 How to Hire, Train, and Retain Respite Providers – Val Madsen – Virtual Session

Caregivers in Wisconsin are often responsible for finding their own respite providers and don't know where to start. In this interactive session, learn about places to look for a respite worker, the interview process, and the available training, along with tips to keep workers longer.

Thursday, May 11, 3:15 – 4:30

C13 - Wispact Financial Literacy session #2: The Myths of Public Benefits - Virtual Session

Presenters will help dispel the myths that are associated with public benefits and how public benefits relate when applying for long-term supports and services.

C14 Mental Health - Children and Youth Programs through NAMI Wisconsin – Megan McLachlan – Virtual Session

The session will provide an overview of some of the NAMI Child and Youth programs that can be accessed by all. These can be a tool for a broad base of people including parents, teachers and school counselors. We will cover programs that can be accessed immediately: our video for all ages, Let's Talk about Mental Illness, the teen discussion Say it Out Loud, and the teen toolkit, Ending the Silence.

Friday, May 12, 9:00 – 10:15

D19 - Wispact Financial Literacy session #3: What you need to know about Special Needs Trusts and ABLE Accounts - Virtual Session

The presentation will explain and explore Special Needs Trusts and ABLE accounts and help families understand Special Needs Trust options and the difference between Special Needs Trusts and ABLE accounts.

D20 - Introduction to the Birth to 3 Program, the Children's Long-Term Support Waiver Program, and other Bureau of Children's Services Programs – Virtual Session

Families will learn about each of the programs, who is eligible for each program, and how a family would access each program that the Bureau of Children's Services operates. The programs that will be presented on include: Birth to 3 Program, Children's Long-Term Support Waivers, Children's Community Options Program, Care 4 Kids, Wraparound Milwaukee, Children with Medical Complexities, and Katie Beckett Medicaid.

Friday, May 12, 10:30 – 11:45

E25 - Fearless Future Planning – Virginia Harrison – Virtual Session

Primary caregivers cannot care for their loved one forever, and having a plan in place for when that time comes can be beneficial to everyone. As a primary caregiver, you know information about your loved one that no one else knows. This session helps families start thinking about planning for a Fearless Future for their loved one.

E26 - Family and Provider Partnerships: Tips to achieve care collaboration among service providers, schools and medical professionals – Suzanne Juzwik, Olen Bowen Graham and Paulette Berthelon – Virtual Session

During this session, families will learn about how ABA & speech therapy can work together to teach communication and how effective collaboration between providers can make a difference for your child. The saying "it takes a village" still rings true. Often providers work in silos, separate from each other. As the parent and advocate for your child, you have the power to ask that providers collaborate and you can help lead that collaboration for better outcomes.