**Community Outreach Wisconsin**

The WIN Program offers a wide range of services to help support individuals with developmental disabilities participating in the Dane County Supported Living Program. WIN nurses serve as consultants to residential and vocational team members, families and health care providers focusing on restoring, maintaining and promoting maximal health and independence for adults with developmental disabilities so they can achieve the best life possible.

The WIN nurses provide individualized consultations with clients, support brokers, and agency staff. We work together to identify and connect with community resources appropriate for individual clients including physicians, therapists and other medical specialists, home health services, and hospice. WIN provides consultation for:

- Nursing assessments
- Training and health education to residential and vocational support staff and family
- Advocacy and planning for end of life care
- Coordination of hospital stays and discharges to facilitate a smooth and positive process
- Healthy living
- Education and advocacy to medical staff in medical settings
- Working together with teams to support individuals with complex medical needs.

**Self-Directed Supports**

The Self Determination or Self-Directed Supports (SDS) program for adults with developmental disabilities is how Dane County provides services for consumers who have an individual budget and a Support Broker.

**Choices**

Choices is a quarterly newsletter written by and for individuals with disabilities in Dane County. We have eight volunteer reporters and two part-time paid reporters who write about a variety of topics. Just like a newspaper staff, we meet when each issue comes out to plan for the next issue and share what we’re working on. We’re always looking to get more volunteer contributors, and are open to proposals for different kinds of content!
Community TIES

Training, Intervention, & Evaluation Services

Community TIES is a UW-Waisman Center behavioral support program serving children/families, adolescents and adults with developmental disabilities (DD). Many individuals served by TIES also struggle with co-occurring mental health issues.

Our mission is “To address behavioral, psychological, and emotional needs using therapeutic approaches that assure continued participation in supported community life.” These needs are commonly referred to as “challenging behaviors.”

TIES activities are a creative blend of various positive practices that have proven effective in meeting complex behavioral and mental health challenges within supported community life.

TIES also serves children, adolescents, and young adults with Severe Emotional Disturbances (SED) - often resulting from trauma at a young age - as well as a small group of individuals with physical disabilities with psychiatric diagnoses.

TIES Outreach Behavior Consultation

TIES Outreach Behavior Consultants offer crucial supports to individuals with developmental disabilities and their community support teams. TIES Consultants can:

- Meet individuals in their homes and workplaces to build rapport and then collaborate with community teams around general best practices in positive behavior support based on the unique needs of the person.
- Develop long-standing relationships with the person and his/her support team through visits at home, at work, and in the community.
- Offer individualized situational counseling and/or facilitate access to other available therapeutic resources (psychotherapy, psychiatry) in the community.
- Write Behavior Support Plans that are focused on holistic and proactive approaches and provide personalized training to care givers.
- Consult around specialized supports (which might include home modifications, restrictive measures or pro-active outreach to law enforcement) to prevent unnecessary out of home placements or hospitalizations.

The supports offered by TIES Outreach Behavior Consultants allow clients with complex challenging behaviors to remain safe, healthy, and integrated into their community.

TIES Clinic

The TIES Clinic offers psychiatric care and consultation to Dane County residents with developmental disabilities who are unable to obtain psychiatric care from other providers due to behavioral issues, medical complexity or their financial situation. The clinic is staffed by psychiatrists who have extensive experience treating both children and adults with developmental disabilities.

TIES Clinic psychiatrists provide both consultation appointments and ongoing psychiatric care, but not psychotherapy. Clinic staff work closely with other COW program consultants who are often active participants at clinic appointments.

Funding for the TIES clinic is obtained from Dane County Human Services (ACS), Medicare, and private insurance and HMOs (when available). Thanks to additional funding through Community Living Alliance, TIES clinic services are also available to a limited number of individuals with physical disabilities and psychiatric diagnoses.

Rhythms

The Rhythms Program strives to enhance the lives of individuals who experience complex sensory and movement differences and those who support them.

The program works directly with a specifically identified group of focus individuals and their teams and employs a creative combination of approaches to support the well-being of the individuals and their teams, including:

- Regulation (for the body and the mind - through sensory integration, yoga, mindfulness, affirmations, exercise, dance, etc.)
- Augmentative communication supports (high tech like iPads and low tech visual systems)
- Time designs of days
- Focusing on everyone’s strengths and interests.

The Rhythms Program also facilitates a monthly learning group and offers other system wide training on these approaches.

Adaptation and Modification

The Adaptation and Modification (A&M) Program creates safe and appropriate home environments to ensure an individual’s continued participation in community life. Projects often focus on making homes - and at times work places - safer for individuals with challenging behaviors and their care givers. Whenever possible A&M uses pre-existing products and always strive to blend any modifications into the current environment.

The A&M program is coordinated in close cooperation with Responsive Solutions Inc.

Crisis Response

Crisis response services are designed to prevent or shorten inappropriate stays in more restrictive settings.

Time-limited supports include:

- Assistance in crisis service coordination - especially if a situation involves contact with law enforcement of emergency mental health practitioners
- Facilitation of an emergency psychiatric consultation through the TIES clinic or through Journey Mental Health
- Access to additional support staff in an individual’s home or work place (in cooperation with Responsive Solutions Inc.)

If these services are insufficient to support an individual safely in his or her home, the use of alternate housing, i.e. a temporary stay at Crisis Response’s “Safe House” might be considered. Crisis Response services are funded to provide services to adult Dane County residents with developmental disabilities.

Training & Consultation

Training and Consultation offers learning opportunities for caregivers, support brokers/case managers, consumers, families, and anyone interested in learning more about related topics in the field of Developmental Disabilities.

Training and Consultation collaborates with state and local agencies to provide high quality, relevant training on best practices in supporting individuals with disabilities living in the community. We collaborate with a variety of disability advocacy groups, state centers, healthcare cooperatives, schools, colleges and the university among others. COW and Waisman Center staff who have extensive experience and knowledge in supporting people with disabilities develop and provide trainings coordinated by T&C to agencies, teams, families, and individuals.

Under the umbrella of the University of Wisconsin, T&C is qualified to offer continuing education hours to social workers.