

WISCONSIN CERTIFIED PARENT PEER SPECIALISTS

Certified Parent Peer Specialists (CPPS) combine knowledge gained from parenting children and youth with social, emotional, behavioral, mental health and/or substance use challenges and training to increase their skills to guide and support other parents or those in a parenting role. CPPS can gain this experience in a variety of ways; it goes beyond those who are biological or legal parents. CPPS focus on maximizing parent support and growth by understanding and responding to individual family cultures, strengths, and needs.

While the role of a CPPS will vary from one family to the next, it generally includes empowering those who are parenting by:

- increasing their knowledge and skills,
- modeling behavior for others,
- holding hope for change and growth, and
- assisting in advocacy and teamwork.

Certified parent peer specialists use their experiences to assist other parents with:

- navigating service and support systems,
- encouraging and understanding the youth's voice, and
- providing peer support through the sharing of their own parenting experience.

The primary purpose of certification is to ensure that people employed in Wisconsin as Parent Peer Specialists, meet high standards of performance as well as:

- ⇒ Creates uniformity of core competencies of practitioners
- ⇒ Ensures professional development, continued education and supervision
- ⇒ Advances uniform standards, scope of practice and best practice
- ⇒ Promotes ethical practice within the profession
- ⇒ Instills confidence with the families served
- ⇒ Allows employers to tap into expanded funding sources

This is a multi-organizational collaboration of stake holders from across Wisconsin and new developments will be posted at www.wicps.org as the program develops.

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