Wisconsin Connections Initiative on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other Developmental Disabilities (DD)

What is Connections?
The Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Program within the Department of Health Services, has been awarded a three year federal grant to create and facilitate a statewide network of autism-related initiatives. Consistent with the CYSHCN goal to assure that children are identified early, receive high quality coordinated care, and that families are supported, Connections provides training and outreach about autism and other developmental disabilities.

What is being done in Wisconsin?
A Community of Practice on ASD/DD (CoP ASD/DD) brings together a wide variety of partners including families, physicians, support groups, agencies and organizations.
- The CoP ASD/DD is a chance to learn about the latest ideas in ASD/DD; a place to learn what other people are doing and to build better connections; and a time to break into smaller groups around a common interest to share work.

What is being done regionally?
The five Regional Centers for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) each bring together a team of dedicated individuals from different points of views and experiences.
- The team works together to identify what resources are in their region and what resources are missing.
The Centers will also host events for families and community members to learn more about ASD/DD and times for primary care providers to learn how to identify and refer children who may need help.

What we want to happen because of Connections?
- Families will get the support and information they need.
- Health care providers will help identify children earlier and refer correctly.
- Community providers and families will be connected in partnership, strengthening the service of supports to families with children with ASD/DD.

How can you get involved?
- Help find resources in your area.
- Attend a local learning event.
- Get involved in the statewide Community of Practice.

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