










Parents Supporting Parents

Wisconsin's Parent Partner Model in Child Welfare



Guiding Principles

The Parents Supporting Parents Guiding Principles are grounded in a family-centered and strengths-based framework and are designed to guide the development and operations of Parents Supporting Parents (PSP) programs at the state and local level. The Guiding Principles apply to all components of the PSP program: peer partner direct services, parent voice at the local systems level, and parent voice at the state systems level.

-  **Families that have directly experienced the child welfare system have insights and information on programming and system improvements that child welfare professionals and other stakeholders don't have.**
-  **Child welfare policies, strategies and services will result in more successful outcomes for children and families when the voice of lived experience is incorporated at all levels.**
-  **Acknowledging the expertise and ideas of parents who have experienced the child welfare system leads to mutual trust and respect between families and the child welfare system.**
-  **Ongoing communication between the child welfare professionals and parents with lived experience is key to building trust, demonstrating respect for expertise shared, and parents' ongoing engagement.**
-  **Engaging people with lived experience leads to new and different insights and provides results that meet the needs of those using the system.**
-  **Inclusion and embracing diversity of individuals, communities and cultures enriches child welfare system improvement work.**
-  **The culture of child welfare agencies and the system must be welcoming and emotionally safe for parents with lived experience to share their insights and stories.**
-  **Those most impacted by racial disparities in child welfare must be engaged as leaders in systems improvement; the child welfare system can address racial disparities and reduce bias by listening to and incorporating their interests, ideas, and concerns.**
-  **The time, expertise and insights of parents with lived experience is of real value to Wisconsin's child welfare system and their contributions deserve compensation.**

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