Respite Care Association of Wisconsin

Start-Up Process

- Respite Care Association of Wisconsin was established in 1987 to:
  - Organize respite care agencies and others interested in respite care for the purpose of sharing ideas and expertise and to provide support for each other.
  - Work closely with the appropriate government agencies and private agencies or groups to insure the continuation and replication of quality respite services.
  - Promote and support the concept of quality in the delivery of respite care.
  - To initiate, sponsor and promote educational programs and research.
  - Provide consultation and disseminate information.
  - In 1999, Wisconsin adopted state Lifespan Respite Care legislation. The state contracted with RCAW to administer the program.
  - In 2008, Wisconsin Children’s Trust Fund contracted with RCAW to administer statewide programming utilizing respite care as a strategy to prevent the initial occurrence of child abuse and neglect.
  - The State of Wisconsin was awarded Federal Lifespan Respite grant funds from 2010-2015. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the grantee of record, contracted with RCAW to administer the program in partnership. In 2017, the State and RCAW are collaborating again to build upon the Lifespan Respite work from the prior years and respond to the changing respite care needs resulting from State and Federal legislation.
  - In 2017, Lisa Schneider was hired as the Executive Director.

Structure

- A 10-person board of directors oversees the program, which is staffed by a part time Executive Director and a full-time Operations Manager.
- RCAW contracts with 5 regional non-profit partners to implement the Wisconsin Lifespan Respite program.

Staff

- Staffing consists of a half-time Executive Director (possibly full time if federal funds are received in 2017) and a full-time Operations Manager.

Funding

- RCAW is funded by state general purpose revenue through the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for the WI Lifespan Respite program, and hopefully by Federal revenue though the Administration for Community Living via the Federal Lifespan Respite Program.

Membership

- RCAW is not a membership organization, but partners with numerous agencies and individuals on a project basis.

Meetings and Communication

- The board of directors meets quarterly. An advisory group for the Federal Lifespan Respite project meets twice yearly. A Project Management Team meets monthly to manage the federal project.
Major Activities

- RCAW provides grant administration and oversight for 5 regional Lifespan Respite projects and 5 regional Child Abuse Prevention projects, information and referral for the general public, technical assistance for respite care programs statewide, training of respite care providers, and advocacy for increased access to respite care in Wisconsin.
- The federal project involves training of respite care providers, creation of a web-based matching service for families and providers, and marketing of RCAW programs and services.

Documents/Resources Available

- Bylaws, project workplans, brochure, website at www.respitecarewi.org, policies, and newsletters.

State Contact Information

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