



WELCOME TO THE Porter County Education Services (PCES) Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)

Town Hall Meeting
March 2024

WHAT IS A SEPAC?

A Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is a district-level (and/or in collaboration with an interlocal that contracts with local districts), parent-driven group that provides input to the local special education provider on system-level challenges regarding special education and related services. A local SEPAC provides direct input to school personnel and leaders about policies, programs, practices, and services that have an impact on students with disabilities and their families.

Its purpose is to advise, advocate and offer guidance, not to decide policy.

An effective SEPAC can increase the proactive involvement of families by inviting their input in ways that can be used to share local special education policy.

WE ARE PARENTS HELPING PARENTS

WHEN WERE WE ESTABLISHED?

- ❖ Our team was created fall of last academic year, under the name *Parent Network*
- ❖ That term has now dissolved as of August 2023
- ❖ We are now known as the *PCES Special Education Parent Advisory Council*

WHO IS YOUR SEPAC TEAM?

- ❖ **Duneland** ~ Jackie Hood & Rebecca Shellito
 - ❖ **East Porter** ~ Jessica Kruger
- ❖ **Portage** ~ Denise Hodges & Niki Ewing
 - ❖ **Porter** ~ Tracy Ruiz
 - ❖ **Union** ~ Amanda Taylor
- ❖ **Valparaiso** ~ Jessica Witherspoon

Special Education Administration

- ❖ **Executive Director** ~ Sandy Bodnar, sbodnar@pces.k12.in.us
- ❖ **East Porter** ~ Cheryl Hoard, choard@pces.k12.in.us
- ❖ **MSD Boone** ~ Cheryl Hoard, choard@pces.k12.in.us
- ❖ **Porter** ~ Cheryl Hoard, choard@pces.k12.in.us
- ❖ **SELF** ~ Jen Rogers, jrogers@pces.k12.in.us
- ❖ **Union** ~ Cheryl Hoard, choard@pces.k12.in.us
- ❖ **Duneland** ~ Morgan Derby, mderby@pces.k12.in.us
Jennifer Bognar, jbognar@duneland.k12.in.us
- ❖ **Portage** ~ Tracy Bauer, tbauer@pces.k12.in.us
Lisa Flynn, lisa.flynn@portage.k12.in.us
- ❖ **Valparaiso** ~ Morgan Derby, mderby@pces.k12.in.us
Chrissy Giraud, cgiraud@valpo.k12.in.us

Special Education Administration

- ❖ **Career & Tech Center** ~ Audra Peterson, apeterson@pces.k12.in.us
- ❖ **M-Team Coordinator** ~ Nikki Fitzgerald, nfitzgerald@pces.k12.in.us
- ❖ **M-Team & Speech Supervisor** ~ Shannon Aardema, saardema@pces.k12.in.us
- ❖ **Speech Coordinator** ~ Alice Tokoly, atokoly@pces.k12.in.us
- ❖ **OT & PT Supervisor** ~ Tracy Bauer, tbauer@pces.k12.in.us

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **Format**
- ❖ **Etiquette**
- ❖ **Cell phone use**
- ❖ **Restrooms**
- ❖ **Handouts**

Medicaid Waivers (HCBS)

HCBS: Home & Community-Based Services



Indiana Family to Family provides information, training, and one-on-one support to Indiana families of children and youth with additional health and education needs, and the professionals who serve them. IN-F2F aims to provide families with tools to make informed decisions, advocate for improved systems and policies, and build partnerships between professionals and families.

www.inf2f.org / 844-F2F-INFO



INDIANA MEDICAID WAIVERS

Indiana Family to Family

Vision - A world in which children and youth who require additional health and educational support thrive.

Mission - Through the power of lived and shared experience, we support families raising children or youth who require additional health or educational assistance by providing answers, resources, practical training, and vital community connections and by advising the professionals who serve them.

What is a Waiver?



Types of Waivers

Family Supports Waiver (FSW)

Community Integration & Habilitation Waiver (CIH)

Aged & Disabled Waiver (A&D), name changing to Health & Wellness Waiver on 7/1/2024

Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver (TBI)

Bureau of Disability Services: Level of Care



FAMILY SUPPORTS WAIVER

Individuals with ID/DD Diagnosis prior to age 22 and likely lifelong in nature

Household assets and income excluded

Set amount of annual funds

Level of Care

Medicaid eligibility

Community Integration and Habilitation Waiver

Individuals with ID/DD diagnosis prior to 22 and whose needs require additional consideration


- Death / Incapacitation of primary caregiver
- Caregiver over 80
- Transition to an HCBS setting from institutional or residential placement
- Imminent risk to self or others in current environment
- Funding based on need




Area Agencies on Aging

- Unstable, Complex Medical Condition
- Assistance with Medical Equipment
- Assistance for Special Routines or Prescribed Treatments
- Need for Medical Observation
- Other Substantial Medical Condition


Aged and Disabled Waiver (A&D)



MEDICAL CONDITION REQUIRING NURSING LEVEL OF CARE




NEED FOR SKILLED CARE IN A HOME SETTING.




APPLICATIONS ARE COMPLETED BY CONTACT TO AREA AGENCY ON AGING


Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver (TBI)



Brain injury after birth



In place of Institutional Care



Apply by contact to local AAA

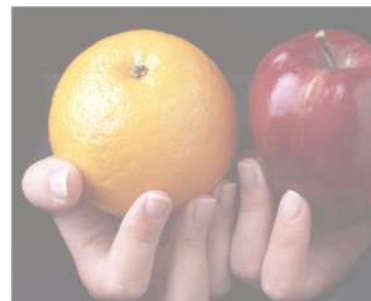
JULY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

www.craftcalendar.com

CHANGES COMING!

Starting July 1, 2024, A&D
will become H&W.
Applications for H&W and
TBI will be submitted to
BDS.



WHAT CHANGES WITH A WAIVER?

Understanding the
difference between
insurance and a
Medicaid Waiver

ACCESS TO SERVICES

Increased Health Care Coverage

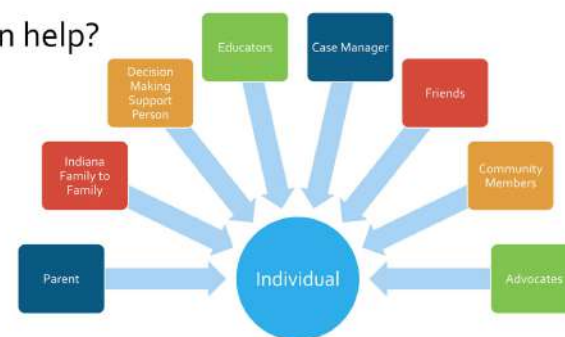
Payment for Caregivers

Family or Caregiver Training

Specialized Medical Equipment

Additional Therapies

Who can help?



Want to know more?



INF2F.ORG



REFERRAL FORM



SOCIAL MEDIA



(844) 323-4636



INFO@INF2F.ORG

QUESTIONS?



We welcome
your
feedback!

Stay Connected

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We share a lot of information online via various outlets. Are you following us? Check out our Linktree link to visit our website, register for our upcoming Virtual Heart to Heart Conference, read our latest newsletter, and check us out on social media.

<https://linktr.ee/infamily2family>

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SUPPORT • EDUCATION • ADVOCACY

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Where To Start?

Bureau of Disabilities Services (BDS)	Area Agency on Aging (AAA); NWICA
Family Supports Waiver (FSW) & Community Integration Habilitation (CIH) Waiver	Aged and Disabled (A&D) & Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waivers
Intellectual and/or Developmental Disability	Complex medical condition
219-981-5313 / 110 W. Ridge Rd (Gary)	219-794-1829 / 5240 Fountain Dr (Crown Pt)
Can call to get application, pick-up application or apply online at: bddsgateway.fssa.in.gov	Can call to get application, pick-up application or complete referral online at: nwi-ca.com
Must meet Level of Care for Intermediate Care Facility for individuals with an intellectual disability	Must Meet Nursing Facility Level of Care
Waitlist Period Currently 2.5 Years (excludes CIH waiver)	Waitlist Times Can Vary

Services

Family Supports Waiver (FSW) & Community Integration Habilitation (CIH) Waiver

Adult Day Services
Behavioral Support Services
Case Management
Community-Based Habilitation
Extended Services
Facility-Based Support Services
Family & Caregiver Training
Intensive Behavioral Support
Music Therapy
Occupational Therapy
Personal Emergency Response System
Physical Therapy
Prevocational Services
Psychological Therapy
Recreational Therapy
Respite
Specialized Medical Equipment & Supplies
Speech/ Language Therapy
Transportation Services
Workplace Assistance

Aged and Disabled (A&D) & Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waivers

Adult Day Service
Adult Family Care
Assisted Living
Attendant Care
Self-Directed Attendant Care
Case Management
Community Transition
Environmental Modifications
Environmental Modification Assessments
Health Care Coordination
Homemaker
Home Delivered Meals
Nutritional Supplements
Personal Emergency Response System
Pest Control
Respite
Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies
Structured Family Caregiving
Transportation
Vehicle Modifications

Medicaid Waiver Process

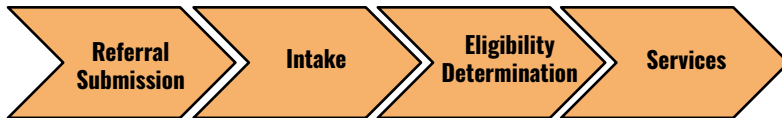


Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-9_WZmlOtA

Vocational Rehabilitation Process



Indiana VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
Empowering People. Changing Lives.

Vocational Rehabilitation Online Referral

This statewide program helps youth and adults with disabilities or chronic medical conditions to:

- Explore employment and career options
- Find a job
- Keep a job
- Return to employment after a serious injury
- Get a better job or pursue a career pathway

Individuals can refer themselves or others using our online platform.

If your disability or chronic medical condition interferes with reaching your employment goals, Vocational Rehabilitation can help! Scan here to get started today! →

INDIANA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION | VRS.IN.GOV

Questions?



www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/rehabilitation-employment

P: (219) 462-0521

Valparaiso Branch

General Resources

- NWI First Steps - indianafirststeps.org
- IN*SOURCE - insource.org
- NWI Community Action - nwi-ca.com
- Area Agencies on Aging - in.gov/fssa/da/area-agencies-on-aging/
- BDS - in.gov/fssa/ddrs/developmental-disability-services/
- Social Security - ssa.gov/benefits/disability/
- Vocational Rehabilitation - in.gov/fssa/ddrs/rehabilitation-employment
- Family to Family (Indiana) - inf2f.org/
- The Arc of Indiana - arcind.org
- Indiana Department Of Education - in.gov/doe
- IEP Technical Assistance Center - iepta.org

Wrap-Up Announcements

- ◆ This is our **FINAL** Town Hall for this academic year
 - Share ideas you have for next school year
 - Thoughts on changing name of our meetings from Town Hall to Community Meeting for next academic year
 - How can SEPAC assist
- ◆ Onsite assistance in completing Medicaid Waiver application
- ◆ SEPAC Parent Representative Vacancies
 - If interested in learning more about joining SEPAC, connect w/Parent Representative tonight
- ◆ End-of-year parent survey

CONTACT US

PCES Special Education Parent Advisory Council

✉ - pcesparentgroup@pces.k12.in.us

 - www.pces.k12.in.us/sepac/

 - www.facebook.com/PCESSEPAC