

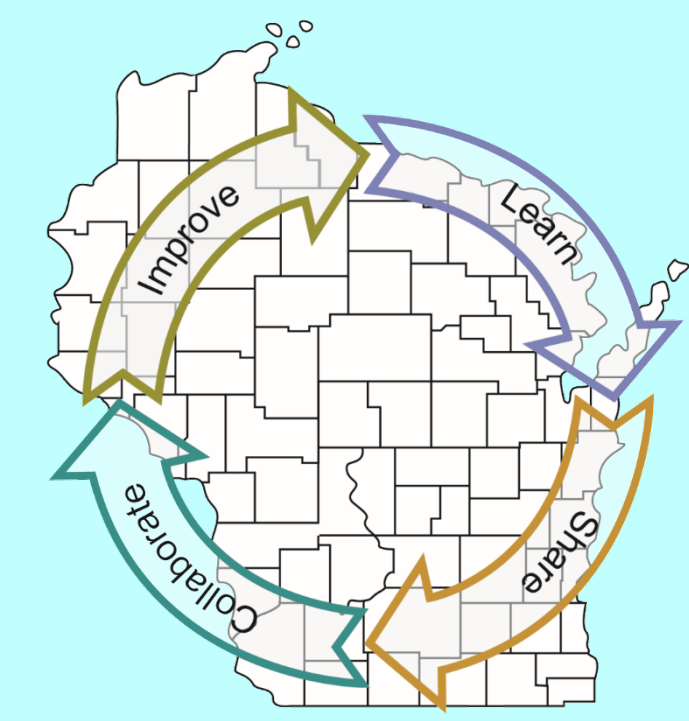
Wisconsin's Community of Practice (CoP) on Autism Spectrum and other Developmental Disabilities (ASD/DD): **Leading Change Together** for Over 10 Years

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Leading

Autism State Implementation Grant: 2008-2011 "Connections"



Funding: \$300,000 per year from Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) to the state Title V Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) program to implement a state plan, plus in-kind staff contributions.

Key elements for startup and sustainability: coordinator on staff, shared leadership, quarterly meetings, current topics, quality venues, food, family stipends, Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND involvement).

Community of Practice

Steering Team: Three (3) concurrent parent and professional co-chairs. Steering team meets by phone 3 times yearly and in person once each year to review annual survey results, plan upcoming year partnerships, focus and topics for CoP ASD/DD gatherings

Steering Team and CoP ASD/DD Participants:

- Family members and self-advocates
- Teachers/educators
- Clinicians
- State and county public health program staff
- Researchers
- Representatives from regional and state parent organizations



Change

What We Did:

CoP ASD/DD Gatherings:

- 3 times per year (Fall, Winter with multisite distance options, Spring)
- Half-day to full-day, location varies
- Ad hoc program planning group determines structure and content/speakers for each meeting
- Partner organizations provide sponsorship (food, venue, travel costs)

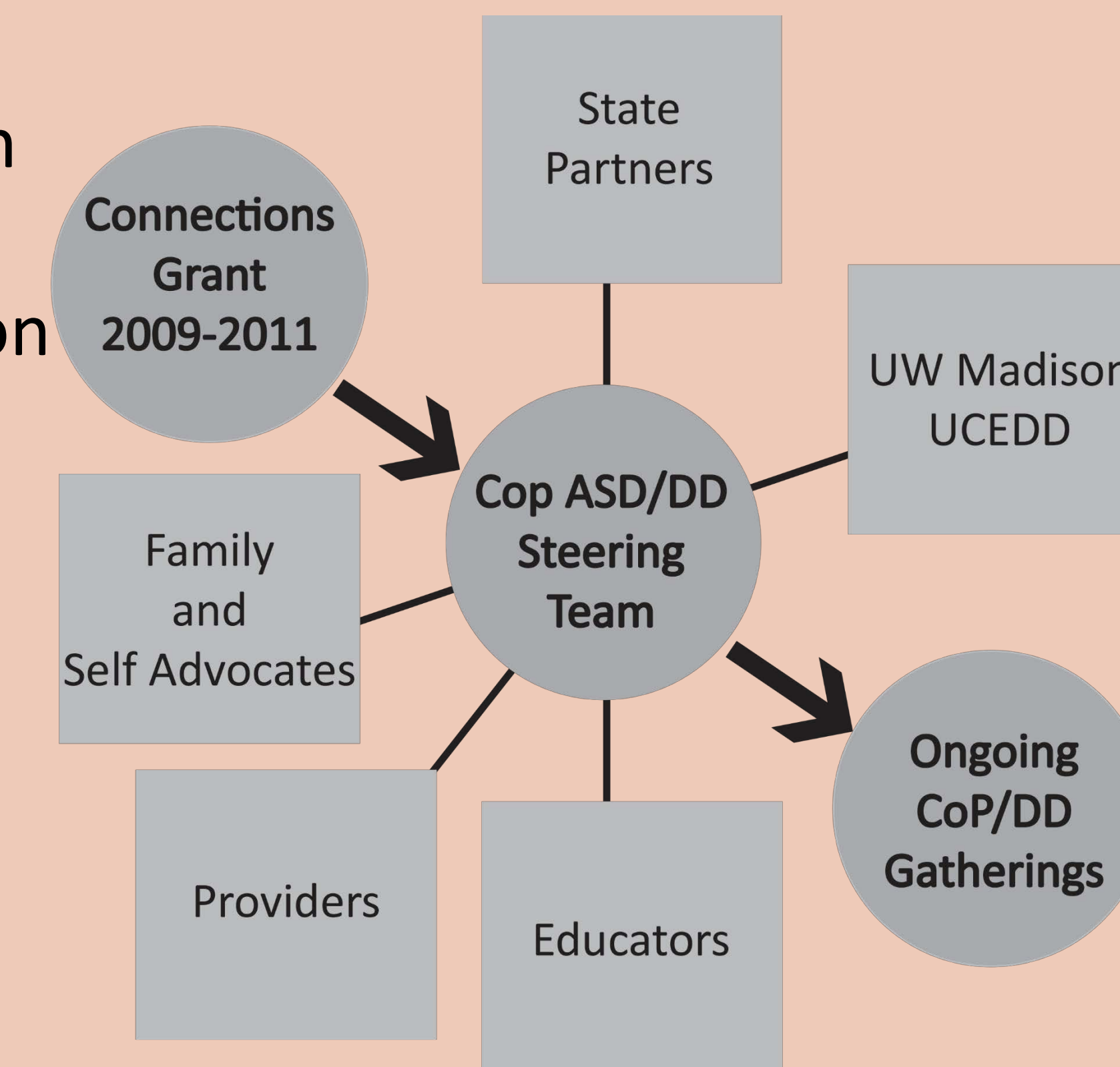
Topics for Community of Practice educational events

- Educational Supports (7)
- Family and Community Supports (including safety/law enforcement) (6)
- Transition to Adulthood (5)
- Mental and Behavioral Health (5)
- Self-Advocacy (2)
- Various (e.g. early identification, diagnostic practices, care coordination) (8)

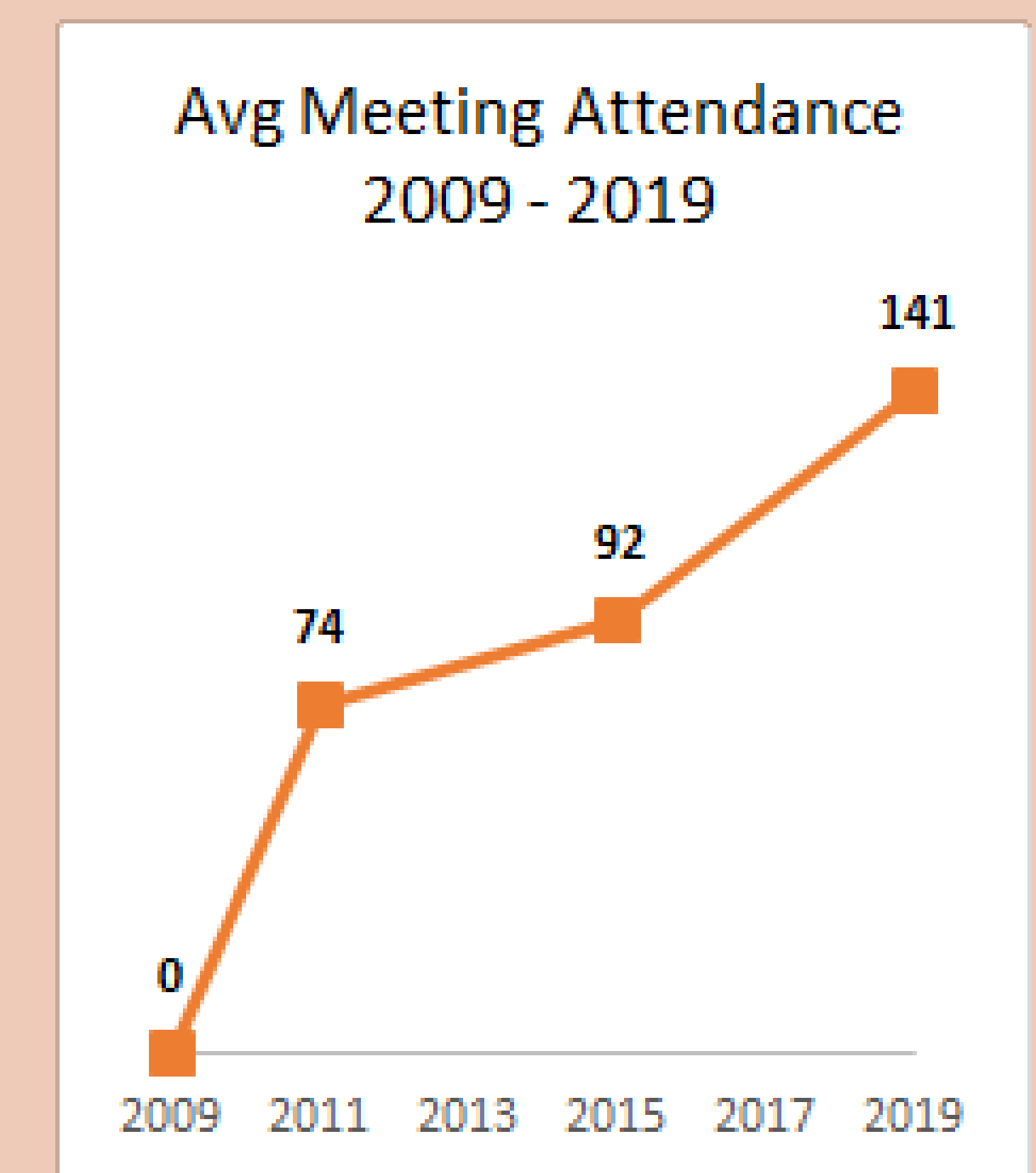
Together

Key Partners

- Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Title V CYSHCN Program
- Waisman Center (LEND, UCEDD) University of Wisconsin – Madison
- Autism Societies – Southeast Wisconsin, Greater Wisconsin, Southern Wisconsin
- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Special Education
- Wisconsin Statewide Parent Educator Initiative
- Cooperative Educational Service Agencies in Wisconsin regions
- Family Organizations (Wisconsin Family Ties, Family Voices of Wisconsin)
- Mental Health Agencies and Organizations
- Law Enforcement Agencies



Annual Participation



Collective Impact Works

As demonstrated using the elements of the "Collective Impact(1)" Framework:

Common agenda –

while services for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders has provided a common focus, the perspective of families and people with different disabilities was included from the beginning and remains as an important theme, increasing impact on all service systems for CYSHCN

Measuring results consistently –

the common measurement has been the annual participant survey, sent to all members of the CoP ASD/DD listserv, annual response rate averages 100 (80-120)/year

Mutually reinforcing activities –

CoP on ASD/DD aligns activities and provides complimentary content to conferences and training provided by partner organizations

Continuous communication –

email and face-to-face meetings are critical for maintaining relationships and engagement, also use a YouTube Channel and website for the CoP on ASD/DD

Backbone organization(s) –

Waisman Center UCEDD/LEND at UW-Madison in partnership with CYSHCN programs, parent organizations and autism societies have continued to provide the time and infrastructure support to sustain CoP on ASD/DD activities

Annual Survey Comments

- *I have a greater understanding of the services available and the process to help families access [ASD/DD services].*
- *I wish I could attend every {meeting} because I would.*
- *I was able to come away with a wealth of knowledge that was helpful to pass on to others on my team as well as to callers.*
- *Don't go away!*