

LIVED EXPERIENCE PARTNERS

WISCONSIN OFFICE OF
CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

LIVED EXPERIENCE DEFINED

A person with lived experience understands first-hand the unique life journey of people with mental health, substance abuse, trauma, or special needs. They use their perspectives to make systems better. Lasting transformation occurs when these wise voices are welcomed and heard.

WHAT LIVED EXPERIENCE LEADERSHIP LOOKS LIKE

- **Seeking feedback** from program participants.
- **Hiring** persons with lived experience.
- **Involving** people with lived experience in workgroups.
- Allowing clients to **help decide** how a program looks and feels.
- **Recognizing the expertise** of someone with personal experience.



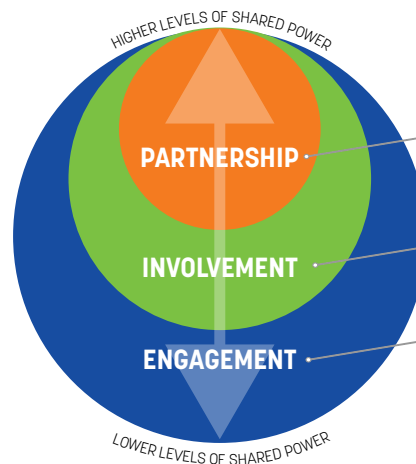
See how you can bring lived experience leadership to your work at children.wi.gov!

WHY INCLUDE WITH PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE?

People with lived experience provide an authentic perspective that contributes to a deeper and richer understanding of mental health needs and service gaps. They use their voice and perspective to transform systems to better serve children and families. Intentionally partnering with lived experience leaders is the key to:

- Building equity and reducing barriers to care.
- Empowering individuals who demonstrate resiliency in their journey.
- Demonstrating that hope and recovery are possible for all families.

MOVING TOWARDS PARTNERSHIP



Youth and families have equal power, input and investment in mutually agreed upon outcomes.

Youth and families are invited to participate or contribute to some portions of a larger project or goal.

Youth and families are consulted, typically in an extremely time bound, sporadic manner.

Adapted from NCTSN and the TIPs Center.

Participation from those with lived experience helps us develop the best programs to meet people's needs.

- Collective Impact Team Member



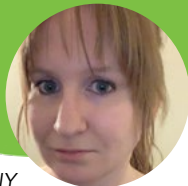
Wisconsin Office of
**Children's
Mental Health**

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BUILD CONNECTIONS AND CAPACITY TO CREATE SYSTEMS CHANGE



I feel better connected to services and feel valued in providing input to hopefully help other families.



JANELLE MONEYPENNY,
Parent Lived Experience Partner, Eau Claire County

OCMH LIVED EXPERIENCE PARTNERS



OCMH Lived Experience Partners are young people aged 16 to 26, or parents and caregivers who understand first-hand the **unique life journey of people with mental health, substance abuse, trauma, or special needs**. By sharing our stories and ideas with organizational leaders and peers we **influence system change and promote equity**.

SHARE YOUR EXPERT INSIGHTS



Lived Experience Partners benefit from:

- Introductory **training** on telling your story, serving on groups, and systems thinking.
- Regular **connection and mentorship** from like-minded peers across Wisconsin.
- Meetings focused on **improving the mental health system**.
- Opportunities to **share your ideas** with state leaders.
- Using your voice to help **break down stigma** and **empower others**.

YOUR EXPERIENCE, YOUR STORY MATTERS



Agency professionals need help recognizing why programs and services don't work and need advice on how to make things better for families. **Your unique experience gives you the opportunity to inspire change** by sharing how services, programs, and systems actually play out.



WE NEED YOU!

[Sign up to serve as an OCMH Lived Experience Partner at children.wi.gov.](http://children.wi.gov)