**DSPD Respite Grant Overview**

UPWSA has long been a leader in disability innovation in the state of Utah. Besides our nationally recognized PWS medical clinic that has changed the health outcomes of individuals with PWS throughout the state, we have helped pass legislation making guardianship easy and affordable and helped pass the recent caregiver compensation legislation. Most notably, we have by necessity provided creative and effective mechanisms for caring for those with PWS among our population because our children are so medically complex and experience such severe behavior issues. We have become adept at identifying crucial characteristics needed for successful respite and supported living providers. We are eager to take this expertise to the next level to help solve the gap in service for so many on the DSPD waiver.

For this pilot project, the Utah Prader-Willi Syndrome Association (UPWSA) has developed and is implementing a recruitment and training program for up to 20 interns. The interns will be paid and will receive hands-on training, a certificate, and potential college credits. Upon completion of training, the interns will transition to provide direct services in the form of respite and supported living services for up to 4 individuals each for a total of 80 individuals receiving DSPD services, or up to 3,200 hours a month in specified urban and rural areas throughout the state of Utah. The grant will provide transportation stipends as needed. UPWSA is creating training modules, videos and the infrastructure that can later be implemented in other universities and community training programs throughout the state.

UPWSA’s connections are strong statewide, including rural communities. These connections will help ensure the success of the program for 2024 and beyond.

The Tanner Dance Program at the University of Utah will provide training in its beautiful new building for this pilot certification and matching program. The training will happen on April 15-20, with afternoon slots on the 15-18, from 12:00-4:00 (you choose at least one day), an optional exciting dinner on Friday evening April 19th, with the cast of Finding Nemo Jr., A world class conference on April 20th form 9-3, and two complimentary tickets to Finding Nemo Jr., production by the Elevate Theater Company, on April 27th (matinee or evening performance tickets available)

Tanner Dance will also help develop the training modules and videos using their extensive knowledge of disability pedagogy and videography expertise. Tanner Dance is celebrating its 75th year of providing quality arts programs in Utah and for over 35 years they have been a community leader of disability instruction and inclusion. In 2016, the disability arts program was expanded to serve adults with intellectual disabilities through their Learning and Engaging through Arts Discipline and Development (LEADD) fine arts, literary arts, service learning and science day programs, as well as the Elevate musical theater program.

This project will launch numerous trained interns into respite and supported living services, many of whom will remain for years. Interns will gain a broader perspective of disability awareness and inclusion and hundreds of individuals being served by the Department of Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD) will have access to their communities, a sense of friendship with the interns, and the families will receive much needed respite.

We will recruit interns from such areas as*:*

‐ Special Education

‐ Social Work

‐ Occupational Therapy

‐ Developmental Psychology

‐ Physical Therapy

‐ Recreation Therapy

‐ Exercise and Sports Science

‐ Disabilities Studies

‐ Bennion Center AmeriCorps Program

‐ Health and Nutrition

‐ Lifelong Learning Department

‐ Current Paraprofessionals

‐ Siblings of individuals on the DSPD Waiver

The interns will complete an application prior to being accepted into a paid training/certification program. Upon completion of the training, they will submit paperwork to become a paid provider for respite and supported living services for individuals on the DSPD Home and Community Based Supports Waiver who live in the intern’s geographic area.

The interns selected for the program will receive a $1,000 stipend upon completing training and matching with DSPD individuals on the waiver in the urban area of Salt Lake County. They will then be paid as a respite or supported living provider under the Self-Administered Supports Model (SAS) of DSPD through the individual’s fiscal agent. If the intern lives and serves in a rural area, they will receive an additional $500 stipend to offset travel expenses required to complete the training. Interns will be paid one-half the stipend amount after the April training and conference, and half after working at least 2 hours a week from April 22 through June 30 2024 with an individual on the DSPD waiver. Interns are encouraged to continue employment after the June 30th date. Interns may also receive college credit through independent study in their corresponding university departments.

Parents:

UPWSA and its partners will develop training modules and/or videos to help families and SAS employers complete the process of matching with and hiring interns to provide respite and supported living services for individuals on the DSPD waiver.

*Training for the SAS employer will include:*

‐ Training matched interns in ways that are specific to the individual to be served to include developing individualized Service Specific Orientation training such as medical needs, dietary restrictions, physical needs, and what respite activities are desired.

‐ A video with various families showing how they overcame the hurdle of accepting an intern provider into the privacy of their home and into their child’s life to provide respite and supported living services. Many families are hesitant to accept help even when it is needed and the funding is available. Ameliorating caregiver burnout is essential but many caregivers are reticent to accept necessary help for a variety of identifiable and understandable reasons, which reasons this video will explore and then provide solutions.

‐ How to complete Employer forms to become a SAS employer if needed.

‐ How to complete employment forms to hire the interns under the Self-Administered Services Supports (SAS) model. Families will be instructed that they can keep their Agency-Based Provider Services in combination with the SAS Services.

‐ How to select and sign up for a Fiscal Agent if needed.

‐ How to ensure staffing requirements are adequate to meet the individual’s needs.

‐ How to access transportation for the individual to meet their intern for support services.

‐ How to identify traits and skill sets in the intern to bolster the success of the match, ensuring the intern is familiar with the needs of the individual, the respite goals, and any specific need of the individuals.

‐ How to work with support coordinators to ensure the match is consistent with the Person-Centered Supports Plan.

**4.** **Training, Conference, and Matching Process**

During the training process, interns will rotate through LEADD and Elevate Theater classes at Tanner Dance. To establish a comfort level working with individuals with disabilities, interns will receive side by side mentoring by trained teachers at Tanner Dance that will instill confidence and a higher level of expertise when they are matched with individuals on the DSPD waiver.

UPWSA will host a day-long weekend conference for all interns at Tanner Dance. We will provide a wide array of presentations from professionals in the field of working with individuals with disabilities. The conference will include interaction with other interns and LEADD and Elevate students will share their achievements through musical and dance performances.

At the end of the conference, UPWSA will assess the special skills of each intern and help them match with up to four families within a close geographic distance. For example, if an individual’s Person-Centered Supports Plan includes participating in physical activity in the community, UPWSA will match them with an intern from recreational therapy or physical therapy programs.

As part of this process, interns and SAS employers will meet to identify successful matches for employment. SAS employers may have more than one intern matched to them based on the needs of the individual receiving DSPD services.

UPWSA will guide SAS employers and interns through the application process - completing forms, background checks, and the required hiring paperwork.

Once the interns and families complete the application process, interns will start providing services to the individual receiving DSPD funding. The intern will be paid according to the DSPD respite or supported living service code for which they are hired. The grant will provide reimbursement as needed for travel time and the cost of travel itself for the intern. The grant will also pay for transportation of individuals on the DSPD waiver to their matched intern.

**5. End of Program gathering of information**

At the end of June UPWSA will award completion certificates and the second half of the stipend. UPWSA will notify academic departments of internship completions. UPWSA will conduct end of program interviews and evaluations with interns, participating families, and Tanner Dance. The evaluation will assess patterns of service successes and failures and identify improvements or modifications for future phases. If the match is successful, interns will continue employment with the individuals on the waiver. Feedback will be documented and shared with other organizations that will implement this program.

**Outcomes**

Up to 20 new interns will receive certified training at the site of Tanner Dance at the University of Utah and will begin providing 800 to 3,200 hours a month of respite or supported living services to up to 80 individuals receiving DSPD services under the DSPD Self-Administered Services Model in urban and rural areas in Utah.

Outcomes will be measured by the number of interns recruited, the number of interns who complete the training process, the number of DSPD individuals recruited, the number of interns matched to DSPD individuals, the number of interns hired, the number of respite and supported living hours provided per month by the interns, and the length of retention of employment of the intern. A qualitative survey will be administered to the interns and families on the effectiveness of the certification and matching Process.