

Families Partner with Pediatric and Family Medicine for Quality Improvement in a Medical Home



Unit Manager
Integrated Community Services, Indiana State Department of Health



Angela Paxton, BS
Parent Consultant
Indiana University School of Medicine

Angela Paxton holds a BS in ceramic engineering from Alfred University and worked in quality control in the manufacturing industry. This along with her experience as a parent and advocate for her daughter, Madeline, helps her contribute to the quality improvement efforts of Indiana's Medical Home Resource Team. When Madeline was diagnosed with Cornelia de Lange Syndrome, Angela learned to navigate different systems including early intervention, special education and family support. She founded a playgroup for children with special needs and helped facilitate Everybody Counts, a school program that teaches children about tolerance and acceptance. Currently, she is in AMCHP's Family Scholar Program and the Parent Consultant for the Medical Home Resource Team. Angela resides in Carmel, IN with her husband and 2 daughters. It is her role as a mother for her younger daughter with special needs that led her from a quality engineering career to one in maternal and child health.



Nancy Swigonski, MD, MPH
Associate Professor of Pediatrics
Indiana University School of Medicine

Dr. Swigonski received her MD from the Univ. of KY. She completed an internship and residency in Pediatrics at the IN Univ. School of Medicine. She moved to Cleveland where she taught pediatric residents at Case Western Reserve University and had a private practice. She returned to IN Univ. to complete a health services research fellowship at the Regenstrief Institute for Health Services Research and complete her Masters in Public Health. Dr. Swigonski belongs to the faculty of the General and Community

Pediatrics and Public Health, and is an affiliate scientist of the Regenstrief Institute. She serves on many national and state boards including the AAP's Medical Home Initiative Project Advisory Committee. She is co-PI of the Anne E. Dyson Community Pediatrics Training Initiative. Her research interests include underserved populations, access to health care, quality of health care, educational methods during residency and postgraduate training, and evaluation of Medical Home.

The Parent-to-Parent Approach: Effective Peer Support for Families with Children Who Have Special Health Care Needs



Irene Nathan Zipper, PhD, MSW
Director, Family Support Program
School of Social Work

Irene Nathan Zipper directs the Family Support Program at the School of Social Work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, which includes the University Office of the Family Support Network of North Carolina. This office provides technical assistance to 16 local affiliates across North Carolina, manages the Central Directory of Resources, an Information and Referral service for families and service providers, engages in policy planning and development, and develops model programs, all focused on promoting and providing support for families with children who have special needs. The program is an Alliance Member of Parent to Parent USA.



Susan Atkins, BA
Washington State Parent to Parent Coordinator
Washington State Parent to Parent Program

Susan Atkins is the Washington State Parent to Parent Coordinator. She is the mother of three girls, one of whom was born with Down Syndrome 28 years ago. She has been in a variety of relevant roles: a new parent matched with a peer mentor parent, a trained volunteer peer mentor; she established a 501-C local county program, was the coordinator of a local county program, and now coordinates the Washington State network of parent to parent programs. Her program is part of the Arc of Washington State and an Alliance Member of Parent to Parent USA. Ms. Atkins is a member of the Board of Parent to Parent USA.