



Kalamazoo Wraps Conference Attendance Selection Procedure

Youth with serious emotional disorders and their parents are occasionally offered the opportunity to attend state and national conferences in order to learn more about systems of care and develop leadership skills. This ensures parent and youth voice in the Kalamazoo Wraps implementation process. In order to be considered for an opportunity to attend, you must be either a parent/caregiver of a youth with a serious emotional disorder OR a youth with a serious emotional disorder.

Efforts will be made to inform potential candidates about upcoming opportunities as soon as possible, via the advisory groups, the workgroups, direct communication, and other means. In many cases registration deadlines exist, so timeliness is important.

Interested parties must fill out the Conference Attendance Application and submit it to Advocacy Services for Kids. From there, the applications for any given conference will be compiled and provided to either the Parent Advisory Group (for parent applicants) or the Calling All Youth (for youth applicants). These advisory groups will review the applications and make a recommendation to the Kalamazoo Wraps Co-Project Directors.

Project Directors will discuss the recommendations and weigh these, along with any other pertinent information such as input from workgroup chairs, at the biweekly Co-Project Director/Co-Principal Investigator meeting. Together they will decide on the best candidate, agreeing with the recommendations from the advisory group whenever possible.

Some things that will be taken into consideration during the decision-making process are:

- Past involvement with the System of Care
- Past conference attendance
- Guidance or recommendations about attendance from the funding agency (US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)
- Level of applicant's participation on Kalamazoo Wraps Workgroups
- For youth invitees, priority will be given to youth between the ages of 7 and 17

Candidates will be informed of their selection by the Co-Project Director as soon as possible after the meeting so registration and travel arrangements can be made. Applicants who are not selected will be sent notification within 7 days of the decision.