

# Next Step Clinic: A Family- and Community-Centered Model for Serving the Underserved

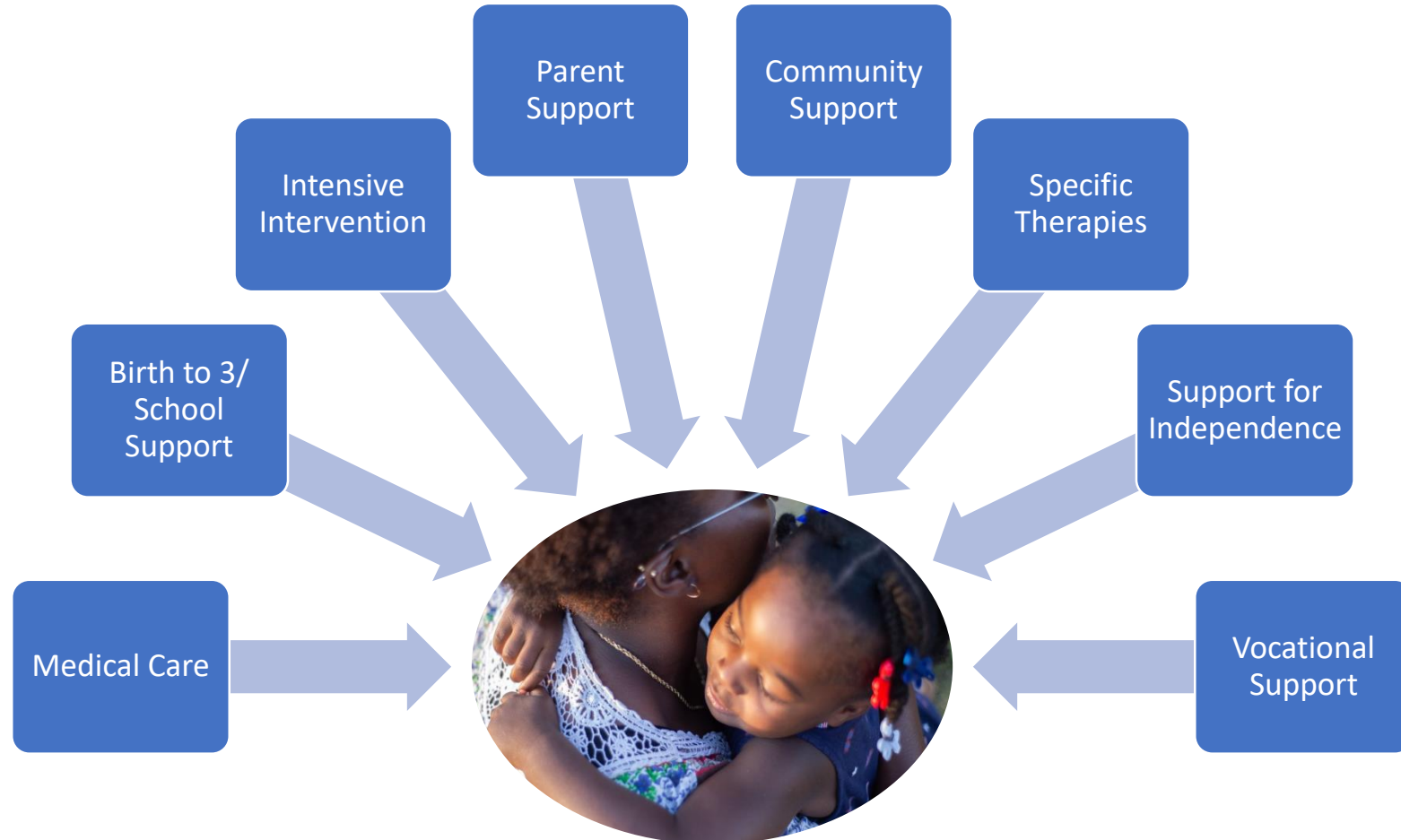


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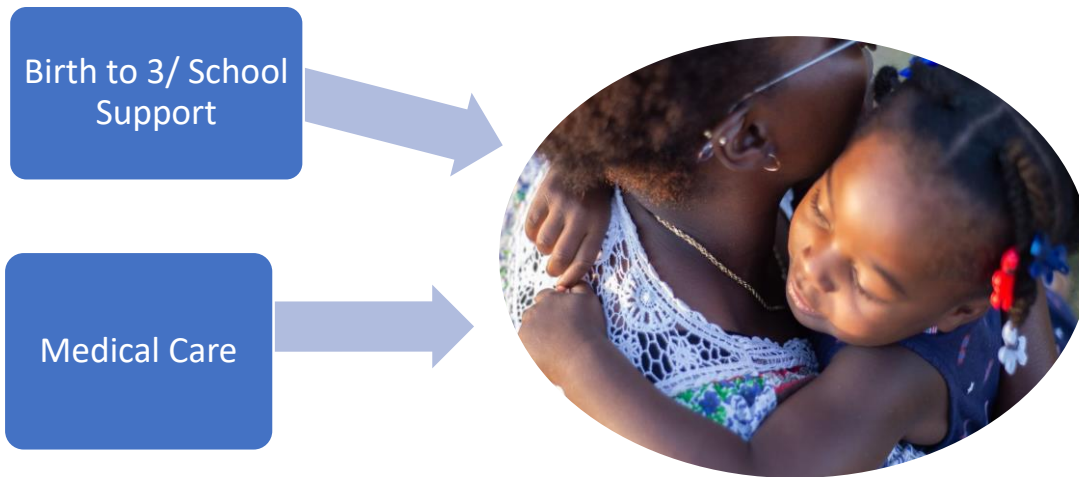
*A partnership between Marquette University, Mental Health America of WI, Milwaukee Coalition for Children's Mental Health, Next Door Foundation, True Love Baptist Church and General Baptist State Convention of WI, MIRACLE Network, MATC, United Way/Milwaukee Succeeds, UWM Institute for Child and Family Well-Being, Alverno College, Medical College of WI, Children’s Hospital of WI, and the Greater Milwaukee Foundation.*

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# What Does Full Support for Autism Look Like?



# What is the Reality?



# Who Gets Early Diagnosis and Treatment in Wisconsin?

*Specific groups of children are the least likely to be served*

- • **Diagnosis:** Autism diagnosable at 15 months, but about 1/3 of children not evaluated by 3 years
  - Black, Hispanic, and rural children are identified even later
  - Black children more likely to be misdiagnosed
- **Treatment:** WI has a relatively rich system of autism services within AND outside of the school context. *BUT:*
  - Some children are undetected until they enter school.
  - Some children go from Birth to 3 to school, missing the **medical** autism diagnosis.
  - Medical diagnosis is needed for intensive services.
  - Children of color and rural children are almost 4 times more likely to not start autism treatment until after the age of 4, compared to suburban, white children.
- Exacerbates disparities in outcomes and support needs for children of color and rural children.

# What barriers do children face?

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Not knowing the "inside" information

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No, Late, or Inaccurate diagnosis

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Loss of faith in medical systems of care

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Lack of access to treatments and support

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Fear, stigma, and discrimination

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Lack of access to trusted clinicians

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Disciplinary school to prison pipeline instead of supportive pipelines

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Loss of human potential

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Poverty and isolation

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Children and families' strengths not being realized

# Next Step Clinic: A New Model

- Located within a trusted community partner and Early Childhood Education Center in the central city of Milwaukee. Next Door Foundation
- Clinic values and services provided are vetted by a paid Community Advisory Board that meets monthly
- Addressing shortage of providers by training clinicians of the future
  - Clinical and School Psychology, Nursing, Social Work, Pediatrics Residents, Dentistry
- Children ages 12 months-12 years referred by pediatricians, Birth to 3, church ambassadors, schools, foster care workers, self-referrals
- Community-Academic Partnership Model

# Next Step Clinic: Services Offered



- Family Navigation
- Screening and Diagnosis for Autism
- Therapy services
  - Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), Partnership with the UWM Institute for Child and Family Well-Being
  - Compassion and Resilience Training for Caregivers
- Telehealth

# Impact of Family Navigators: *A Vital Connection to the Community and an Investment in our Children*

Similar providers are:  
Peer Specialists, Community Health Workers, Community Health Ambassadors, Promotoras de salud

Screening	Screening children; promoting developmentally-appropriate activities parents can do with their child/ren
Empowerment	Providing information on services/supports available, building on families' strengths; hearing their feedback and changing processes
Access	Helping families access the medical diagnosis of autism for their child; actively partnering with families in developing plan of care; Care Plan/Feedback Plan examples
Coordination	Assisting families in accessing and coordinating services for their child and family, in school and at-home, before a crisis happens
Community Education	Educating the community about the importance of early screening, evaluation, and services - the ripple effect; building community; Churches example
Reducing Stigma	Addressing fears of diagnosis and concerns about "labels"; modeling strengths-based thinking around children's development/diagnoses; building resilience and trust

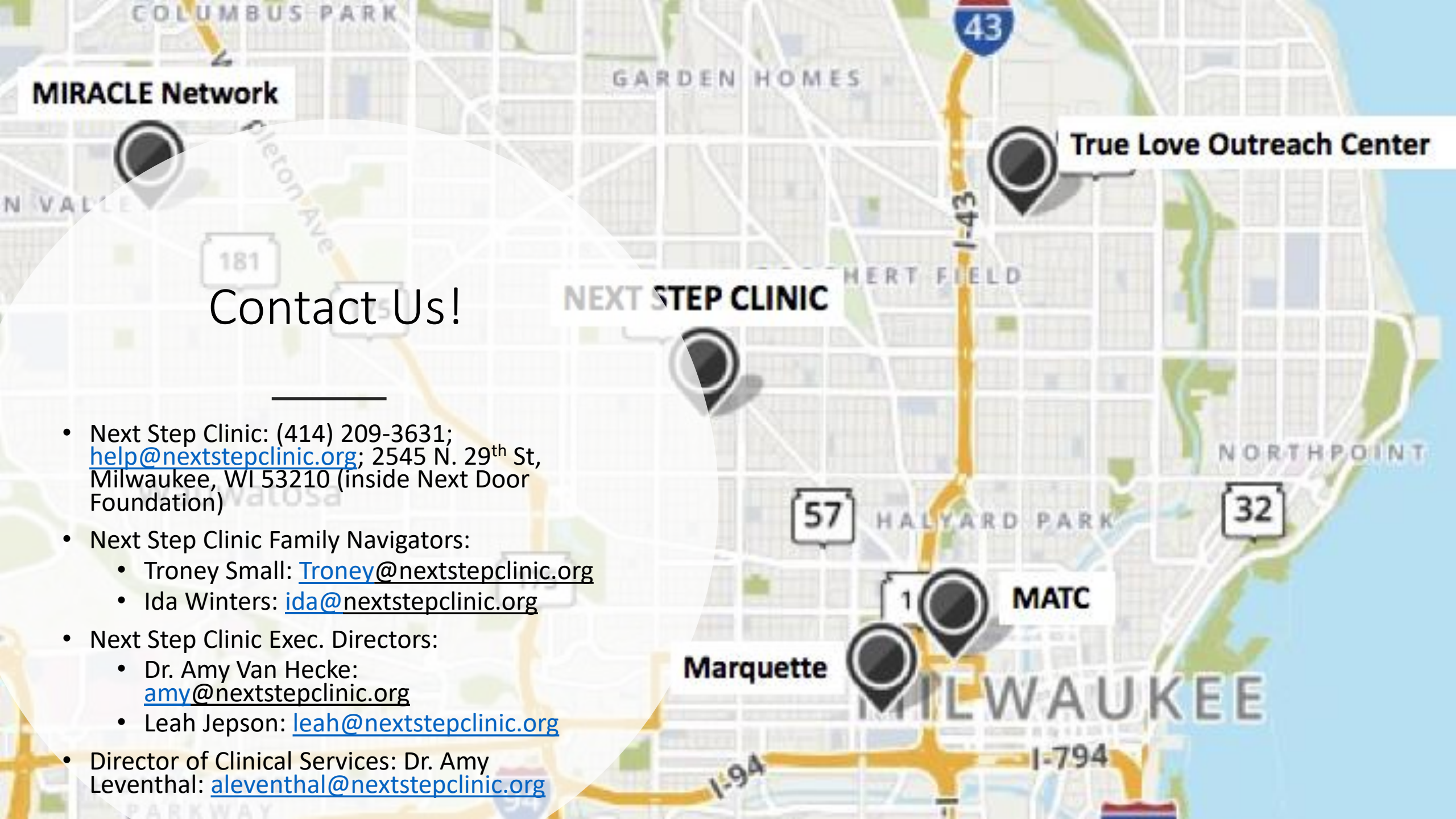


# Core Innovation: Community Advisory Board

- Parents/caregivers in the community, with lived experience in developmental/mental health challenges of their children or themselves
  - Very blessed to have this rich resource: members share community knowledge and connections with the Clinic.
    - TBD List of orgs and groups they connect us to: national community health worker' groups, breastfeeding network, trauma parent groups, etc.
  - Chose Logo, wrote Vision and Mission statements, steer services offered
  - Provide understanding of what community is experiencing and what community feels it needs
  - Centering equity, empowerment, trust, and dignity in everything we do
- Kenmikiiya Terry
  - Terri DeGaro
  - Janice Harrell
  - Shenika Moss
  - LaKeeta Watts
  - Joyce King
  - Clairice Robinson
  - Monique Plears
  - Darnell Bowes
  - Rasheda Ramsey
  - Nakia O'Conner

# What Have We Learned? Recommendations

- <https://vimeo.com/312993240/3e3cbda6d4>
- Our impact is driven by **Family Navigation and Community-Centered Services**. These approaches:
  - Reduce racial, geographic, and economic disparities and delays in diagnosis and care.
  - Empower families to own their child's care.
  - Set families up for success rather than crisis.
  - Provided with no- to low conflict of interest.
  - Engage the entire community, the “village” of autism care.
  - Tailored to each child and each community's unique needs.
- **WI Medicaid coverage of Autism Family Navigation needs to be developed. (cf. Minnesota, Minnesota Statutes 256B.0625, Subd. 49)**
- **WI support of Community-Based Autism Centers should be considered. (cf. Florida regional Centers for Autism and Related Disabilities, Florida statutes 1004.55)**



## Contact Us!

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MIRACLE Network

True Love Outreach Center

NEXT STEP CLINIC

MATC

Marquette

MILWAUKEE

# Our Team, continued

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  - Nursing: Dr. Norah Johnson; Dr. Kristin Haglund
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Greater Milwaukee  
& Waukesha County



True Love  
Outreach Center  
John 3:16



“If you can’t fly, then run. If you can’t run, then walk. And, if you can’t walk, then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward.” — Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

