



ARConnections is mailed directly to 2,000+ individuals and made available to many more who receive it through our partner organizations. Posting your group or event in ARConnections allows you to reach thousands of individuals and families throughout Chester County.

The mission of the ARConnections advocacy effort is to support, empower, connect, and inform parents of special needs students in Chester County and to promote collaborative efforts toward attaining quality special education supports and services for children.

If you would like to be added to/removed from to this monthly email, please email info@arcofchestercounty.org to request that your name be added/removed or call Connie at 610-696-8090 x220 and leave a detailed message. If you want your event or group listed, please email info@arcofchestercounty.org. We can only list groups and events if we know about them. **PLEASE PARTICIPATE!**

PLEASE NOTE: We provide this information as a convenience for our community. It is not an all-inclusive list but rather a work in progress. Although we attempt to keep the listings up to date, we cannot guarantee that all links and phone numbers are current. This list is for information purposes only and is not intended to recommend or endorse any specific professional or therapeutic treatment or any person or organization.

January 2012

Local Conferences/Workshops, “Activities for Children and Teens,” Volunteer Opportunities, Support/Advocacy Groups, and Resources

SPECIAL NOTES

FREE E-NEWSLETTER- E-UPDATE. Published weekly by Casey Jones of Transformation Initiative - Building Communities through Healthy Families. **Helping to Bridge the Gap Between the Wealth of Available Resources and the Poverty Associated With People Not Knowing About Them.** An incredibly comprehensive listing of primarily free family services-related trainings and conferences and fun family events occurring throughout Chester County. Can be found on The Arc’s website. You may also sign up for this regularly published invaluable information. **Web:** www.arcofchestercounty.org/arconnections.html. **Subscribe by sending an e-mail request to bps461@msn.com.** Check it out!!!

THE ARC OF THE UNITED STATES and THE AUTISM SOCIETY THE NATIONAL AUTISM RESOURCE AND INFORMATION CENTER: AUTISM NOW, YOU EMPOWERED! For more information: www.autismnow.org

ABLE CLASSROOM HAS OPENINGS!!!! Autism...Building the Basics through Learning Experiences for 2-Year-Olds. Year-round program, Tues and Thurs. mornings. For info: call Kathy Fox at 610-696-8090.

Programs at or Sponsored by The Arc of Chester County

1/9/12 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm

DASD Parent Support Group for the parents of kids who learn differently! Topic: Advocacy 101 and Services Available at The Arc w/ Connie Mohn, MEd, BCEA, Education Advocate. Held at the DASD Administration Building. All welcome! Info: lomarrow@yahoo.com, 610-363-0127.

1/11/12 - 12:00pm - 1:30pm

TRANSITION - ALL ABOUT TRANSITION CHAT AND CHEW!! Held 2nd Wednesday/month, January 2012 through May 2012 at The Arc of Chester County in West Chester. First meeting TOPIC: AN OVERVIEW OF TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD for parents of individuals in their transition years (age 16 - 21 years). Bring your questions, hopes, and dreams! Hear expert speakers, network with other parents, connect to resources and supports. **Bring your lunch. Drinks provided. Info/regis: Joyceanne Husted, 610-696-8090. **Registration preferred but not necessary.****

1/12/12 - 10:00am - 12:00pm Held at the CCIU, Boot Road, Downingtown

CHESTER COUNTY RIGHT TO EDUCATION TASK FORCE - TOPIC: PREVENTING AND REDUCING RESTRAINTS AND SECLUSION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS w/ Kym Grosso, parent and special education advocate. Will discuss what seclusion, restraint, and aversives look like in schools (both private & public), current trends in mental health and why they don't use it, how it traumatizes the kids who it happens to, the kids who are watching and staff, how to reduce it/resources for schools should they go restraint/seclusion/aversive free, what specifically parents can do to help prevent their children from being a victim of this practice. **Bring your questions! Get involved and improve your skills as an advocate for your child. Registration emails to dotties@righttoed.org. For info/activity or schedule/resource manual: www.righttoed.org or call Lauren LaFountain, LaurenL@cciu.org, 484-237-5057, voicemail: 610-696-8090 ext. 348. The task force monitors and advises local special education services, provides training and networking opportunities for parents, and informs the public about state/national special education issues. **Time is set aside at every meeting to address individual concerns.** All welcome! No need to register for this meeting.**

1/19/12 - 7:00pm - 9:00pm Held at The Arc of Chester County, West Chester.

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2/9/12 - 9:30am - 1:00pm - Held at the CCIU, Boot Road, Downingtown.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY! IEP CLINIC! Must register!

IEP CLINIC with Attorneys from McAndrews Law Offices. Sponsored by the CHESTER COUNTY RIGHT TO EDUCATION TASK FORCE and The Arc of Chester County. Bring your child's current IEP and evaluation. You will complete an intake form upon arrival. The first 45 minutes of the event involve a group presentation about basic tips to develop an appropriate IEP. After the first hour, attendees are given an opportunity to meet 1:1 with one of seven special education attorneys to discuss any difficult issue the family is encountering with the local school district. Bring your questions! Get involved and improve your skills as an advocate for your child. Registration emails to dotties@righttoed.org. For info/activity or schedule/resource manual: www.righttoed.org or call Lauren LaFountain, LaurenL@cciu.org, 484-237-5057, voicemail: 610-696-8090 ext. 348. The task force monitors and advises local special education services, provides training and networking opportunities for parents, and informs the public about state/national special education issues. **Time is set aside at every meeting to address individual concerns. All welcome to the training with no registration, however, PLEASE PRE-REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT IF YOU WANT INDIVIDUAL TIME WITH AN ATTORNEY!**

Volunteer Opportunities

The Arc of Chester County is seeking volunteers to serve as education advocates and adult advocates. If you have an interest in either of these volunteer activities, please call Connie at 610-696-8090 x220 or send an email to volunteers@arcofchestercounty.org. Thank you.

Local Conferences/Workshops

1/9/12 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm

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1/17/12 - 7:00pm - 9:00pm

SHARE YOUR FAVORITE ADHD RESOURCE NIGHT AT THE CHADD SUPPORT GROUP - Held monthly at the Keshet Israel Congregation, 1000 Pottstown Pike, West Chester. No need to register. Info: www.chadd.net.

1/18/12 - 8:30am - 12:00pm

ACCESSING THE CHILD SERVING SYSTEMS IN CHESTER COUNTY - free training for staff, families, and interested community members on how to access the various child serving systems in Chester County. Held at the Government Services Building on Westtown Rd. in West Chester, room 171. Info on Children, Youth and Families; Mental Health/Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (including Early Intervention); Juvenile Probation; Drug and Alcohol; Education, Health; Community Development; and the Youth Center. Info/regis: Lisa Richardson 610-344-6255 by Friday, January 13.

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2/25/12 - SAVE THE DATE!!!!

11TH ANNUAL ADHD CONFERENCE AT WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY. This is always an incredible, worthwhile event! Info/regis: www.chadd.net.

CHADD AD/HD TRAININGS AND SUPPORT- Local: www.chadd.net and **ADHD CHADD TRAINING CONFERENCES, MAGAZINE, PARENT TO PARENT ONLINE/ON DEMAND CLASSES, SUPPORT GROUPS.:** http://www.chadd.org/Content/CHADD/Conferences_Training/ParenttoParentProgram/Online_Parent_to_Parent_Class/default.htm

ASCEND EVENTS: <http://www.ascendgroup.org/>

CCIU COURSES: <http://www.cciu.org> and click "courses."

DPW ODP (Office of Developmental Programs (ex. PUNS, Consolidated Waiver, IFSP, etc):

<http://www.odpconsulting.net/>

Web Casts: http://www.odpconsulting.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=163&Itemid=223

NAMI MH EVENTS: <http://namipa.nami.org/programsindex.htm>

PATTAN TRAININGS: <http://www.pattan.net/profdev/trainingcalendar.aspx>

PARENT INFORMATION CENTER OF DELAWARE (PIC)- www.picofdel.org.

Activities & Supports for Children & Teens

ACADEMIC SUPPORT ON THE WEB (replace the game boys and ds):

www.softschools.com: online work and worksheets, Pre K to Middle School.

www.onlinemathlearning.com: worksheets with concepts and explanations.

www.hawaii.edu/suremath: chemistry, physics, and algebra.

www.starfall.com: EXCELLENT website for young (up to 4th grade) emerging readers.

www.webmath.com: for math support.

www.funbrain.com: games to improve grammar skills.

www.eduplace.com/tales: like an online Mad Libs. Reading and writing skills.

www.factmonster.com: lots of great stuff!

www.cut-the-knot.org: puzzles on tons of math topics up to 12th grade.

www.mathgoodies.com: go to PARENTS and find free activities and worksheets.

www.aaamath.com; www.aaaspelling.com; www.aaawhere.com: all online work.

www.quizlet.com: Make tests, flashcards...for any subject.

ACADEMICS - STRIVE - Ages 14 - 18. School-based academic support. Info: Coatesville Rotary 610-384-9196.

ACTING/DRAMA - Ages 8-13 on Autism Spectrum. 6-week prog. to improve communication, socialization, and motivation by having fun with drama and theatre. \$160. Call: Kate McLenigan Altman 610-283-2230, kate@theatrehorizon.org.

ACTING ANTICS - BUILDING SOCIAL SKILLS - drama workshops for students with Asperger Syndrome, non-verbal learning disorder, and/or social cognition deficits. Teaches power body language, voice modulation, and facial expressions. Call: Cindy Schneider, Ed. Consultant/ Theatre Dir., 610-913-6018.

AD/HD - CHADD TEEN SUPPORT GROUP 3rd Th. 7:30 - 8:30pm. Exton Community Baptist Church, 141 E. Swedesford Rd, Exton, Parents can stay on premises. Facilitated by CHADD board member. 610-429-4060, www.CHADD.net/222.

AD/HD - GO GIRLS CLUB for girls ages 8 - 12 (or in 3rd -6th grade) with ADD or ADHD. Girls must be aware of their diagnosis. \$100 for 6-mo. Info: Natalie 215-275-4978, info@ahdhaware.org. www.ADHDaware.org.

AD/HD - BOY2BOY CLUB for boys ages 8 - 12 (or in 3rd - 6th grade) with ADD or ADHD. Boys must be aware of their diagnosis. \$100 for 6-mo. Info: Natalie 215-275-4978, info@ahdhaware.org.

ART - ART PARTNERS STUDIO - Ages 6 - 12. Art classes & special events. Call: Lindsay 610-384-3030, ycrow@mac.com.

ART - CENTER FOR CREATIVE ARTS - in Hockessin, DE. Classes for special needs students ages 6-12. www.ccartarts.org, 302-239-2434.

ART - EXPRESSIVE ARTS THERAPY GROUPS FOR CHILDREN at Building Bridges in Media. Two sessions: ages 5-9 and 10-13. Mon eves. Info: 484-574-2858, debleoni@comcast.net.

ART - FREE 12-WEEK ART CLASS FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS (\$25 FOR MATERIALS). Provided by and at the Wayne Art Center, 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne, PA 19403, 610-688-3553, www.wayneart.org, info@wayneart.org.

ART - SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR ADULTS USING MH SERVICES to take music and art lessons from Merge Education! Contact Mary Helen Rossi to receive scholarship application at 484-887-0377.

ASTHMA MANAGEMENT PROGRAM - HEALTHY HOOPS - Using Sports to Promote Health Management and Education. Asthma screenings, parent education, family fit program, environmental home check-up, etc. For a video explanation of the program: <http://www.healthyhoopsprogram.com/solution/video.asp>. Contact: Flora Castillo, flora.castillo@amerihealthmercy.com, 888-765-4194 .

AUTISM - CLASSROOM PROGRAM - ABLE - Autism...Building the Basics through Learning Experiences for 2-Year-Olds run by The Arc of Chester County (First Step) and taught with a unique blend of TEACCH, total communication, positive reinforcement, and child-centered learning. Held at Easter Seals in Downingtown, Tu & Th 9:30am - 12:30pm. Info/Regis: Kathy Fox, 610-696-8090.

AUTISM - Equestrian Therapeutic Vaulting for children ages 7-12. Autism Speaks grant recipient, "Let's Vault, Max" supports the development of social, motor, and sensory processing skills, as well as horsemanship skills and bonding between the horse and rider. Includes research component in collaboration with Widener University physical therapy department. Eleven week vaulting sessions Wednesday evenings 6/15-8/24, 9/7-11/16, 1/04-3/14. Contact Quest Therapeutic Services at 610-692-6362 or www.QuestTherapeutic.com.

AUTISM - SPARC - Southeastern PA Resource Center in partnership with WCU. Non-profit clinic serving children, adolescents, and young adults with ASD. Includes: Diagnostic Services, Behavioral Therapeutic Services, Feeding Evaluations and Treatment, Home Programs, Academic Tutoring, Social Skills, Consultative Services, Daycare/School/Service Providers Consulting Services, Babysitting/Respite Care. Located on the WCU campus. Info: sparc@wcupa.edu, 610-430-5678.

AUTISM - TODDLER/PRESCHOOL PLAY GROUP for children with ASD. Structured play dates where children can develop social/play skills w/peers while parents network/support each other. Communicate thru Yahoo group: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ASD_Playgroup/. Subscribe by sending email to ASD_Playgroup-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

CAMP - EASTER SEALS CAMPS IN PA - <http://esep.easterseals.com/site/Search?entgr=O&access=>

CAMP - MORNINGSIDE SUMMER CAMP AND CONDUCTIVE EDUCATION: AN EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAM serving special needs campers ages 5-21. Starts 6/27 and ends 8/19. M-F 9:00am - 3:00pm. Info/Regis: Bev Jonik 610-804-1588, morningsidesummercamp@verizon.net.

CHESS CLUB for ages 5-18. Mondays, 4:00pm - 8:00pm. Coatesville Area Public Library. Learn to play tournament chess. Free. No regis. necessary. Info: 610-384-4115.

THRU SEPTEMBER 10 - EVERY SATURDAY AT 10:30AM

FREE CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS AT THE CHILDREN'S PLAZA ON BRIDGE STREET IN PHOENIXVILLE AREA. Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Phoenixville. Musical programs, puppets, clowns, Phila Zoo animals, storytelling, circus, magicians, etc. All are welcome to join in the fun! www.openheartinc.org.

COMPEER of Chester County - MH Friendship Program - 610-436-4445, <http://CompeerChesco.org>.

COMPUTERS - Low-cost, refurbished computers available for \$50 to \$300 for qualifying families. Download an application from the website: www.TeamChildren.com. Phone: 610-666-1795.

DANCE - DIAMOND DIVAS - Ages 7 - 16. Drill and step team for girls. Info: Geri Allen 610-380-4465, gbadiva@verizon.net.

DANCE - RHYTHM IN MOTION: A CREATIVE DANCE CLASS FOR KIDS - Ages 5 and up with or without disabilities. Explore movement, rhythm, visual imagery, and body and spatial awareness thru games, themes, storytelling and music. Focus: Fun through dance! Wed: 4:15pm - 5:00pm, 4/7 - 5/12. Held at Al DuPont Hosp. for Children. \$60 for 6 sessions. Taught by PT. Info/Regis: Jamie Fusetti 302-651-5595.

DATING: SAFE DATES: Highly engaging and interactive 6 session evidence based program for middle and high school students is designed to stop or prevent the initiation of emotional, physical, and sexual abuse between individuals in dating relationships. Teens learn to recognize the difference between caring, supportive relationships and controlling, manipulative or abusive dating relationships. Holcomb Behavioral Health: Info/regis. Chrissie 484-444-0412, cdziembo@holcombbhs.org, or Luis (Bilingual) LBenites2@holcombbhs.org.

DAY CARE - LAUREN'S HOUSE, A CARING CENTER FOR SPECIAL CHILDREN ages birth to 8 years with skilled medical/nursing needs, acute or chronic in nature. A medical day health center. Can be used in lieu of or as a complement to private duty nursing in the home. Located in Coatesville. Info/regis: 877-589-0854, www.laurenshouse.com.

DEPRESSION- Learn from ME about teen depression. The ME Project: encouraging, supporting, and educating teens, their families, and the community about mental health issues. Resource center located in Ridge Village Shopping Center, Suite #21, Chadds Ford. www.meproject.org.

DRIVERS TRAINING - Two courses: "Classroom (Highway Safety)" and "Behind the Wheel" offered by the CCIU. For info/brochure: <http://www.cciu.org/Departments/CustomEd/drivereducationpdfs/DriverEd2009-10.pdf> or call: 484-237-5189.

EDUCARE Street Smarts. KenCrest's Extended School Day Transition Support for Students with Autism & Other Developmental Disabilities. Building Bridges to the community for school-age children 13-21. 610-636-1575.

KARATE - TAE KWON DO SPECIAL NEEDS CLASSES (For ages 4-11) - Special needs classes include exercises to improve coordination, balance, and muscle control. Classes are beneficial for children with proprioception challenges, and those on the autistic spectrum. Provides a structured program for kids who love to run, jump, and play who would benefit from peer interaction, but are less likely to have success with team-oriented sports. 30 minute class once a week, Tuesday afternoon & Saturday morn, small class sizes. Benefits self confidence, self control, focus, coordination, social skills, body control, core strength, FUN. Held at United Sports, Downingtown. Info/regs 610-466-7100, unitedsports.net.

FAITH-BASED - MH CONSUMERS ATTEND TRADITIONAL SERVICES. Residents of long-term structured residence (LSTR) in the northern part of Chester County are welcomed for worship, food, and fellowship by the congregation of Marsh Creek Church in Exton.

FEEDING - SPARC- Southeastern PA Resource Center in partnership with WCU - Evals and treatment in clinic, home, and community/school. At: 1160 McDermott Dr, West Chester. Info: 610-430-5678, sparc@wcupa.edu.

GAMES- FREE ON-LINE GAMES:

- **AARP:** <http://games.aarp.org/categories/all.aspx>: includes beach sudoku, carniball, cryptogram, disco bowling, driver safety program word search, easy crossword, Word Search, etc.
- **UCLICK:** <http://content.uclick.com/games.html>: includes: daily tootonym, daily roundup, flash arcade solitaire, play four, sudoku, universal trivia, universal jigsaw puzzle, universal crossword, up and down words, worsense challenge.
- **HAPPY NEURON GAMES:** <http://www.happyneuron.com/partners/index.php?refcode=006AARP>

GAMES- PAID ON-LINE GAMES:

- **Fit Brains:** <http://www.fitbrains.com/>
- **Luminosity Brain Games:** <http://www.lumosity.com>

HOMEWORK - BRIDGE ACADEMY & COMMUNITY CENTER - Ages 4 - 18 or 18 and up. Homework club, arts & crafts, dance, sewing, carpentry, computer classes. Info/regs: Jordan 610-466-9505, Jordan.crans@gmail.com.

HOMEWORK - THE GARAGE COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTER NOW OPENING IN WEST GROVE ALSO! Kennett Square and West Grove locations. Open Hours: MONDAY - FRIDAY 3:00pm - 6:00pm and Homework Only Hours: MONDAY - THURSDAY 6:00pm - 7:00pm. It's the only place in Kennett and West Grove open just for middle and high school students. It's free, it's fun, and it's for real. The Garage is a place to come after school to get help with your homework, use a computer, play a game of pool, or participate in activities hosted by the groups that meet here. Check us out! There's probably something at The Garage that will interest you. Info: 610-444-6464, Maggie@garageyouthcenter.org, www.garageyouthcenter.org.

KARATE - KICKS FOR KIDS: TAE KWON-DO ages 5 to 17 with gross motor impairments who can stand and walk with or without an assistive device. Basic stances, blocks, kicks, and strikes. Individualized instruction. Taught by PT. At Al DuPont Hosp for Children ground floor gymnasium. 4:15pm - 5:00pm, 3/22-5/24. \$100 for 10 sessions. Info/Regis: Jason Beaman 302-651-6027. jbeaman@nemours.org.

MENTORING-CHESTER COUNTY FUTURES - Ages 14 - 18. School/community-based mentoring program. Info/regs: Kathy 610-516-1050, kmclaughlin@ccfutures.org.

MENTORING-GIFTS - Ages 13 - 18. Mentor Program for Teenage Girls. Info/regs: Jackie 610-384-3344, jcarter@nlicf.org.

MENTORING-TIMS - Ages 11 - 18. Mentoring Program for Young Men. Info/regs: Alphonse 610-384-8595, anewsuan@comcast.net.

MENTORING-YOUNG LIFE - Ages 14 - 18. Mentoring and Youth Programs. Info/regs: Josh 484-354-9496, jdcrans@aol.com.

MUSIC - TEMPO MUSIC THERAPY SERVICES West Chester and King of Prussia. Individual and groups for all ages as well as inclusive family music (Music Together) classes. Info: 610-344-7030, www.tempotherapy.com

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY - Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy, www.hope-springs.org, 610-827-0931, Malvern, greyhorse22@gmail.com.

PLAYGROUNDS - NO BORDERS - Play without limits! At the Main Line YMCA. Jennifer, 610-854-1625, Jennifer.Whalen@UMLY.org.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM for THREE and FOUR-YEAR-OLDS. FREE! Pottstown and OJR school districts offering free programs for children who were three and four by 9/1/2009, and live in families at 300% or less of the federal poverty levels (i.e, family of four earning up to \$66,150/year). Held at Warwick Child Care Centers. Info: Michelle (Pottstown) 610-323-1601, Tana (OJR) 610-326-4522.

READING - COATESVILLE AREA LIBRARY Ages birth - 12. Reading programs, story-time, play groups, family groups, special events. Info: 610-384-4115.

RECREATION - ACCESS PASS - FREE LIFETIME PASS TO NATIONAL PARKS for permanent residents with a permanent disability. Links/Info: www.store.usgs.gov/pass/access.html.

RECREATION - COATESVILLE ARTS & RECREATION DEPT. Ages 8 - 15. Summer/Winter Basketball Leagues, Summer Programs, and Art Classes. Info: 610-384-0300.

RECREATION - COMMUNI-TEENS A service and recreational program for teens using wraparound services and neighborhood peers sponsored by The Institute for Behavioral Change. Limited to 10 teens. Contact 610-383-1432.

RECREATION - FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT! 1st Fri, 7:00pm at The Journey Church in West Chester. Movies shown on 9 ft x 13 ft big screen. Soda & popcorn provided! Contact Scott Smith, pastor, at Scott@thejourneywc.org.

RECREATION - FUN CLUB Ages 6-12 , one Sat/month. Community fun! Run by The Arc of Chester County. Call your supports coordinator for funding options. Contact Rob: 610-696-8090, ext. 240, rmalone@arcofchestercounty.org.

RECREATION - LITTLE LEAGUE - Spring 2010 Regis: for West Side Little League Challenger Division Ages 5 - 21 . Practice 1x week beginning mid March. Games begin April. Info/Regis: Ellen or Andrew 610-344-0979, challenger@westsidelittleleague.org.

RECREATION - MY GYM LIONVILLE - Special Needs Class/Children with Autism on Fridays, 3:00pm to 4:00pm. Info: 610-363-6090, mygym@verizon.net.

RECREATION - SYNERGY RECREATION - Home-based services offering personalized activities. We design meaningful recreational experiences by building on clients' current interests. We help people create lasting relationships within families and communities. We're all about fun! Info: Heather@synergyrecreation.com or 610-324-8307.

RECREATION, SOCIAL SKILLS, AND RESPITE - TEEN LINK TO THE COMMUNITY (TLC) CLUB - Ages 13-21 yrs. Meets monthly on Saturday or Sunday for 4+ hours. Community-based barbecues, swim parties, zoos, outdoor games, dances, bowling, train rides, etc. Call your supports coordinator for funding options. Call: Rob at the Arc of Chester County 610-696-8090 x240, rmalone@arcofchestercounty.org.

RESPITE - Information Packet from Office of Developmental Programs - http://odpsrv.tiu11.org/alfresco/d/d/workspace/SpacesStore/b5659680-7d1e-4a74-86c5-7f4b4db4d9b3/RESPITE_Exception_Process_Information_Packet_078-10.pdf

RESPITE - The Arc of Chester County TAP PROGRAM (Temporary Assistance Provider) - offers one-on-one respite assistance to families by the hour, day, or week. All ages. Info: Janine 610-696-8090 ext. 239, jcaldwell@arcofchestercounty.org.

RESPIRE - ARCAres (Ages 18+) COMMUNITY RESPIRE & EXCURSION SERVICES RESPIRE PROGRAM. Planned community excursions each month at same time of month, allowing caregivers to schedule respite time on a consistent basis. Info: Janine 610-696-8090 ext. 239, jcaldwell@arcofchestercounty.org.

RESPIRE - CHESTER COUNTY RESPIRE NETWORK - respite provider as well as in-school 1:1 support service provider (personal care assistants). We participate in the Phoenixville Grant program, waivers, Family Driven Dollars, agency pay, and private pay for respite. School services are funded by the districts. Info: Donna at respitenetwork@comcast.net.

RESPIRE - FUN CLUB Ages 6 - 12 one Sat./month. Community fun! Run by The Arc of Chester County. Call your supports coordinator for funding options. Contact Rob: 610-696-8090, ext. 240, rmalone@arcofchestercounty.org.

RESPIRE - MH Helping Hands. Respite for caregivers with children birth - 21 living in Chester County who receive MH services. Contact The Arc, Janine, jcaldwell@arcofchestercounty.org, 610-696-8090 ext. 239.

RESPIRE - PARENTS' NIGHT OUT - Opportunities for worry-free nights out. Events held at the Brandywine YMCA. For info: Brenda, brendae@cciu.org, 484-237-5354. For calendar of events go to www.autismallianceofchestercounty.org.

RESPIRE, WCUA Autism Respite Care - WCU student volunteers trained in ASD and behavior principles provide free in-home respite care to families of children on the spectrum. Weekday evenings. To receive respite services, please contact Dr. Corinne Murphy, BCBA, Asst. Professor at WCU at cmurphy@wcupa.edu.

RIDING - HOPE SPRINGS EQUESTRIAN THERAPY - equine therapy for autistic and challenged riders. Weekly group and individual sessions and summer camps with special education professionals combining riding and classes (June and July). At: Green Lane Rd, Malvern. Info: Jeannie Knowlton 610-827-0931, greyhorse22@gmail.com, www.Hope-Springs.org.

RIDING - MAKING STRIDES HIPPO THERAPY & THERAPEUTIC RIDING - programs and instruction for both typically developing children and adults as well as those with disabilities. Individual programming and flexible schedule with physical therapist. Location: Brinton's Bridge Rd., West Chester. Call: 610-656-8438, Robin.Langerhans@comcast.net.

RIDING - Equestrian Therapeutic Vaulting for children ages 7-12 - AUTISM - Autism Speaks grant recipient, "Let's Vault, Max" supports the development of social, motor, and sensory processing skills, as well as horsemanship skills and bonding between the horse and rider. Includes research component in collaboration with Widener University physical therapy department. Eleven week vaulting sessions Wednesday evenings 6/15-8/24, 9/7-11/16, 1/04-3/14. Contact Quest Therapeutic Services at 610-692-6362 or www.QuestTherapeutic.com.

RIDING - QUEST THERAPEUTIC SERVICES, INC. - Full-range of pediatric therapy services, including hippo therapy with flexible scheduling of OT/PT/Speech for children with special needs. Indoor arena heated and ventilated for year-round use. Also, vaulting: 9/7 - 11/22. Some insurance reimbursable. Location: 461 Cann Rd., West Chester. Info: 610-692-6362, www.QuestTherapeutic.com.

RIDING - BARN AT SPRINGBROOK FARM - Animal-assisted activities for children with disabilities. Children can have fun while interacting with farm animals. Gains in knowledge, confidence, and self-esteem. Location: Locust Grove Rd., West Chester. Info: 610-793-1037, www.springbrook-farm.org.

SCOUTING - GIRL SCOUTS OF EASTERN PA - Girl Scout Troop for disabled girls and non-disabled girls who would like to join in as buddies. Ages 6 - 13. Meeting in an accessible home on the Honey Brook/Coatesville border with 3 cats and 1 dog as honorary members of the troop. Info: Meira 610-273-7858, meira-harvey@att.net.

SCOUTING - BOY SCOUT TROOP 599, Hawk Mountain Council - for boys & young men with special needs 11 yrs. old and up. Location: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Old Swede Rd., Amity Township. Cost \$40/yr. Contact: Chris or Kim Murray cm6klr@dejazzd.com, 610-404-1206, 484-638-4906, or 484-638-2002 (Kim's cell).

SCOUTING - CUB SCOUT PACK 599, Hawk Mountain Council - for boys ages 7-11 with special needs. Location: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Old Swede Rd., Amity Township. Cost \$40/yr. Contact: Chris or Kim Murray cm6klr@dejazzd.com, 610-404-1206, 484-638-4906, or 484-638-2002 (Kim's cell).

SCOUTING - CUB SCOUT PACK 64 - Chester County, for boys on the autism spectrum. St. Phillip/James Church, Exton. www.cubscoutpack64.com.

SELF-ADVOCACY - PA YOUTH LEADERSHIP SELF-ADVOCACY - monthly conference calls to explore topics of interest to young self-advocates. 1st Sunday of each month from 7:00pm - 8:00pm. Call 1-309-946-5255. Access code 376191#. Visit the PYLN website at www.pyln.pbwiki.com for additional information.

SENSORY - SNACK AND PLAY: A PLAYGROUP FOR CHILDREN 3-5YRS WHO ARE "FUSSY EATERS" One group of five children will meet 3x/wk. for four weeks, led by an instructor and an OT. Call for more details: Karen Schillinger, Easter Seals, 610-873-3990.

SIBLING GROUPS - ONGOING - 2nd Sat of the month from 8:45am - 10:00am for 4 to 6-year-olds and 10:00am -11:30am for 7 to 11-year-olds. In Wayne. Uses play, arts and crafts, snacks, talking, and stories. Facilitators: Dale Fisher, LCSW and Deirdre Miller, MA. Cost \$35. 610-668-8890, dalefish2000@aol.com.

SIBSHOPS - Pottstown. 2nd Sat of the month (Sept through May). Creative Health Services, 610-326-2767, jtyson@creativehs.org.

SIBSHOPS FOR TEENS! Call 610-783-1788 ext. 223 or email kbrenneman@childandfamilyfocus.org.

SIBSHOPS for 8-to-13-year-old brothers/sisters of children with emotional/behavioral disorders. Starts June 19, from 9:30am - 12:30pm. Mixture of new games, discussion, and guest speakers. Fun while learning. Held at Devereux Day School, Boot Rd., Downingtown. Info/regis: Crissy at 610-688-1205 or cauger@devereux.org.

SOCCER - CHALLENGER SOCCER IN SEPTEMBER - West Bradford Youth Athletics second season of Challenger Soccer for children with special needs. For ages 7-21yrs. No previous soccer experience necessary. Children grouped based on ability, not age. Fosters fun and inclusive atmosphere. Saturdays at noon beginning Sept 10th. Info/regis: John G. 610-486-6842 or johnfgall1@verizon.net. Sign up at www.WBYA.org and register under "Challenger Soccer" Regis, fee \$30. Scholarships available. Come for the fun!

SOCIAL SKILLS - GROUPS - THERAPLAY, INC., 638 Brandywine Parkway, West Chester. 610-436-3604, ext. 12, mhugel@theraplayinc.com, www.theraplayinc.com.

SOCIAL SKILLS - GROUPS - led by licensed speech path and physical therapist. Dynamic, interactive, and fun sessions at Little Wonders Child Growth & Development Center, Inc. Info: 610-275-KIDS.

SOCIAL SKILLS - PROMPT AND PLAY CENTER - Ages 3 - 18 in need of social skills, life skills, counseling. www.promptandplay.com.

SOCIAL SKILLS - SIS - SAY IT STRAIGHT: An interactive, energetic, 10 lesson evidence based program for elementary, middle and high school students, focusing on empowering communication skills and behaviors. Great anti-bullying strategies! Holcomb Behavioral Health . Info/regis Chrissie 484-444-0412, cdziembo@holcombbhs.org, or Luis (Bilingual) LBenites2@holcombbhs.org.

SOCIAL SKILLS - SPECTRUM KIDS CAN!!! - Play with peers in a non-judgmental setting and use and improve socialization skills. All ages welcome! First Sunday/month. 2-4pm. Held at The Annex of the Henrietta Hankin Library, 215 Windgate Dr., Chester Springs. No registration required. Info: 610-321-1724, hhyouthservices@ccls.org.

SOCIAL CLUB - YOUNG ADULT SOCIAL CLUB/TEEN CLUB OF CHESTER COUNTY sponsored by Easter Seals of SE PA for teens/young adults w/disabilities. Have lots of fun exploring the community, singing karaoke, dancing, cooking, and socializing. Meet 2x/mo. usually 1st & 3rd Fri. Info: Kim 610-565-2353.

SOCIAL SKILLS - YOUNG CHILDREN GROUP - 4-6yrs. (WAYNE) - 2nd Sat. of the month from 8:45am - 10:00am. Info: Dale Fisher, dalefish2000@aol.com, 610-668-8890.

SPORTS - SPECIAL OLYMPICS - Don't miss the fun! Winter: Basketball, Gymnastics, Ice Skating, Skiing, Swimming, etc. Info/schedule: 484-320-9401, SOPAChesterCounty@Comcast.net, www.pasocc.org,

SPORTS - COATESVILLE AREA LITTLE LEAGUE - Ages 5 - 18. Little League Baseball Program. Info: Pat 610-384-5689.

SPORTS - COATESVILLE MIDGET FOOTBALL - Ages 4 - 14. Little League Football, Cheerleading Program, and Flag Football. Info: www.kidraiders.org .

SPORTS - SOCCER - WEST BRADFORD YOUTH ATHLETICS CHALLENGER SOCCER - Soccer league for children with special needs so all children can have the fun and experience of playing soccer. For children 7 - 21 years of age. Held at the WBYA Soccer fields in West Bradford. Starting in April with games on Saturday for one hour. Info/regis: John Gallagher 610-486-6842, Johnfgall1@verizon.net. Volunteer and sponsorship opportunities are available!

SWIMMING - SPLASH - A free water safety experience, presented by: Dansko for Children in 1st - 8th grade. Held at Kennett Area Community Pool, Walnut Street, Kennett Square. 4:45, 5:45; or 6:45. Transportation provided. Info/regis: Kennett Area YMCA: Lolly Hallman, 610-444-9622 x2319, or Lenda at x2317.

SWIMMING - Y-KNOT OTTER SWIM TEAM 4-18 years of age with physical and physiological challenges. Helps build confidence and self esteem. Main Line YMCA. Info/regis: Jennifer 610-854-1625, Jennifer.Whalen@UMLY.org.

STEPS - Autism and other neurological disorders-STEPS at Main Line Rehabilitation Associates - offers a unique GROUP program designed to improve skills and success in various social and community settings. Cognitive strategies are developed and reinforced through direct staff guidance/ feedback and supported peer interaction/feedback. Goals are individualized with emphasis on organization strategies, effective communication skills, personal responsibility, community access/ integration and adjustment to life transitions. Exton, PA. MWF 1-4:30. Additional Info: Meghan Cahallan 610-280-0180, info@mainline-rehab.com, www.mainline-rehab.com

SUBSTANCE ABUSE - BABES (Beginning Awareness Basic Ed Studies): A 7-lesson program on ATOD (alcohol, tobacco and other drugs) for K-2 grade students uses interactive dialogue among hand-puppets. BABES is implemented in elementary schools and after-school/community programs via trained presenters and coordinated by Holcomb. Info/regis Chrissie 484-444-0412, cdziembo@holcombbhs.org, or Luis (Bilingual) LBenites2@holcombbhs.org.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM - PROJECT ALERT: A nationally recognized 7-lesson program gives middle school students insight, understanding, and actual skills for resisting substance use. Holcomb Behavioral Health Info/regis Chrissie 484-444-0412, cdziembo@holcombbhs.org, or Luis (Bilingual) LBenites2@holcombbhs.org.

SUBSTANCE USE - CHILDREN'S PROGRAM - Four-session program for middle and high school students who have been identified as having substance use issues in the family. Educational and reflective activities help children cope with stresses of family problems and strengthen their resilience. Holcomb Behavioral Health Info/regis Chrissie 484-444-0412, cdziembo@holcombbhs.org, or Luis (Bilingual) LBenites2@holcombbhs.org.

TEEN - THE GARAGE COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTER NOW OPENING IN WEST GROVE ALSO! Kennett Square and West Grove locations. Open Hours: MONDAY - FRIDAY 3:00pm - 6:00pm and Homework Only Hours: MONDAY - THURSDAY 6:00pm - 7:00pm. It's the only place in Kennett and West Grove that is open just for middle and high school students. It's free, it's fun, it's for real. The Garage is a place to come after school to get help with your homework, use a computer, play a game of pool, or participate in activities hosted by the groups that meet here. Check us out! There's probably something at The Garage that will interest you. Info: 610-444-6464, Maggie@garageyouthcenter.org, www.garageyouthcenter.org.

TEEN - SUPPORT GROUP - GLBTQA - SUPPORT GROUP for GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER YOUTH. Meets weekly, Th. from 6:30pm - 8:30pm at Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester. Sponsored by Planned Parenthood with Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester. Info/brochure: 610-692-1770 ext. 108, lfraser@ppccpa.org or wgrinwis@ppccpa.org.

THEATER - CHILDREN'S THEATER - Ages 11 - 14. Children's Theater Program. Info: Rev. Sherry 610-384-4771.

TUTORING -

- **CARE CENTER FOR CHRIST** - Barbara Jones - 610-436-6226.
- **CHRISTINE MADDEN** - 302-475-1141.
- **CLUB Z! TUTORING**, www.clubztutoring.com/avondalepa or call 610-268-5363 or 302-252-6689.
- **EDUCATIONAL SERVICE, INC.** Tina Maida Madington, Director, 302-655-6283, www.educationalservice.org.
- **JEN ARCHIBALD, TUTOR EXTRAORDINAIRE.** Achievemoretutor@aol.com, 610-644-7811.
- **POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE** - Cory Wagabower - **610-430-3491**.
- **FREE!!!! THE GARAGE YOUTH CENTER, 115 South Union St, Kennett Square.** Drop in anytime Mon-Thurs 3-7pm and Fri 3-6pm. Info Rosa 610-444-6464
- **SPECIALIZED TUTORING SERVICES.** Janet B. Tehie, PhD, 610-696-1958, www.specializedtutoringservices.org,

VOCATIONAL/GED - CHESTER COUNTY OPPORTUNITES INDUSTRIALIZATION CENTER (OIC) - Ages 16 - 24. GED, Computer, Employment and Certified Nursing Training. Info: 610-692-2344, Joyce Chester, jchester@cc-oic.org or Gina Venuti, gvenuti@cc-oic.org.

VOCATIONAL/GED - CAREER LINK - Ages 16 - Adult. GED Preparation, vocational training, resume writing, computer workshops, Job Corp. Info: 610-384-9393.

VOCATIONAL/TRANSITION - EARN CENTER - Ages 18-24. Job readiness, occupational training, employment activities, and retention. Info: Lila 610-384-6900, lsingleton@chesco.org .

WORSHIP - REJOICING SPIRITS WORSHIP SERVICE - 2nd Sun of the month, 4:00pm. Innovative inclusive ministry at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lionville/Exton. Lots of music, refreshments, and fellowship follow the service. Info: 610-363-6264, info@rejoicingspirits.org, www.rejoicingspirits.org. All faiths are welcome!

YMCA -Free YMCA Memberships for 7th Graders - Ongoing

Three area YMCAs offering free memberships for 7th graders, with current 7th graders being eligible through August 31, prior to entering the eighth grade. The YMCA of the Brandywine Valley, (Coatesville, Kennett Square, West Chester, Jennersville, Cochranville, and Elverson); Upper Main Line YMCA (Berwyn, Lionville, and Eagleview); and the YMCA of Philadelphia and Vicinity (Media and Ardmore), are part of a national focus on healthy lifestyles for youth. Info: at the local YMCAs or www.ymcabwv.org/7GI/index.html, www.umly.org, and www.rockyrnymca.org.

YOGA - ADAPTIVE YOGA CLASS for children, 7 - 14 yrs. w/special needs at The Center, Yoga Power and Light, Downingtown. Noncompetitive and fun. Simple yoga postures and breathing techniques through games, stories, and movement to music. Improves body awareness, strength, flexibility, and social/emotional health. \$55. Regis/info: 610-269-7171, www.thecenterhya.com.

YOGA - PRETZEL UP: A YOGA CLASS FOR KIDS - ages 5 and up with or without disabilities. Tues., 4:00pm - 4:45pm, at Al DuPont Hosp for Children. \$80/8 sessions. Explore yoga positions, breathing techniques, visual imagery and relaxation techniques through the use of games, themes, storytelling, music, and art. Yoga and fun! Regis: Jamie Fusetti 302-651-5595.

YOUTH OUTREACH UNION. Peer-driven support and advocacy network of young adults for young adults. Website: www.youthoutreachunion.com.

Support/Advocacy Groups

RIGHT TO EDUCATION TASK FORCE - Chester County -Usually meets the 2nd Th. - 10:00am - 12:30pm at the Chester County Intermediate Unit, Rm. 300, 455 Boot Rd., Downingtown. (Meets Sept through June). Get involved and improve your skills as an advocate. For info/activity schedule/resource manual: www.righttoed.org or call: Lauren LaFountain, LaurenL@cciu.org, 484-237-5057, voicemail: 610-696-8090 ext. 348. Task force monitors and advises local special education services, provides training and networking opportunities for parents, and informs the public about state/national special education issues. **Time set aside at every meeting to address individual concerns.**

RIGHT TO EDUCATION TASK FORCE - DELAWARE COUNTY. Del Cty. Intermediate Unit, 200 Yale Ave, Rm. 171, Morton. Training opportunities. 610-938-9000 ext. 4037.

RIGHT TO EDUCATION STATE TASK FORCE - video-conferenced, 9/22 from 10:00am to 12:00pm (meeting) and 12:30pm - 3:00pm (presentations) at Pattan. Info: Pattan, King of Prussia: 1-800-441-3215. Get involved!

ADDICTION - WEST CHESTER AREA PARENT SUPPORT GROUP - For parents whose children have been impacted by addiction. A place to find support and encouragement. Every Tues. 7:00pm - 9:00pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church, West Chester. Lyle and Deidre F. 610-793-3446, or Bob or Sue W. Wilsonvbc@aol.com, 610-563-1706.

ADDICTION - DRUG AND ALCOHOL SUPPORT LINE FOR FAMILY MEMBERS OF ADDICTS - 215-736-1643.

ADOPTION - SHARING OUR ADOPTION RESOURCES (SOAR) - parent support group discussing joys /challenges of raising post-institutionalized, school-age children adopted internationally. Lvandivner@aol.com.

ADOPTION: Orientation/info nights held for those interested in low-cost adoptions. Meetings held at Friends Association, West Chester. Info/Regis: Melrena Flowers at 610-431-3598 ext. 209.

ADULTS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES SUPPORT GROUP - for young/older adults to share information, support, socialization, and resources. 610-524-5850, LindaR@ccdisability.org.

ARConnections. Empowers parents of special needs students through training in the special education process, sharing of resources/ knowledge, and offering emotional support from other parents who are also working to secure appropriate educational supports for their children. Info: The Arc of Chester County, call Connie 610 696-8090, ext. 220 or visit www.arcofchestercounty.org. **Individual advocacy help available.**

ADOLESCENT SUPPORT GROUP. Info: Lvandivner@aol.com, and **CHILDREN'S SUPPORT PROGRAM.** Info: pkfunk@verizon.net.

APRAXIA Support Group. Info/dates: Lia - jimliagorman@comcast.net. Wendy wenobrooks@aol.com.

ASCEND (Asperger's and Autism Support) - Info: Deirdre 610-449-6776, dcwright@ascendgroup.org, or www.ascendgroup.org.

ASPERGER SUPPORT GROUP OF WEST-MONT - 3rd Wed. at St. Luke's United Church of Christ, Collegeville. Support, info, resources. Info: Valarie, 610-454-7217, VBeckius@Yahoo.com.

ATTACHMENT DISORDER NETWORK ONLINE SUPPORT - nancy@radzebra.org, julieb@radzebra.org.

AUTISM - ASA PHILA LISTSERV - for families of adults with ASD and related disorders. Restricted to family members in PA. Join at <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/FamiliesOfAdultsAutismASAPHilly/>.

AUTISM-ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP FOR AUTISM - http://groups.yahoo.com/group/children_with_autism/

AUTISM ALLIANCE MEETING - Monthly at the CCIU, Downingtown. Info: www.autismallianceofchestercounty.org. Ask about Parents' Night Out events! Email: aacc@autismallianceofchestercounty.org.

AUTISM GROUP FOR FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS OF ADULTS ON THE SPECTRUM, coordinated by Adult Services Committee of the ASA of Greater Phila. Chapter for those with loved ones on the autism spectrum 17 years old and above. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FamiliesOfAdultsAutism-ASaphilly>.

AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP - OXFORD AREA - For anyone who cares about someone with autism. Mondays at Oxford Presbyterian an Church, 6pm-8:30pm Facilitated by a graduate student from Lincoln University. Info: Margaret, mcortlessa@zoominternet.net, 484-886-7531.

AUTISM - TACA (TALK ABOUT CURING AUTISM). National non-profit now holding monthly meetings in PA. 1st Fri./mo at 16 Campus Blvd, Suite 200, Newtown Square. Co-coordinator: Honey, 610-405-5388, honey.rinicella@tacanow.org, www.tacanow.org.

AUTISM website: The Help Group <http://www.thehelpgroup.org/autism-info.htm#programs>. Downloads and articles.

AUTISM - CHESTER COUNTY AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP - Parent luncheons around the county and families-only listserv (chesterco-supportgroup@yahoogroups.com). Open by invitation. Get connected! Jane: 610-345-1156, JaneLeet@aol.com.

AUTISM - DELCO FAMILY "PASS" (PDD/Autism Spectrum Support). Monthly support meetings, newsletter, scholarships, and parents-only listserv. www.delcofamilypass.com or barbzimmerman@delcofamilypass.com. 610-626-9511.

AUTISM - SPARC - Southeastern PA Resource Center in partnership with WCU. Non-profit clinic serving children, adolescents, and young adults with ASD. Includes: Diagnostic Services, Behavioral Therapeutic Services, Feeding Evaluations and Treatment, Home Programs, Academic Tutoring, Social Skills, Consultative Services, Daycare/School/Service Providers Consulting Services, Babysitting/Respite Care. Located on the WCU campus. Info: sparc@wcupa.edu, 610-430-5678.

BETTER LIVING BETTER LIVES - A group of families who meet monthly to work toward a more independent life for their family members who need 24/7 support. We meet the 4th Wed./mo at 7:00pm at The Arc of Chester County. JOIN US! Info: dcarey@arcofchestercounty.org.

BRAIN INJURY - ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY NETWORK - SUPPORT EVENTS AND NEWSLETTER, www.abin-pa.org, Mailing list 215-699-3391, b2272@prodigy.net.

CARING COMMUNITIES COALITION MEETING - Meets at COAD in Exton. Info on date/time: Kathleen, gyphy@kennett.net.

CELIAC - MALVERN R.O.C.K. (Raising our Celiac Kids) For parents, families, and friends of kids on the gluten-free diet because of celiac disease, gluten intolerance, autism, ADD/ADHD, allergies, or personal preference. Info/Regis: www.malvernrock.org or email Jen Manzi Jennifer_manzi@yahoo.com.

CHADD - CHESTER COUNTY CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER - PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS. Support/education meetings for teens with AD/HD; parents, teachers, and caregivers; and adults with AD/HD. Meets at Keshet Israel Congregation, West Chester, www.chestercountychadd.org. For specific dates and topics www.chadd.net/222, CHADD Message Line 610-429-4060.

CHESTER COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES Websearch - Search for services provided in Chester County by category, keyword, or agency/program name. <http://www.referweb.net/chesco/>.

CHESTER COUNTY COLLABORATIVE BOARD - Service providers, community, parents addressing issues involving children/families. Kathy Brauner - 610-344-5262.

CHESTER COUNTY FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP - Families, funders, providers, and community organizations working together to build awareness, share information, and improve efforts on behalf of children/families in Chester County. 610-783-1788 ext. 223, kbrenneman@childandfamilyfocus.org.

COMMUNICATE PA COMMUNITY - Online community for individuals with complex communication needs and their families, advocates, service providers, policy makers, and other stakeholders. Website: <http://communicatepa.wikispaces.com/>. To join the listserv: <http://communicatepa.wikispaces.com/ListServ>. Contact: Jennifer M. Seale, MS, CCC-SLP, seale@temple.edu, voicemail at 215-204-3032.

COMMUNITIES THAT CARE (CTC) GROUPS - in local school districts to promote healthy youth development and prevent and reduce negative youth health and behavioral issues including substance abuse, delinquency, teen pregnancy, school drop-out, and violence.

- **WCASD CTC** - 2nd Wed./mo at various locations. Info Christina, mobilizer, 610-696-8262.
- **DASD CTC** - 3rd Tues./mo at Lionville Community YMCA. Info: Elena Seeman, mobilize, 610458-9090 x2827, dtownctc@umly.org.
- **GVSD CTC** - Great Valley Partnership for Healthy Youth - 3rd Wed./mo at GVSD offices, 46 Church Rd., Malvern. Info: Shanna Cornuet, PHY mobilizer, 484-886-8437.

COMMUNITY CARE FAMILY ADVISORY COMMITTEE - Community Care manages mental health & substance abuse treatment services for individuals with MA under Health Choices program. The advisory committee meetings are held quarterly. For times, locations, and to RSVP: 1-866-771-1259.

CPPASD - Concerned Parents of Phoenixville Area School District - Info: CPPASD, Box 633, Phoenixville, PA 19460, or forconcernparents@yahoo.com.

DASD - Downingtown Area School District's SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT SUPPORT GROUP. Do you think your child may have a disability that requires special education services? Do you wonder how to make sense of the world of special education? Do you wish you could network with other parents who are involved in the special education process? ***You are not alone!*** We provide a network in which parents of children with special needs have access to relevant information, training and emotional support; and encourage an atmosphere of effective communication, understanding, and mutual respect among all students, parents, educators and the community-at-large. **Meeting Dates for 2011-2012: 1/9, 3/12, 5/14.** 7:00-9:00pm at the DASD Administration Building, 540 Trestle Place, Downingtown, Room B. Sign up for our yahoo group to receive regular info about this group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dasdspecialsupport>, dasdspecialsupport@yahoogroups.com. Questions? Paulette lomarro@yahoo.com, 610-363-0127.

DELCO FAMILY "PASS" (PDD/Autism Spectrum Support). Monthly support meetings, newsletter, scholarships, and parents-only listserv. www.delcofamilypass.com or barbzimmerman@delcofamilypass.com. 610-626-9511.

DEPRESSION/BI-POLAR Support Group for MH Consumers -Weekly, Tues. PM in West Chester area. 610-420-7330.

DEPRESSION - Learn from ME about teen depression. The ME Project: encouraging, supporting, and educating teens, their families, and the community about mental health issues. Resource center located in Ridge Village Shopping Center, Suite #21, Chadds Ford. www.meproject.org.

DIFFICULT/CHALLENGING TEEN-PARENT SUPPORT GROUP -at Willowdale Chapel, Rt. 82. 610-274-2248.

DIVORCE - CHILDREN IN THE MIDDLE (CIM): a skill-based program to help middle school youth and their parents minimize a child's negative reaction to divorce. CIM aims to reduce the parental conflict, loyalty pressures, and communication problems that can place significant stress on children. Holcomb Behavioral Health Info/regis Chrissie 484-444-0412, cdziembo@holcombbhs.org, or Luis (Bilingual) LBenites2@holcombbhs.org. Ongoing.

****DOUBLE TROUBLE** - Consumer support group for those recovering from addiction and mental health problems. Meets every Tue. & Thu.- 3:30pm - 5:00pm at Community Crossroads Peer Support Center, 825 Paoli Pike, West Chester. John at: 610-429-1702 or email community.crossroads@hhinc.org.

DOWN SYNDROME INTEREST GROUP of Chester County - Meets 1st Thu./mo at 7:30pm at The Arc of Chester County, West Chester. RSVP to hotline: 610-889-0291, www.ccdsig.org. Newsletter is going to email format only, so send in your email address to DSIG.

EARLY INTERVENTION - CHESTER COUNTY LICC. Meetings for professionals and parents with children with special needs in the early intervention years. Mission: support families and enhance the quality of services. Meetings held Sept. through June at **The Intermediate Unit, room #300, 455 Boot Rd. (CCIU)**. For info/newsletter/event listing: co-chair Patty 610-436-3600, pmiller@theraplayinc.com or co-chair, Lynne Goetting 610-344-5946, lgoetting@chesco.org.

EDUCATION FOR ALL COALITION OF PA. Working together to promote education that *includes* all children. Online community, parent consultant network, training/technical assistance. Diane Perry 610-522-0698, dperry300@paedforall.org, website: www.paedforall.org.

ESPECIALLY FOR PARENTS - Online support group for parents of children with special health care needs. Visit us by going to www.pamedicalhome.org and clicking on the "Parents" button!

EXCEPTIONAL CHILD SUPPORT GROUP - For parents with children with all types of exceptionalities. We discuss educational ideas to help all children experience success and shine and currently sponsor a special CC child in the community. Info: Jane, JaneLeeT@aol.com, 610-345-1156.

FAMILIES OVERCOMING OBSTACLES TOGETHER, The FOOT ministry is now forming IN SOUTHERN CHESTERCOUNTY to help families walk through these challenges together. The ministry is based out of the Christian Life Center - New London Township, Pa. Info: Allison Rafferty at 610-467-0064, www.clcfamily.net.

FATHERHOOD - EVERY THURSDAY - 5:30pm - 7:00pm FOUNDATIONS OF FATHERHOOD WORKSHOP - sponsored by Phoenixville CTC

The FOOT Ministry a SUPPORT GROUP in SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY. The FOOT ministry (Families Overcoming Obstacles Together) is now forming to help families walk through these challenges together. The ministry is based out of the Christian Life Center - New London Township, PA. Info: Allison Rafferty at 610-467-0064, www.clcfamily.net.

FOSTER CARE - Orientation/info. Sessions held for those interested in becoming foster parents. Held at Friends Association, West Chester. Info/Regis: Melrena Flowers at 610-431-3598 ext. 209.

FRAGILE X SYNDROME SUPPORT at The Elwyn Fragile X Center, 111 Elwyn Road, Elwyn, PA 19063, 610-891-2349, www.elwyngenetics.org, mary_delany@elwyn.org.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS/ADVOCACY COMMITTEE of The Arc of Chester County, 610-696-8090 ext. 220.

GRANDFAMILY SUPPORT GROUP: Grandfamilies are households headed by grandparents or other relatives sharing their home with nieces, nephews, grandchildren, or other related children (also called kinship families). Meets 2x/month, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7:00pm - 8:30pm at Government Services Bldg., 601 Westtown Rd., West Chester. Teen and children's activities provided. Register: Kathy Boyd, 610-344-5890, kboyd@chesco.org.

GVSD PARENTS OF SPECIAL NEEDS AND THE GIFTED - Support group, presentations, and parent info. center. Meets at the District Office. Visit info center at the GVMS Library. Info: Sandra, SADDSMom@aol.com, 610-640-0507.

H.O.P.E. - Helping by Offering Prayer and Encouragement - Christian support for parents of children with special needs. Downingtown. Karyn, 610-873-4698, musictchr@earthlink.net or Debbie, 484-888-5443.

HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN - Parents meet every 4th Tue. at CHAD in West Chester. Info/Regis: Janine Ruch. 610-918-6250, ruchjm@comcast.net,

HOPEWELL SPECIAL PARENT SUPPORT GROUP - All welcome. Relaxed/informal time of devotions/prayer. 1st Wed. Sept. through April, 6:30pm - 7:30pm at Hopewell United Methodist Church, Downingtown. Info/regis: Rose: garyrose@verizon.net or Vicki: Vicki@hopewellumc.org.

INCLUSION SUPPORT - KIDS TOGETHER, INC - Volunteer, non-profit providing information on inclusive communities/education. Advocates, listserv, email, newsletter, and website. staff@kidstogether.org, www.kistogether.org.

LA LECHE LEAGUE There are five La Leche League Groups in Chester County (610-363-6206):

- **La Leche League of Downingtown** Kerri (610) 585-5541 or Judy (610) 363-6206 (Evening Group)
- **La Leche League of Exton-Lionville** Judy (610) 363-6206 or Kerri (610) 585-5541 (Evening Group)
- **La Leche League of Glenmoore-Elverson** Jennifer beanmom@beanmom.com or Kristina (610) 321-0319 (Morning Group)
- **La Leche League of Kimberton** Kristina (610) 321-0319 or Jennifer beanmom@beanmom.com (Morning Group)
- **La Leche League of West Chester** Dana (610) 299-1038 or Shelly (484) 883-0572 (Morning Group)

LOVE AND LOGIC TRAININGS - for parents of all children and those who work with children. Karen at kbrenneman@childandfamilyfocus.org.

MH - BRIGHT FUTURES - Helping those in recovery access their educational and employment goals. Open to any Chester County resident who is in mental health recovery. No cost for classes or materials. Funded by the Chester County Dept of MH/IDD. Classes: 9 wks., 2 days/wk., 9:00am - 12:00pm. Contact Carelink 610-429-1702 or Chester County MH/IDD 610-344-6265.

MH - COMPEER of Chester County - MH Friendship Program <http://compeerchesco.org>. 610-436-4445.

MH - COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM - "CSP" 1st Wed. @ Peer Support Center, West Chester 12:00pm - 2:00pm 610-344-7049.

MH - CONSUMER "PEER SUPPORT CENTER" Recovery resources, WRAP, CPS & Common Ground Trainings, Employment Counseling, Support Groups, etc. 825 Paoli Pike, West Chester, PA 19380, 610-429-1702.

MH - CONSUMER WARM LINE - 877-846-2722.

MH - VALLEY CREEK CRISIS CENTER - 877-918-2100.

MOM'S CLUB - Big calendar of activities w/playgroups. Chester Co. Chapter, 610-719-0816. Local groups: Landenberg, 2nd Tue. - 9:30am, West Grove UMC, 610-255-3975; Chadds Ford, last Tue. CFmomclub@hotmail.com, 610-455-0137; Oxford, 1st Tue.- Oxford Nazarene Church, 610-932-6122.

****NAMI-NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS** - Vast info/resources: www.nami.org. Children and adolescent issues: www.nami.org/caac. Medications, stigma, faith net, family to family, peer to peer, veterans, resources, networking, membership, persons missing, etc.

****NAMI-PA** - www.namipa.nami.org.

****NAMI CHESTER COUNTY** - 484-947-5643, www.chester.nami.org, namichesco@gmail.com.

****NAMI CHESTER COUNTY HELPLINE** - 610-430-0177.

****NAMI - CONSUMER SUPPORT - DEPRESSION-BIPOLAR ALLIANCE** - Monday - 9:30am - 10:45am - 610-420-7330.

****NAMI- SUPPORT GROUP FOR FAMILIES AFFECTED BY BORDERLINE PERSONALITY DISORDER.** Phoenixville. 610-430-0177.

****NAMI CAN - SUPPORT GROUP FOR FAMILIES OF A CHILD OR ADOLESCENT TO AGE 22 WITH SEVERE EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCES.** 2nd Mon. 7- 9pm at Central Presbyterian Church, Downingtown. CALL AHEAD: 610-935-0739/ 610-296-0377.

****NAMI - CHESTER COUNTY GENERAL MEETINGS**, 3rd Thu. - 7:00pm - 9:00pm at Christ Memorial Lutheran Church, Paoli Pike & Line Rd., Malvern. Guest presenters. (MARCH: QPR - Question, Persuade, Refer, Suicide Prevention). ALL WELCOME. 484-947-5643/ <http://chester.nami.org>.

****NAMI - FAMILY-TO-FAMILY - MH Family Member Education/Coping Course 12 wks. @ 1x wk., 7:00pm - 9:00pm** in regard to persons 18 yrs. + who have a severe mental illness. Instructors are trained NAMI family members. MUST call ahead: 484-947-5673.

****NAMI - GRIEF AND LOSS (DOWNTOWN AREA) FROM MH (Family & Friends) SUPPORT GROUP - 2nd** Thu. - 7:30pm - 9:30pm at private home. MH facilitator attending. For MH family members who have experienced death of a loved one with mental illness. Call ahead! 610-269-3476.

****NAMI - FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP - Phoenixville**, 2nd Thu. - 7:00pm - 8:30pm at new location in Phoenixville. MH facilitator attending. Call ahead! 484-947-5643.

****NAMI - FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP - West Chester Area**, 1st Wed. - 7:00pm - 9:30pm - facilitator attending. Call ahead! 484-947-5643.

****NAMI MH FAMILY MEMBERS, Support Group**, Eastern Chester County, 4th Wed. - 7:00pm at Daylesford Abbey, Paoli. MH facilitator. 610-296-8036.

****NAMI - PAOLI /EASTERN CHESCO REGION FAMILY SUPPORT - 4th Wed.** - 7:00pm - 9:00pm. Call ahead: 610-296-8036.

****NAMI - PEER TO PEER, MH Education Course** taught by trained MH consumers to MH consumers. Info: Marian Stevenson, Jr. 610-384-6058 or 484-947-5643 to register.

****NAMI - KENNETT SQUARE/SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP-** 1st Thu. - 7:30pm - 9:00pm at Friends Meeting House, Rt. 82, Kennett Square. 610-444-5993.

****NAMI- WEST CHESTER AREA - 1st Wed.** - 7:00pm - 9:30pm Call for location. 484-947-5643.

MENDING HEARTS- Support group for those dealing with prodigal kids (or grandkids) or adults whose life choices are causing disruption and chaos in the family. 2nd & 4th Tues., 7:00pm, Sept. through June, at Calvary Fellowship Church, Downingtown, room 103. Info/regis: wanamaker1@comcast.net.

MH RE-INTEGRATION: Local site: Stepping Stones Clubhouse. stepping_stones@verizon.net.

OJR - PSNS - Parents of Special Needs Students -3rd Wed. 7:30pm - 9:00pm at the OJR High School, LGI room. Speakers, open forum, support. Banks207@aol.com.

PA EDUCATION FOR ALL COALITION, INC. Chapter meetings, online, parent consultant network. Diane Perry, 215-204-3031

PA FAMILIES INC - Statewide family network. 1-800-947-4941, pafamilies@comcast.net.

PA FAMILY SUPPORT ALLIANCE - Support and education group meets at CYWA in Coatesville. 610-384-9591.

PARENT NETWORK - Workshops held 2nd Tue. 6:30pm - 8:00pm at E. Brandywine Twp Bldg, 1214 Horseshoe Pike, Downingtown. Call: Martie Muzzy 610-696-8211 or trmfoundation@gmail.com

PARENTING WISELY (PW) - Two-session program available in two versions for parents of young children (3-8) and adolescents (10-18). PW provides multiple solutions to common problem behaviors, and critiques effective and ineffective parenting methods. Holcomb Behavioral Health Info/regis Chrissie 484-444-0412, cdziembo@holcombhhs.org, or Luis (Bilingual) LBenites2@holcombhhs.org. Ongoing.

PARENTS OF PREMIES - Support for parents of pre-term babies in the NCIU or at home. 4th Thu. 7:00pm at 74 Pottstown Pk., Suite 1001, Chester Springs. Info: Melissa Anstine 610-715-5253, Support@ThePremieLife.com.

PARENT TO PARENT OF PENNSYLVANIA - Linking families of children and adults with disabilities or special needs. Free/confidential help locating a support group, technical assistance, connection to the nearest regional office, resources, or a volunteer peer supporter. 1-888-727-2706, www.parenttoparent.org.

PHYSICAL DISABILITIES - SUPPORT GROUP FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH CP AND OTHER PHYSICAL DISABILITIES to share information, knowledge, resources, and support. Exton. Jen at CPA of CC- 610-524-5850, JEshenbaugh@ccdisability.org.

REACTIVE ATTACHMENT DISORDER/DIFFICULTIES PARENT SUPPORT GROUP in Lincoln University. Nancy 610-255-3664, nancyjhg@followingadoption.com.

RECOVERY INTERNATIONAL - Support group for adults seeking self-help addressing nervous symptoms and fears. Meets every Wed. 7:00pm - 9:00pm - Phoenixville Area, 610-415-0920.

“RECOVERY WORKS” CONSUMER SUPPORT GROUP - Formerly “Schizophrenia Support Group.” Meets every Tue. 6:30pm - 7:30pm at Community Crossroads Peer Support Center, 825 Paoli Pike, West Chester. John 610-429-1702 or email: community.crossroads@hhinc.org.

SCHOOL DISTRICT-BASED SUPPORT GROUPS (*contact info is located elsewhere in this document and listed alphabetically by support group abbreviation*)

- CPPASD - Phoenixville Area SD
- DASD - Downingtown SD/Lionville
- Great Valley - Great Valley SD
- GVSD - Great Valley SD
- OJR PSNS - Owen J Roberts SD
- TE/SD - Tredyffrin-Easttown SD
- WCASD - West Chester Area SD

SELF-DETERMINATION ACTION TEAM - Help implement changes to the IDD system through education, identification of needs, and challenging barriers that limit funding and community resources. Meets 1st Wed. at Government Services Bldg, 601 Westtown Rd., West Chester, PA. Info/Regis: Sue at 610-344-6265 or sberg@chesco.org.

SEVERE AND PROFOUND SUPPORT - For parents of children with severe/profound disabilities incl: genetic disorders, neurological impairments, seizures, IDD, and physical limitations. Meets the 2nd Tue. at the Exton Specialty Care Center, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, 7:30pm - 9:30pm. Info/regis: Barbara Beck, RN, CPNP, CHOP, Neurology Dept., 215-590-4583.

STARFISH ADVOCACY ASSOCIATION - Online community for families of children with neurological disorders (ADHD, ASD, Bipolar, PDD, SID LD, OCD, Tourette's, etc). 216-283-2377, www.starfishadvocacy.org, starfish@starfishadvocacy.org.

SUICIDE PREVENTION COUNCIL - FEELING BLUE A non-profit community service organization serving PA and the tri-state area. Box 7193, St. David's, PA. 1-800-273- TALK, www.feelingblue.org. Now offering trainings.

SUICIDE SURVIVORS - SHARING THE SILENCE SUPPORT GROUP - at The Carriage House, St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 400 King of Prussia Rd., Radnor, PA, 7:00pm - 8:30pm. Contact Carrie Miluski 610-687-5150.

SUICIDE - Chester County Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force - Held at COAD, Exton. Call 610-594-9740 for date and time. www.ccyssp.org.

SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE SUPPORT - 2nd Wed. 7:00pm at Paoli Memorial Hospital (Potter Room) 215-545-2242.

NEW!!! SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE SUPPORT GROUP - Bette Coatsworth, 215-736-1643.

SYSTEM OF CARE ADVISORY TEAM - at Government Services Center in West Chester. kbrauner@chesco.org.

TOURETTE'S SYNDROME SUPPORT GROUP - Meets 2nd Tues. 7:30pm - 9:00pm. Individual advocacy/IEP support available. Lesley 610-409-0833, lgeyer@comcast.net or Eileen 610-222-4870, acklerfamily@verizon.net. Web: www.patsainc.org.

T/E SD's B.U.I.L.D. (Better Understanding of Individuals with Learning Disabilities) - Call for date/time. Regular meeting at the Education Services Center, 738 First Ave., Berwyn. Cindy, 610-202-4371, www.tesd.k12.pa.us.

TRANSITION COUNCIL MEETING - Quarterly meetings. Is your child 14-21 yrs. old and preparing for transition from high school to employment, independence, further education? Call: Cindy-484-237-5000.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI) - For survivors, families, caregivers. Meets the 2nd Tue. 7:00pm at Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital, 610-251-5400.

VALUE - Vision and Leadership Uniting Education. Coalition of PA advocacy groups for children w/special needs. Ellen, emancuso@ppainc.org.

WCASD - West Chester Area Parent/Caregiver Support Group - 7:00pm - 9:00pm at The Arc of Chester County, West Chester. *Meets Oct through May with speakers.* Call for date and to get on mailing list. Info/date/support: Peggy 484-571-6725, mccaughern@yahoo.com.

Explore Your Resources

ADVOCATES/MENTORS: *FREE SERVICES*

- The Arc of Chester County, Connie Mohn, MEd, BCEA 610-696-8090 ext. 220.
- The Arc of Chester County, Pat Chesko, Intake Advocate, pchesko@arcofchestercounty.org, 610-696-8090.
- The CCIU: Mary Ann Amici, Parent Mentor 484-237-5123, MaryannA@cciu.org;
- Bureau of Sp. Ed. Consultline, A Parent Helpline: 800-879-2301.
- Child & Family Focus, Family Mentors - 610-783-1788 ext. 223, www.childandfamilyfocus.org
- Ed McKenna, 610-783-1788 ext. 238, emckenna@childandfamilyfocus.org; Kim Booz, kbooz@childandfamilyfocus.org; kbrenneman@childandfamilyfocus.org, and Debbie Willett, Family Support Advocate for Chester County Juvenile Probation, 484-238-4594, dwillett@childandfamilyfocus.org.
- Disability Advocacy Support Hub (DASH) 800-692-7443 / 877-375-7139 (TTY) (listserv + helpline)
- Disability Rights Network PA: Sp. Ed. legal advice, technical assistance, publications/info: 800-692-7443, www.dmpa.org/publications.
- HUNE - Hispanos Unidos para Ninos Excepcionales - Special Ed Helpline - 215-425-5112.
- Jill Santiago, Family Voices Advocacy Services - 610-563-7802, hxsantiago@juno.com.
- Mental Health Assoc. - 800-686-4226, www.mhasp.org.
- National Alliance on Mental Illness Help Line (NAMI-Ches.Co.), <http://chester.nami.org>, 610-430-0177.
- PA ELKS Home Service Program, www.paelks.com, 814-781-7860, 724-225-1395.
- PA Health Law Project Help Line (Questions about Medical Assistance): 800-274-3258, <http://www.phlp.org/>
- PA Tourette Syndrome Assoc., 800-990-3300.
- PA Education for All Coalition, Inc. Chapter meetings, online, parent consultant network.
- Diane Perry, 215-204-3031
- Parent Education Network, Maggie Buckley 800-522-5827; separentednet@gmail.com.
- Parent to Parent of PA-800-9860-4550; Special Kids Network - 888-727-2706.
- Public Interest Law Center of Phila. (PILCOP) Consultation Services - \$225 (Scholarships available) www.pilcop.org.
- Sandy Wadsworth, Co-Chair Delco Right to Ed. Task Force and Advocate, 610-938-9000 ext. 4037, wadsworthss@hotmail.com
- Social Security Disability Benefits Consulting, free of charge thru Goodwill in Lancaster, PA, Todd@passabco.com, 866-541-7005 extension 3, www.yourgoodwill.org.
- Special Kids Network - Helps individuals find resources and helps groups develop, and maintain programs and supports, 800-986-4550.
- Susan Rzucidlo, SPEAK Unlimited, 610-659-3145, srz@dol.net
- Vision for Equality - Helps individuals access supports and services. 215-923-3349, resources@visionforequality.org.

ADVOCATE/MENTORS/SPECIAL EDUCATION CONSULTANTS: *FEE FOR SERVICE*

(BCEA = Board Certified Education Advocate)

- The Arc of Chester County, Dr. Lisa Faranda, BCEA, lfaranda@arcofchestercounty.org
- Alexandra Bricklin, 610-415-9629, alexsolre@mac.com.
- Becca Devine, 610-658-9909, devinerl@msn.com.
- Christine Hesling, chesling@mckinleyryan.com, 610-806-6209.
- Denise Johnson, 610-280-9842, accidentaladvocate@live.com.
- Jacquelyn Evans, RN, JEM Personal Advocating & Consulting, Inc. 484-753-1025, Jacquern06@yahoo.com. Medical Advocating services for families and loved ones in difficult times.
- Dr. Kelly Barton, Barton Educational Consulting, bartonedconsulting@gmail.com. 610 696-6018
- Kari Burdeau, BCEA 610-761-6936, kari.burdeau@verizon.net.
- Linda Heller (Non-Litigating Attorney) 610-667-9019.
- Lynne Harrison, BEd, BCEA, Board Certified Special Education Consultant serving the five-county area. lynnedharrison@gmail.com, 610-504-0076.
- Marie C. Lewis, RN, PhD, Education Consultant, marieclewis@verizon.net.
- Martin Elks, Special Education Consultant/Advocate/Inclusion Specialist, 484-459-8854.
- Maureen Anello, Education Consultant, maureenanello@comcast.net, 302-745-5577(cell). Educating families about the supports and services available. Partnering with families, we review, research, and develop a plan to effectively advocate on behalf of their children.

- Michele Dzury, Education Consultant, mdzury@yahoo.com, 610-610-390-6545.
- Dr. Robyn Forbes Drucker, robyndrucker@mail.immaculata.edu, 610-296-9828.
- Sandra Phillips, BCEA, Certified Paralegal, 610-948-1188, Educate.Me@comcast.net. Helping parents navigate the IEP/504 process.
- Sherry Frost, MS, CCC. Special Education Advocate. Serving Chester, Delaware, & Montgomery Counties. 610-529-8454, sherry-frost@comcast.net.
- SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVOCATES, www.specialedadvocates.org.
- Trish E. Luberda, CSEC, ATP/L, Certified Special Education Consultant, Assistive Technology Practitioner, trish@advocates4U.org. 610-334-8381, trish@advocates4U.org.

INCLUSION SPECIALISTS

- Martin Elks, Inclusion Specialist/Special Education Consultant/Advocate, 484-459-8854.

SPECIAL EDUCATION CONSULTANTS & ADVOCATES (Fee for Service)

- Kelly Barton, MEd, Barton Educational Consulting, bartonedconsulting@gmail.com. 610-696-6018.

ADVOCATE - *EXCLUSIVELY* SERVING “PARENT VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES” and PAID ADVOCATES: Michalisa Marshall Pugh, Esq. - A Resource for Advocates! - 610-696-5006.

“AGENCY WITH CHOICE” PROGRAM for IDD WAIVER SERVICES - Offering more control/choice over the services your family member with IDD receives via his/her ISP and/the provider of IDD services. Call the AWC Program Director, Kari Burdeau, at 610-696-8090, ext. 241 or kburdeau@arcofchestercounty.org.

AUTISM- TRANSITION PLANNING HANDBOOK for INDIVIDUALS with AUTISM - Online resource for families in PA. www.autismhandbook.org/index.php/Main_Page.

BEHAVIOR SUPPORTS: ABA2DAY Behavior Services, LLC offers home and in school programming. Under Act 62 - insurance is accepted. Private pay accepted. www.myaba2day.com, 561-213-3738.

BULLYING TOOLKIT - “Eyes on Bullying...What Can You Do? Toolkit to Prevent Bullying in Children’s Lives.” Developed by the Ed. Dev. Center in Mass. Free. www.eyesonbullying.org.

CELL PHONES - 42 minutes/month FREE to qualifying individuals in selected area codes. Visit Lifeline at www.safelink.com or call toll-free at 1-800-977-3768 for more details.

CHILD HEALTHCARE SERVICE GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR UP TO \$5,000 (medical services/ equipment.) Child must be 16 yrs. or younger. Online app. at UHCCF website. <http://www.uhccf.org>.

COMPUTER - INTERNET ESSENTIALS BY COMCAST - Will provide eligible families affordable home internet service (\$9.95/mo), a low-cost computer (\$149.99 plus tax), and access to free internet training - online, in print, and in classroom (at established community training sites). Available everywhere Comcast offers its high-speed internet service. Will accept participants for at least three years and those accepted will stay with the program until that child graduates from high school. <http://www.internetessentials.com/>

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MATERIALS available from the Regional Vulnerable Populations Project. Includes whistle/flashlight, mini-go kits, hand sanitizer, Everybody Ready Handbooks, and other outreach material. Contact Chester County Dept. of Emergency Services, rslater@chesco.org, 267-746-0685, 610-344-5022. Materials can be dropped off at your location.

CRISIS - Valley Creek CRISIS CENTER 877-918-2100.

CONSUMER WARM LINE - 866-846-2722.

CONSUMER PEER SUPPORT CENTER, 825 Paoli Pike, West Chester, PA 19380. 610-429-1702. Support groups, recovery resources and CareLink, Inc. for employment counseling, etc.

DIGITAL BOOKS: ACCESSIBLE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS.

- BOOKSHARE - District Membership Available - FREE for school district this year & next year - App for iPod, iPhone & iPad. <http://www.bookshare.org/>

- **LEARNINGALLY** - District Membership available (formerly RFB&D) App for iPod, iPhone & iPad. <http://www.learningally.org/>
- **CHESTER COUNTY LIBRARY** has free audiobooks you can download to MP3, iPod, iPhone & iPad & Android devices. <http://overdrive.ccls.org>
- **AUDIBLE** (A division of Amazon) has audio versions of books & textbooks available for purchase <http://www.audible.com/anon-home>
- **PaTTAN** - Accessible Instructional Materials - <http://www.pattan.net/category/Resources/AIM%20Center/>
- **NOTE:** Audio, digital or online versions may be available directly from textbook publishers. Digital versions on a CD or online versions can be used in conjunction with free screen readers such as the text-to-speech feature built into all Mac computers - see "Speech" in System Preferences to turn on this feature or check out www.naturalreaders.com if you are using a PC.

EYEGLASSES - Program provides prescription eyeglasses for low-income individuals. <http://www.neweyesforthe needy.org/utilities/contact.html>, phone: 973-376-4903.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS - The Regional Vulnerable Populations Outreach Project (RVPOP) reaches out to organizations that serve vulnerable populations, providing them with information, education and trainings on emergency preparedness as well as materials. For more information on the RVPOP contact robyn@phmc.org. www.chesco.org, www.redcross.org, www.nod.org (key word: emergency preparedness materials), www.bt.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MATERIALS available from the Regional Vulnerable Populations Project. Includes whistle/flashlight, mini-go kits, hand sanitizer, Everybody Ready Handbooks, and other outreach material. Contact Chester County Dept. of Emergency Services, rslater@chesco.org, 267-746-0685, 610-344-5022. Materials can be dropped off at your location.

EMPLOYMENT - disABLEDperson Inc.- Info: www.disabledperson.com.

EMPLOYMENT - Campaign for Disability Emp. www.whatcanyoudocampaign.org/.

EMPLOYMENT - WORKFORCE 3- www.workforce3one.org/page/home.

EMPLOYMENT - www.worksforme.org.

EMPLOYMENT- Career Link Chester County, www.careerlink.org.

EMPLOYMENT- TOOLS FOR AMERICA'S JOB SEEKERS - US Dept of Labor www.careeronestop.org/jobseekertools.

FAMILY GUIDE ON EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES AVAILABLE. Title: Choosing the Right Treatment: What Families Need to Know about Evidence-Based practices. For copy: 717-238-1514, 800-223-0500, or www.namipa.nami.org.

FORECLOSURE CONSULTATIONS - CONSUMER CREDIT COUNSELING SERVICE OF DELA CTY - Office in West Chester. 800-989-2227, www.cccsdv.org.

FOR THE LATEST ALERTS, ADVOCACY, AND EMAIL NEWSLETTERS:

- Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders - www.aboard.org
- Children's Advocacy Project - www.cap4kids.org
- Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates - www.copaa.net
- Disability Rights Network - PA - www.drnpa.org
- Education Law Center - www.elc-pa.org
- Public Interest Law Center of Phil. - www.pilcop.org

FREE & LOW COST HEALTH INSURANCE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - Now almost all children in PA can get some kind of health insurance! Call PCCY (Public Citizens for Children and Youth): 215-563-5848 ext. 17, www.pccy.org.

FREE CLINIC IN PHOENIXVILLE - providing medical care to those without insurance. Located: 143 Church Street, Phoenixville, PA 19460 <http://www.theclinicpa.org>.

HELP IN PA - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES HELP - <http://www.helpinpa.state.pa.us/default.aspx>.

HOME REPAIR - GOOD WORKS - Repairing Homes and Restoring Hope. Faith-based, nonprofit organization assisting low-income homeowners with home repairs at no cost. Focus is making homes warmer, safer, and drier. Most repairs completed by volunteers. Must own your home, and live in the home. Call 610-383-6311. www.goodworksinc.org.

HOUSING - Emergency Housing Assistance for homeless people who are engaging in MH treatment through Open Hearth, Inc, and Gateway Housing Group. Short-term emergency rent payment assistance for hotels, motels, boarding houses, or transitional housing programs, and zero interest/zero payment security deposit loans. Call 610-792-9282, x 201. openhearthinc@verizon.net.

Valuable IEP Resources:

- IEP Apps: <http://techinspecial.com/2011/08/04/technology-in-education-apps-by-goal/>
- IEP GOAL BANK - <http://www.bridges4kids.org/IEP/iep.goal.bank.pdf>
- IEP Apps - <http://techinspecial.com/2011/08/04/technology-in-education-apps-by-goal/>

LEGAL AID NETWORK, CHESTER COUNTY, Mon - Fri, 9 - 1pm, 877-429-5994, www.palegalservices.org.

MA and WELFARE APPLICATION ASSISTANCE AND ADVOCACY is available through Public Citizens for Children and Youth, www.PCCY.org.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE: "How to Apply for Medical Assistance for your Autistic Child" Guide - <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/servicesprograms/autism/help/003676289.htm>

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (MA): A GUIDE FOR DETERMINING YOUR ELIGIBILITY FOR FREE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE THRU MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (MA). Available through the PA Health Law Project. 800-274-3258, 215-625-3663, PA Health Law Project Help Line: 800-274-3258. <http://www.phlp.org>.

MA-GETTING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR A CHILD (UNDER 21) WITH A SEVERE DISABILITY, MENTAL ILLNESS OR BEHAVIORAL DISORDER UNDER THE "LOOPHOLE" (2008 EDITION)- Guidebook from the PA Health Law Project, www.phlp.org.

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCE - Newsletter from COAD now available online. <http://www.coadgroup.com/mentalHealth.asp#MHRnewsletter>

MOBILITY EXPRESS DOWNINGTOWN - www.Abilitools.com , email: pmelcher@comcast.net.

PA HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES RESOURCE GUIDE: www.state.pa.us, keyword: "resource guide."

PA HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES CENTER RESOURCE: www.facebook.com/HelpinPA with weekly updates from Dept. of Insurance, Health, Public Welfare, and Aging. Please join the community

PUBLIC CITIZENS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH (PCCY) - Help get children health insurance or find a place to get health care services. Email: dzubow@pccy.org, www.pccy.org, 215-563-5848 ext. 17.

REFER WEB - website maintained by Chester County to aid in identifying health and human service providers for county residents. www.referweb.net/chesco.

REGIONAL VULNERABLE POPULATIONS OUTREACH PROJECT (RVPOP) - Providing material and training for agencies and groups on how to better assist or respond to individuals with special needs in emergency situations. Info: robyn@phmc.org

RENTAL ASSISTANCE for qualified MH consumers - 484-947-5643.

NEW!!! RESOURCE GUIDE FOR THE AUTISM COMMUNITY - Free internet directory highlighting autism-friendly businesses and locations. www.autismresources.com.

RFB&D - RECORDING for the BLIND & DYSLEXIC - FREE access to the nation's largest audiobook library of textbooks and literature. www.rfbd.org

SENSORY AND LANGUAGE TOOLS - Child therapy products/special needs toys to build skills/empower children of every ability. www.funandfunction.com.

SERVICE DEFINITIONS for FY10/11 for IDD Programs:
http://gallery.mailchimp.com/19e8ee8c57999492d1f109d2b/files/FY10_11DRAFTSvc_Defs_Bulletin.pdf

SUBSTANCE ABUSE - OMHSAS - PA Office of MH & Substance Abuse - www.parecovery.org.

WRAPAROUND - NEW RESOURCE GUIDE TO WRAPAROUND - from the National Wraparound Initiative. Now available: <http://www.rtc.pdx.edu/NWI-book/index.shtml>.

HOW TO GET MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN CHESTER COUNTY

- **Chester County Dept. of MH/IDD** 610-344-6265, 800-692-1100, www.chesco.org.
- **Crisis/Emergency Services:** Call MH Crisis Intervention: 877-918-2100, 610-918-2100.
- **For Community Mental Health Services:**
 - If you have Medical Assistance: call Community Care Behavioral Health 866-622-4228, Espanol: 866-229-3197.
 - If have private insurance: call the number on the back of your insurance card.
 - If have no insurance/need outpatient services: Call Core MH Service provider:
- **ADULTS:**
 - Human Services, Inc (WC, Downgttn, Coates, Parkes. areas) 610-873-1010/ 888-873-1001.
 - Human Services, Inc (Oxford) 610-869-8557.
 - Fellowship Health Resources (Phoenixville area) 610-415-9301.
 - Creative Health Services, Inc. (Spring City Area) 610-948-6490.
- **CHILDREN:**
 - Child Guidance Resource Centers (Coatesville) 610-383-5635, 866-799-3325.
 - Community Services of Devereux (Phoenixville) 610-933-8110.
 - Creative Health Services (Spring City) 610-948-6490.
 - Human Services, Inc. (Downingtown) 610-873-1010, 888-873-1001.
 - Human Services, Inc. (Oxford) 888-873-1001.
 - Human Services, Inc. (West Chester) 610-430-6141.
 - Holcomb Behavioral Health (Kennett Square) 610-388-7400.
