



May 2012 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.

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@yahoo.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.chestercountyhadd.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.

COMPLAINT OPTIONS:

- File a complaint for MH County Funded Services - 610-692-1100 x6265.
- File a medical assistance (Health Choices) - 866-622-4228.

CONSUMER "WARM" TALK LINE - 1-866-846-2722.

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

CRISIS - Valley Creek Crisis Center - 1-877-918-2100.

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: 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.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL INFORMATION AND REFERRAL -CHESTER COUNTY - 1-877-286-3767.

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, 4/11 and 4/25, 5/9), 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 - COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM "CSP" (Consumers, family members and MH Professionals together to improve MH system) - Meets 1st Wednes., 12pm - 2:00pm, @ Peer Support Center, West Chester 610-344-7049.

****NAMI - COMPEER** of Chester County - MH Volunteer/Consumer Friendship Program 610-436-4445, <http://compeerchesco.org>.

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

MH - CRISIS - 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. CFmomsclub@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, 825 Paoli Pike, 3rd Floor, West Chester, www.chester.nami.org, namichesco@comcast.net.

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

****NAMI CHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING** - 2ND Wednes/mo. 7pm-9pm, 825 Paoli Pike, 3rd Fl, West Chester, 484-947-5643.

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

****NAMI - DOWNINGTOWN AREA FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP (Family & Friends) - FOCUS ON GRIEF AND LOSS** 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-TO-FAMILY - MH Family Member Education/Coping Course 12 wks. @ 1x wk.** Instructors are trained NAMI family members. MUST call ahead: 484-947-5643.

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

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

****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 - FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP** 1st Wed. - 7:00pm - 9:30pm Call ahead and 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 10-18yrs. 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@holcombhbhs.org, or Luis (Bilingual) LBenites2@holcombhbhs.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.ccysp.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.