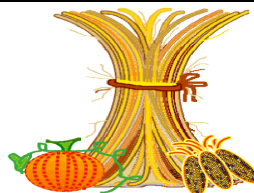


# Lapeer County Intermediate School District Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) for Special Education



## Newsletter for the Families of Children with Special Needs

Fall Edition  
November 2017  
Issue: 1 of 3



"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched- They must be felt with the heart."

– Helen Keller

### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Lapeer County Intermediate School District Parent Advisory Committee is to promote partnerships among parents and educators that benefit students with disabilities.

### PAC Representatives

#### ALMONT

Kim Schurig–(586) 873-8611  
Holly Ardman–(586) 372-1942  
Kelley Bussen–(810) 841-5334

#### DRYDEN

Melanie Starr–(810) 895-6449

#### IMLAY CITY

Melivia Mutch- (810) 724-3918  
Denise Kipp (Rossen)-(810) 721-1342  
VACANCY

#### LAPEER

Kim Hall-(810) 664-4743 Chairperson  
Kim Mileski-(810) 660-7751  
VACANCY

#### LAPEER COUNTY ISD

Regina Starr- (810) 623-2041  
Jessica Dombeck- (810) 701-0486

#### NORTH BRANCH

Becky Baksa–(989) 245-7308  
VACANCY

#### CHATFIELD

Contact Lapeer County ISD

Feel Free to contact your local representative for assistance or questions.



Welcome Joyce Dearhamer!

The New Parent Mentor for Lapeer & St. Clair

Michigan Alliance for Families

Read More On Page 4

### The Lapeer County ISD Special Education Parent Advisory Committee

The Lapeer County Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) is a group of educators and parents representing our local school districts whose primary focus is to stay informed regarding Special Education plans and changes, current trends in Special Education at the County, State, and Federal level, and if needed, to assist and promote partnerships among parents and educators that benefit students with disabilities.

The PAC takes an active role in the development of the Lapeer County Special Education Mandatory Plan, a document which describes the delivery of special education services in Lapeer County. The PAC provides workshops and speakers from the county and state-wide programs which can richly serve not only the parents of children with special needs, but in many instances the individual with the disability.

The PAC meets at:

Lapeer County ISD Education and Technology Center  
690 N. Lake Pleasant Road, Attica, MI.  
6 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Please visit the ISD website at: [www.lapeerisd.org](http://www.lapeerisd.org)

### Meeting Dates

#### 2017:

**November 6**

6:00 PM-8:00 PM

**"Independent Living Options"**

#### 2018:

**January 8**

6:00 PM- 8:00 PM

**"Emergency Use of Seclusion & Restraint"**

Business Meeting

**February 5**

6:00 PM- 8:00 PM

**"Assistive Technology"**

**March 5**

6:00 PM- 8:00 PM

**"Determining Course of Study"**

Business Meeting

**May 7**

6:00 PM- 8:00 PM

**"Coping with Emotional Stress of Parenting"**

Please join us at our meetings  
**Childcare is not available**

## The Next Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) PRESENTS:

# **“Independent Living Options”**

**With Karen Cook, Independent Living Specialist**  
**Blue Water Center for Independent Living**



### **Karen will cover:**

- Independent living options in Lapeer
- Network and advocacy to promote self-determination
- Navigating in the community
- Vocational exploration
- Resources to meet personal and individual goals

**Monday,  
November 6, 2017  
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

**Lapeer County Education and  
Technology Center  
690 N Lake Pleasant Rd, Attica**



### **Parent Advisory Committee Meeting Dates 2017-2018**

October 2, 2017 -	“Personal Curriculum”/Business Meeting
November 6, 2017-	“Independent Living Options”
January 8, 2018 -	“Emergency Use of Seclusion & Restraint”/Business Meeting
February 5, 2018 -	“Assistive Technology”
March 5, 2018 -	“Determining Course of Study”/Business Meeting
May 7, 2018 -	“Coping with Emotional Stress-Parenting A Child with Special Needs”
June 4, 2018 -	Dinner/Business Meeting (Directors/Coordinators)





# 'Roll N' Stroll' Raises Funds For Ed. Tech. Playground Upgrades



In recent weeks, teachers and special education students at Lapeer County Ed Tech Center have been raising money to make upgrades to the school's playground.

To help achieve that goal, Ed Tech Special Education teacher Shayleen Jorgensen launched a 'Roll 'N Stroll' fundraiser, whose proceeds will go toward the projected \$70,000 costs for the playground improvements.

Jorgensen said through the collective efforts of the Ed Tech Center's students with special needs staff, students, parents and generous community members, more than \$1,800 was raised for the project.

On Friday, Sept. 29, teachers and volunteers hosted a Roll 'N Stroll celebration at Attica Park, where special needs students were treated to food, drink, fun and a celebratory walk along the park's nearly one-mile track.

Joining the celebration were about 20 members from the Four County Community Foundation's YAC (Youth Advisory Committee), who assisted and served up refreshments to the students.

The YAC members represented the school districts of Almont, Armada, Capac, Dryden, Imlay City and Romeo, whose students are eligible to receive Four County Community Foundation grants.

Though the Roll 'N Stroll fundraiser is over, donations to the school's special needs program are welcome throughout the year. "We are always accepting donations if anyone else wish to donate to our playground fund," Jorgensen said.





Working together in the fight against hunger in Lapeer County



Forever Friends Network  
has a NEW home!

The Autism Resource  
Center is located at:  
323 Jefferson St, Lapeer

## "A Gathering of Friends Fundraising Luncheon"

November 4, 2017

2:00-5:00 PM

Lapeer Center for Innovation — 170 Millville Rd., Lapeer, MI

Adult Dinner \$10 Child Dinner \$5



## Journey Therapy Center



### Claudia Leandres, M.Ed., BCBA

Resident of Lapeer, Claudia earned a BA in Law from an accredited university in Brazil. After her son's ASD diagnosis she decided to go back to school and today she is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA).

Claudia holds a Master's Degree in Special Education with Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) concentration from Oakland University and has worked at ABA therapy clinics implementing various ABA programs.

Currently, she is a Professor at Oakland University, speaker at several ABA and Autism conferences in Brazil, ABA Consultant, ABA Supervisor for BCBA candidates and owner of the Journey Therapy Center. She has a passion for working with children with autism and plans to attend to doctoral school to obtain an advanced degree in Applied Behavior Analysis.



#### Services:

- ABA Therapy (morning and afternoon) 18m – 12 years
- After School ABA Therapy
- Social Skills Classes (preschoolers, youth & teens)
- Coming mid 2018 – Teens ABA

ClaudiaCLeandres@aol.com (810) 358-7883 cell Phone: (810) 358-0373  
Journey Therapy Center — 1100 W. Newark Rd Lapeer, MI 48446 [www.journeytherapycenter.com](http://www.journeytherapycenter.com)



# Family Matters

Learn about special education topics. Find resources to help you and your child.

## What is *Family Matters*?

*Family Matters* is an outreach effort from the Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education (MDE OSE).

*Family Matters* provides parents with information about special education and other resources.

MICHIGAN  
Department of  
Education

State Board of  
Education &  
Superintendent

Top 10 in 10

Academic Standards

Career and Technical  
Education

Early Learners and  
Care

Educator Services

Flexible Learning  
Options

MDE / SPECIAL EDUCATION / FAMILY MATTERS

### Family Matters



Family Matters provides parents and families with information about special education and other resources. Download the Family Matters information flyer and share it with parents and families that might be looking for information about special education.



## What you'll find at

[michigan.gov/specialeducation-familymatters](http://michigan.gov/specialeducation-familymatters)

### Fact Sheets

Our fact sheets explain special education laws and practices. The documents are easy to read and give links to more in-depth resources.

### Updates

Sign up to receive updates that matter to families from the Office of Special Education (OSE).

## Additional Resources

We list other organizations and state agencies that help parents and students receiving special education services.

### A Statewide Resource for Families

One such resource is the Michigan Alliance for Families. Michigan Alliance connects you with a parent mentor. Parent mentors assist you in navigating the educational system and are knowledgeable about state and local resources.



[www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org](http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org)

[info@michiganallianceforfamilies.org](mailto:info@michiganallianceforfamilies.org)

1-800-552-4821

Visit the Family Matters Website at:

**[Michigan.gov/specialeducation-familymatters](http://Michigan.gov/specialeducation-familymatters)**



MICHIGAN  
Department of  
Education



1-888-320-8384  
(OSE information line)



[michigan.gov/  
specialeducation-familymatters](http://michigan.gov/specialeducation-familymatters)



[mde-ose@  
michigan.gov](mailto:mde-ose@michigan.gov)



Get the Big Red Safety Toolkit free online. If you are a caregiver for someone with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) who is prone to wandering off from a safe environment, and whose diagnosis may interfere with their ability to recognize danger and/or stay safe.

Wandering, elopement, "running" or bolting behaviors among those within our community present unique safety risks, and create extraordinary worry and stress among caregivers. Drowning fatalities following wandering incidents remain a leading cause of death among those with ASD.

<http://nationalautismassociation.org/big-red-safety-box/>

#### The Toolkit Includes:

- *Caregiver Checklist*
- *Family Wandering Emergency Plan (FWEP)*
- *First-responder profile form. Please fill out and provide a copy to your local law enforcement agencies.*
- *Swimming Lessons Tool*
- *Root-cause Scenario & Strategies Tool*
- *Stop Sign Prompts*
- *Social Stories*
- *Caregiver Log*
- *Sample IEP Letter. (Never allow restraint/seclusion practices into any IEP as this increases associated risks.)*
- *How To Get Tracking Technology In Your Town*
- *General Awareness Letter: share with schools, homeowner's association, law enforcement agencies, physicians, etc.*
- *Five Affordable Safety Tools*
- *Caregiver Resources One-sheeter*



## **MEET *the* POLICE**

*A National Autism Association  
Safety Initiative*

## **Meet the Police: A Guide to Introducing Children & Adults with ASD to Local Law Enforcement**

*Published March 2017*

## **Topics Covered**

1. How to schedule a visit
2. What information to provide to police about your loved one or client
3. How to use a 'meet sheet,' along with other resources & tools provided in this guide
4. Steps you can take to ensure the safety of your loved one or client

**FREE On-Line at:**

<http://nationalautismassociation.org/meet-the-police/>

# Lapeer County Community Mental Health

## What We Do

Lapeer CMH serves adults, children and families. Direct services are available to persons of any age without regard to race, religion, national origin or handicap. Consultation services are available to schools, courts, law enforcement and social agencies, and other agencies serving the people of Lapeer County. Lapeer CMH is open 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.

### Location

Our agency address is:  
1570 Suncrest Drive  
Lapeer, MI 48446.

**North Branch Office**  
3789 Huron Ave.  
North Branch, MI  
810-270-2121

**Imlay City Office**  
6800 Newark Rd.  
Imlay City, MI  
810-721-7550

## Having an Emergency?

In an emergency, contact us at (810) 667-0500 anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

## Request Services

To request services, call toll-free (888) 225-4447. Click on the link for more information on [Accessing Services](#)

For other information about our services, you can contact us at e-mail: [lccmh@lapeercmh.org](mailto:lccmh@lapeercmh.org)

**MAKE THE CALL**  
Call 888-225-4447



[More Info](#)



Lapeer CMH accepts most insurance plans and:  
Medicaid, Medicare, Tricare, Blue Cross Blue  
Shield, McLaren, Veteran's Choice

## Our Services

Lapeer County CMH has been accredited by CARF for the following Programs and Services:

- Assertive Community Treatment (Adults)
- Assessment and Referral: Mental Health (Adults)
- Case Management/Services Coordination: Mental Health (Adults)
- Case Management/Services Coordination: Mental Health (Children and Adolescents)
- Community Integration: Mental Health (Adults)
- Community Integration: Psychosocial Rehabilitation (Adults)
- Crisis Intervention: Mental Health (Adults)
- Crisis Intervention: Mental Health (Children and Adolescents)
- Intensive Family-Based Services: Mental Health (Children and Adolescents)
- Outpatient Treatment: Mental Health (Adults)
- Outpatient Treatment: Mental Health (Children and Adolescents)
- Prevention: Mental Health (Adults)



## WELCOME!

Our New Parent Mentor for Lapeer & St. Clair

**Joyce Dearhamer**

**About Joyce:** My name is Joyce Dearhamer and I am excited to have been chosen as the new Regional Parent Mentor for Michigan Alliance for Families for the Lapeer and St. Clair County areas. In the past, I have worked at The Arc of St. Clair County in Port Huron as an Inclusive Recreation Coordinator for children. I have also worked in area schools as a substitute teacher and para pro. My family and I live in St. Clair County. I have a 13 year old daughter who has Down syndrome. I have been prepared the most for this role through my experiences with her education. I look forward to having this opportunity to serve as a support for families with their special education concerns.

1-800-552-4821

Michigan Alliance for Families:

[info@michiganallianceforfamilies.org](mailto:info@michiganallianceforfamilies.org)

Goal is to increase the involvement of families in their children's education. To do this, we offer learning opportunities across the state, leadership mentoring, and support.

Parents can connect directly to a local mentor to address the families' needs. All Michigan families are able to access 1:1 support, electronic and printed resource information, and referrals to local community resources. See the Michigan Alliance for Families map to get in touch with a staff person.



## FREE PRESENTATION

The Lapeer County ISD Transition Council presents:

### “Disability Benefits 101”

**November 29, 2017**

**12:00– 2:30 PM**

Lapeer Education & Technology Center

690 N. Lake Pleasant Rd., Attica, MI 48412

## Working With a Disability

**Disability Benefits 101** gives you tools and information on health coverage, benefits, and employment. You can plan ahead and learn how work and benefits go together.

## Getting Past the Myths: The Truth About Working

For people with disabilities, work is more of a possibility than ever before. Many people with disabilities are successful at meaningful jobs that they enjoy. With the right kind of training, preparation, and workplace accommodations, you can have a successful career.

A job can let you earn your own money and help you meet more people and make new friends.

But, you might worry that you will lose your benefits if you work. There are many myths about how working affects disability benefits and health coverage, or how hard it can be to get your benefits back if you stop working, or need to work fewer hours.

We want to give you the facts about those myths, so you will feel comfortable and safe if you start working, and so you won't worry about losing your benefits before you are ready.

Check Out The Website At:

<https://mi.db101.org/>



### Working With a Disability

Disability Benefits 101 gives you tools and information on health coverage, benefits, and employment. You can plan ahead and learn how work and benefits go together.

#### Getting Past the Myths: The Truth About Working

There are many myths about people losing their benefits if they work that are just not true. [More >](#)

#### Managing Your Benefits While Working

By keeping good records and quickly reporting any changes in your income, you can successfully work and manage your benefits. [More >](#)

#### How Health Benefits Work

Learn about the different ways you may be able to get



Welcome to DB101 (short video)

#### Calculators

**Benefits and Work Calculator**  
What will happen to your income, benefits, and health coverage if you go to work? You can use the Benefits and Work Calculator to find out how a job may affect your total income and your health coverage. [More >](#)

[School and Work Calculator](#)

#### Get Expert Help

- [SSI and SSDI](#) +
- [How Work Affects SSI and SSDI](#) +
- [Medicaid](#) +
- [Medicare](#) +
- [Work Preparation](#) +
- [Other Benefits](#) +

[Print this page](#)

[Email to a friend](#)

The links to the various resources are provided as a convenience. Lapeer County Intermediate School District does not specifically endorse any particular resource.

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