

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



Newsletter for the Families of Children with Special Needs

Fall Edition
October 2016
Issue: 1 of 3



"What lies behind us and
what lies before us are tiny
matters compared to what
lies within us."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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
VACANCY

DRYDEN

Melanie Starr-(810) 895-6449

IMLAY CITY

Melivia Mutch- (810) 724-3918
Lorri Ruffrage-(734) 755-9587
Denise Kipp (Rossen)-(810) 721-1342

LAPEER

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

LAPEER COUNTY ISD

Regina Starr- (810) 623-2041
Jessica Dombeck- (810) 701-04-86

NORTH BRANCH

Becky Baksa-(989) 245-7308
Shelli Greschaw-(810) 688-7491

CHATFIELD

Contact Lapeer County ISD

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

NEW Meeting Time

Eastern Michigan State FAIR FUN!



A Special Day at the Fair—See Page 3

The Lapeer County ISD Special Education Parent Advisory Committee

Meet Your New PAC Representatives On Page 2

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

Meeting Dates

2016:

October 17
6:00 PM–8:00 PM

"Skills for Effective
Parent Advocacy"

November 7
6:00 PM-8:00 PM

"ISD Plan/Business
Meeting"

2017:

January 9
6:00 PM- 8:00 PM

"Guardianship"

February 6
6:00 PM- 8:00 PM
Business Meeting

March 6
6:00 PM- 8:00 PM
"Assistive Technology"

May 8
6:00 PM- 8:00 PM
Business Meeting

Please join us at our meetings
Childcare is not available

The Next Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) PRESENTS:

Skills For Effective Parent Advocacy

Group Training/Discussion Facilitated by Jill Clyne

This workshop will explore six skills parents can use to become more effective advocates for their child with a disability, including:

- ☐ understanding your child's disability
- ☐ knowing your school district
- ☐ knowing your rights and responsibilities
- ☐ organize your paperwork to support clear and
- ☐ effective communication
- ☐ understanding the special education process
- ☐ knowing how to resolve disagreements

Who should attend? Parents, Grandparents, and Caregivers.



**Monday,
October 17, 2016
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

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

Meet Your New PAC Members



Hi my name is Jessica Dombeck. I am proud to say, I am married to my wonderful husband named Jason Dombeck, and we have two amazing children named Christian and Lily. Christian is 13 years old and goes to school at the Lapeer County ISD. He was born with a Rare Chromosome disorder called Kleeffstra Syndrome also known as the Micro Deletion of the 9Q34.3 Chromosome. Lily is 11 years old who loves to do gymnastics and ride her 4-wheeler. She goes to Almont Community Schools. I work at the Lapeer County ISD as a paraprofessional in the COSMIC classroom. I love my job. I get to work with some pretty amazing students and staff members. I look forward to being able to help anyone I that can. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call me.



I'm Holly Ardman, my husband and I have lived in Almont majority of our lives. We decided to raise our family in this small country community. We have two terrific children who attend Almont Schools. We are an outdoors kind of family. We enjoy swimming, biking, hiking, hunting, fishing, and all the other crazy things that Michigan has to offer us.

Being told your child has a disability can be unreal and terrifying at the same moment. Knowing where to find the re-

sources to become educated about the disability is a blessing! When my son was an infant he was diagnosed with Optic Nerve Hypoplasia. My sons optic nerves did not fully develop during my pregnancy. There is no reason why this occurs and there is no cure. The doctors told us he would be blind. Being new parents to our first born, we knew we had to help him in every way possible.



Regina is the President and Founder of Forever Friends Network. Regina's son, Brandon, was diagnosed with Autism at the age of 4 years old. Brandon is now 18 years old, and Regina continues to help spread awareness for Autism. She has been an advocate for individuals on the Autism Spectrum for the last 8.5 years. Regina has provided her efforts to various Autism organizations throughout Michigan. She is respected, and supported by The Lapeer County Intermediate School District, and The Lapeer County Community of Mental Health. Regina has been instrumental in bringing Autism Safety training specialists from the Autism Alliance of Michigan to Lapeer County, and to surrounding areas.

"Autistic kids are such extraordinary individuals — there's always something different that makes them stick out because each child is so unique. These kids are socially inept and they just want to fit in, they pick up things so quickly they are like sponges, we just want to pave the way for them to make connections." Regina Starr The County Press 4-03-2016

Regina Starr resides in Lapeer Michigan with her son Brandon, and supported by her partner of 9 years, Michael.

Eastern Michigan State Fair Special Needs Day



On July 28, 2016, from 10 until noon, The Eastern Michigan State Fair hosted a special needs day. Special needs individuals could attend the State Fair for free! The Lapeer County Education and Technology Center Program took the entire school to the fair and the students LOVED it! It was a wonderfully successful day.



4-H Challenged Me

4-H Challenged Me was designed to match a current 4H-er who already shows livestock with a child with special needs that is interested in animals. The kids are paired together with a peer coach of similar age.

The coaches received a brief awareness training that included working with others with different learning styles, communication and/or physical challenges. The challenge members, and their parents, then traveled to their coaches homes to practice as many times as they want with the animal and the coach.

On July 28th, 4-H members showed their livestock at the Eastern Michigan State Fair.

The benefits of this program were far reaching. Not only did the youth collectively learn social skills from one another, they learned animal care and proudly showed their livestock at the fair. Moreover, parents made connections with other parents in their community. It built a perfect bridge to continue peer-to-peer support during the summer months.

-Michelle Etson, School Social Work, Lapeer County ISD



Tutor Training Details

Time: 10am to 2pm

When: October 4th, 5th, and 6th, 2016

Where: Family Literacy Center

311 Higgins Street, Lapeer, MI

Be sure to sign up by calling [810-664-2737](tel:810-664-2737)



About Us

We provide free one to one tutoring for adults and children. We have playgroups, Ready, Set, Go!, and Hot Topic workshops. Call for more information on these events!

Family Literacy Center

P.O. Box 485

Lapeer, Michigan 48446

Family Literacy Center

[810-664-2737](tel:810-664-2737)



On-line Visit:

<http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/upcoming-events/>

For Upcoming Trainings and On-line Video

October 2016

[October 1 in Flint](#) Understanding Individualized Education Programs with Sandee Koski at Erwin L. Davis Educational Center 9:30am-1pm. [REGISTER ONLINE](#)

[October 4 in Cheboygan](#) Understanding Individualized Education Programs with Jessie Morton at Cheboygan Public Library 4pm-7pm. [REGISTER ONLINE](#)

[October 4 in Cadillac](#) How to Speak "Special Educationese": Productive Communication for IEP Team Meetings with Cheryl Levine at Wexford Missaukee ISD 5pm-7pm.

[October 4 in Manistee](#) How to Speak "Special Educationese": Productive Communication for IEP Team Meetings with Cheryl Levine at Manistee ISD 1pm-3pm.

[October 5 in Marquette](#) Communication and Advocacy for an Effective IEP Meeting with Jessie Morton at Marquette-Alger RESA 5:30pm-7:30pm. [REGISTER ONLINE](#)

[October 5 in Saginaw](#) Skills for Effective Parent Advocacy with Sandee Koski at Saginaw YMCA from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm. [REGISTER ONLINE](#)

[October 5 in Traverse City](#) How to Speak "Special Educationese": Productive Communication for IEP Team Meetings with Cheryl Levine at Traverse Bay Area ISD 9am-11am.

[October 6 in Iron Mountain](#) Communication and Advocacy for an Effective IEP Meeting with Jessie Morton at Bay College 5:30pm-7:30pm CST. [REGISTER ONLINE](#)

[October 7 in Houghton](#) Communication and Advocacy for an Effective IEP Meeting with Jessie Morton at Portage Lake District Library 12:30pm-2:30pm. [REGISTER ONLINE](#)

[October 12 in Pontiac](#) Positive Behavior Supports with Sandee Koski at Common Ground Resource & Crisis Center 9:30am-11:30am. [REGISTER ONLINE](#)

[October 17 in Attica](#) Skills for Effective Parent Advocacy with Jill Clyne at Lapeer Ed Tec 7pm. [REGISTER ONLINE](#)

[October 18 in Ferndale](#) Conflict Management in Special Education with Kenzi Bisbing at Ferndale Public Library 10:30am-3pm. [REGISTER ONLINE](#)

[October 18 in Holland](#) Skills for Effective Parent Advocacy with Sandee Koski at Ottawa ISD 6:30pm-9pm. [REGISTER ONLINE](#)



The Role of the Future Trustee

Preparing Your Successor Trustee For Their Future Roles -

Click on the link below for the handouts presented by Secure Planning Strategies

<http://www.spsfinancial.com/events/the-role-of-the-future-trustee>



Free Developmental Screenings for Young Children

Families with children between the ages of 2 months and 5 years residing in Lapeer County School Districts can complete a FREE Ages and Stages (ASQ-3) developmental screening, or Social-Emotional Screening if you have behavior concerns. It only takes 10 minutes to complete and you will receive your results via email or phone within a week.

Parents will also learn more about what to expect at each stage of development.

Early Diagnosis and Intervention can help give a child the best opportunity to reach his/her full potential.

There are five areas of **development** that are examined with our Ages and Stages developmental screening (ASQ-3):

- Fine Motor
- Gross Motor
- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Personal-Social

There are seven areas of **social-emotional** development that are examined with our Ages and Stages Social-Emotional Screening (ASQ:SE-2):

- Self-regulation
- Compliance
- Communication
- Adaptive Functioning
- Autonomy

Click On:

http://www.lcisd.k12.mi.us/departments/early_childhood

Questions contact B4Kindergarten Information Line 810-245-5994



Visit Their Website At:

<https://autismallianceofmichigan.org/>

Click on the NEIGHBORHOOD DIRECTORY for resources in your area

NEIGHBORHOOD DIRECTORY



Adult Services



Autism Friendly
Businesses



Autism Therapies



Diagnostic Assessments
& Evaluations



Education, School-
based Programs &
Continuing Education
Support



Family Support &
Advocacy



Insurance Providers for
Autism Health Benefits



Medical Providers



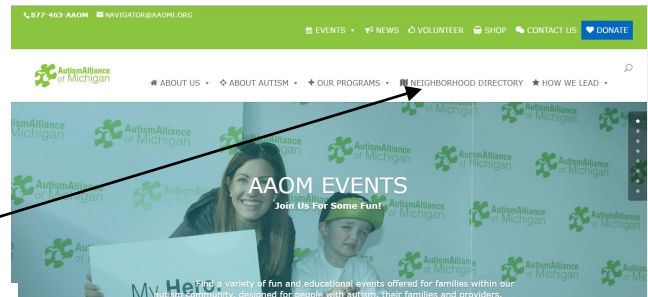
Recreation & Leisure



Research Study
Opportunities

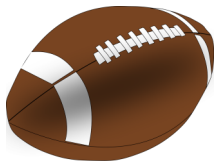


Web Based Resources



NEED HELP?

If you need any
assistance please
free to contact us.
(877)-463-AAOM /
navigator@aaomi.org



VICTORY DAY™



What Is Victory Day?

Victory Day is an event set up for cognitively and physically impaired children to have an opportunity to play football or cheer and have their "moment in the sun."

Capac and Imlay City will hold Victory Day on September 24, 2016.

This event will allow special needs kids to experience what it is like to be part of a football game. It will also allow both the Capac and Imlay City Sports and Band Programs a great opportunity to service their communities.

Please visit: <http://www.victorydayfootball.com/> for more information.



Wallet Card



The wallet card is a tool for young adults to use when they come into contact with law enforcement; either as a victim, a witness, or as a potential suspect.

The wallet card will help to clarify any interaction with law enforcement so that the behavior of the person with a disability is not misinterpreted as suspicious or as criminal behavior.

If you are interested in getting a wallet card, visit DIG's website and click on "The Wallet Card." The website will explain how to use the wallet card, when to use the wallet card, and give you tips on how to safely interact with law enforcement and first responders.

Click on the link: <http://www.justdigit.org/wallet-cards/>

HealthyLivingLapeer

Practical tools to help your family develop a healthy lifestyle

2016 Sessions

August 16 How to pack a healthy lunch

September 13 Grocery shopping tours

October 11 How to de-bone a chicken

November 15 Thanksgiving harvest

December 13 Making over your pantry for the New Year



All Healthy Living Lapeer informational sessions are free of charge and will be held at McLaren Lapeer Region in the Stone River Café from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Registration is required – please call (810) 667-0448.

This program is presented by the Lapeer County Community Collaborative workgroup on nutrition in our community, supported by a grant from the Lapeer County Community Foundation.

Specialized Inpatient Pediatric Unit



How is this program different than a general inpatient pediatric psychiatric program?

In contrast with a general inpatient pediatric psychiatric program, the Specialized Inpatient Pediatric Unit will provide the physical environment, staffing levels, and professional expertise to meet the needs of the target population.

Overview:

The Specialized Inpatient Pediatric Unit at Harbor Oaks Hospital will treat children and adolescents, ages 4 to 17 who are diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder in addition to a developmental disability such as autism. The goal will be to provide a safe and therapeutic environment where children and adolescents can receive specialized treatment by trained professionals utilizing evidence based therapeutic interventions.

35031 23 Mile Rd. •
New Baltimore, MI
48047 586.725.5777 •

www.harboroaks.com

Treatment Services

The Interdisciplinary team and treatment services are as follow

- Board Certified Child Psychiatrist
- Internal Medicine
- Behavioral Health Clinician
- Board Certified Behavior Analyst
- Behavioral Health Associates
- Registered Behavior Technicians
- Services that will be offered include but is not limited to:
 - Intensive Group therapy as appropriate
 - Activity Therapy to assist with exploring creative techniques to express communication
 - Occupational Therapy
 - Speech and Language Therapy
 - Vision exam and Audiology services if needed
 - Educational Services
 - Coordination with aftercare services essential to successful re-integration post discharge.

www.TeamGUTSMichigan.com



Fitness Classes | Sports Programs | Strength Training

Team GUTS™ & Joyous Movement

Joyous Movement and Team GUTS™ are teaming up to provide dance options to individuals with special needs. It's a wonderful opportunity for kids to get exercise and have fun.

Regardless ability or background, Joyous Movement understands that the desire to dance is in all of us — *it's in our soul*. We simply harness what is inborn to foster health, happiness and self-confidence.

We will offer two classes; Autism Movement Therapy and Sensation Dance. The classes will run six (6) weeks and the cost is \$10/class. Space is limited to ten (10) participants.

Not sure if your loved one will like the class? Please come and check it out.



GUTS™ Training Center

Located at 1008 Orchard Street in Ferndale, the GUTS Training Center is easily accessible from Woodward Avenue, I-696 and I-75.

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