



## **FISHERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY – MEETING NOTES 07/29/19, 5:30-7:30 PM**

### **Hamilton County - Community Organization Active in Disaster (COAD)**

**Speakers:** Nancy Chance President of COAD and Chris Sorensen, President and CEO of Janus Developmental Services & Vice President of COAD

COAD was formed by Nancy Chance to coordinate various organizations and agencies that will cooperate to respond to ongoing challenges that would be precipitated by an emergency in Hamilton County. COAD has formed a committee to address how to handle emergency responses as it relates to persons with disabilities in terms of access and functional needs.

- [Hamilton County COAD Presentation](#)
- Chris and Nancy asked the committee for feedback/suggestions to aid them in thinking about when a disaster strikes, how can they make sure services are available to people with disabilities and that facilities where services are offered are accessible.
- Another valuable resource is <https://www.ready.gov/>
- If you have feedback to share or would like to be a part of their committee, please contact Nancy Chance at [ncance@gsnlive.org](mailto:ncance@gsnlive.org) or Chris Sorensen at [csorensen@janus-inc.org](mailto:csorensen@janus-inc.org).

### **Direct Support Workforce Shortage/Help Over Hurdles**

**Speakers:** Jen Wilder with LEL and Michelle Steltz with Opportunities for Positive Growth (OPG)

Indiana is facing a direct support provider shortage. Information will be provided on what the state is doing to address this crisis as it relates to this current 2019 legislative session and findings from the final report of the 1102 Task Force for Assessment of Services & Supports for People with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities which was created by House Enrolled Act 1102 session of the Indiana General Assembly.

- [Help Over Hurdles Presentation](#)
- Financial stress is one of the most challenging obstacles to be the best possible direct support provider
- Non-profit that serves to increase stability through funds and resources to Direct Support Professionals (DSP)

### **Indiana Parkinson Foundation CLIMB Program**

**Speaker:** Kim Williams, Director of the Indiana Parkinson Foundation

The CLIMB is an exercise program that improves the lives of those with Parkinson's disease. The CLIMB program focuses on learning more about the disease and how stretching, posture therapy, muscular re-education can reduce symptoms and improve the quality of life, both physically and mentally. Information will be shared about what is available here in Hamilton County to provide support for families and caregivers of Hoosiers with Parkinson's.

- [Indiana Parkinson Foundation Presentation](#)
- Exercise program that is geared towards common symptoms and deficits. Exercises include high amplified movement, balance and postural and voice therapy.
- Two locations in Hamilton County: The Barrington of Carmel and LivRite Fitness in Noblesville.
- Instructors are certified health-related professionals (i.e. trainers, PTs, OTs, nursing)

## **Ignite Studio at Hamilton East Public Library - New Makerspace Program for Adults with Special Needs**

**Speaker:** Wendy Kiefel

Wendy is leading a program for adults with intellectual disabilities to work in the Ignite Studio Makerspace where she oversees aspiring artists to learn how to use the laser engraver, vinyl cutter and 3D printer. Wendy's son Jimmy is on the autism spectrum and his artist works are exhibited at Conner Prairie where he works in data entry. Wendy hopes to grow the program with certifications and opportunities for those with special needs to create items that can be sold for profit.

- [Adults with Special Needs Program - Ignite Studio](#)
- The group meets at the Ignite Studio at the Hamilton East Public Library from 9 am to 1 pm on Mondays.
- The program allows individuals to try new activities, make new friends, learn new skills, work in the FabLab and make age-appropriate art.
- The library sells the materials at cost.
- Wendy is currently the only certified person to run the equipment but is looking for additional help.

## **Recap of the Special Needs Activities/Sensory Areas at Spark!Fishers**

Leah McGrath shared a recap of the sensory friendly events/areas at Spark!Fishers, such as the use of the Pavilion as a sensory room, Police Department check-in, etc.

- Sensory-friendly areas were provided for the parade and fireworks.
- The City has teamed up with Kulture City which provides assistive technologies.
- Various items were available such as fidget tools, weighted lap packs and noise cancelling headphones.
- Check-in with staff available to take a photo of children in case they were separated from family members.
- lifeBoks were available – tracking devices to prevent wandering related accidents
- These assistive technologies are being made available at all AMP events.
- Wheelchair accessible picnics tables are now available at the AMP.
- Working with Inclusive Indiana for a wheelchair accessible ballpark field at Billerica Park.
- Worked with Make-A-Wish for installation of a friendship swing at Holland Park slated for this Fall.

## **Brainstorming Ideas for 2020 Fishers March Disability Awareness Month**

**Lead by Cecilia Coble and Stacey Oldham**

This is an opportunity for the Fishers Advisory Committee on Disability to share some ideas regarding speakers, themes, etc. with the March Disability Awareness Month Committee.

- Stacey and Cecilia shared the tentative theme for the next MDAM – “Focus 2020”
  - F = fun (celebration of those with disabilities and their families)
  - O = opportunities for awareness, education, employment and accommodation
  - C = caregiving – available resources and support for those in caregiving roles
  - U = unity in legislation and advocacy
  - S = services – available resources for transportation, emergency response, housing, etc.
- A committee member suggested changing the “S” to “support” instead of services.
- Brainstorm ways to help a caregiver to enjoy time away.
- Stacey and Cecilia are also looking for keynote speakers.
- Promote the special needs registry more.
- Would like to see more promotion of the month in general as well as the efforts of the committee to keep growing and gaining momentum.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Fishers/Geist Aktion Club – next meeting is scheduled for August 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm, meet at café in Target. For more information about getting involved contact Dana Pottschmidt at [fishersgeistaktionclub@gmail.com](mailto:fishersgeistaktionclub@gmail.com).

Vendor booths are these events: Autism Speaks Walk 2019, Autism Society Expo, Fuse Expo.

Connection Ministries – bible studies for people with intellectual disabilities, their families and caregivers. For more information and to find locations, go to <https://connection-ministries.org/>.

**Adjourn: 7:30pm**