



FISHERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY – MEETING NOTES
Tuesday, March 2, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m.
Microsoft Teams Meeting

To access a recording of the meeting, click [here](#).

1. 2021 Fishers March Disability Awareness Month: Building Our Inclusive Community: Kelly Hartman & Cecilia Coble, Co-Chairs FACD

Calendar of Events Overview:

- a. March 10 @ 11:30am - OneZone Luncheon – Expanding Your Applicant Pool: Exploring the Untapped Workforce
- b. March 12 from 7pm-9pm - Art Reception, Facebook Live event at Conner Prairie
- c. Hamilton East Public Library will have a variety of events throughout the month

Note: All the events this year will be held virtually. To learn more and register for these events, go to: <https://www.fishers.in.us/999/March-Disability-Awareness>

Cecilia shared information on a new initiative: Be an Ally for Disability Inclusion. The City is offering an Ally Tool Kit (first come, first served) at City Hall that includes educational resources, a language guide, t-shirt, sticker, window cling and yard sign. For more information and to access a digital Ally Tool Kit, go to: <https://www.fishers.in.us/1299/Be-an-Ally>

Cecilia also wanted to give a big thanks to Tom Rich and the Fishers Arts Council for always putting together a beautiful reception highlighting all the beautiful artwork from people with disabilities.

2. Accessibility & Accommodations: New Web Page - Stephanie Perry, City of Fishers Asst. PR Director

To access the revamped web page, go to: <https://www.fishers.in.us/346/Accessibility-Accommodations>

Stephanie highlighted some of the changes of the new Accessibility page:

- Much more visual, they added big buttons/icons that house different information
- You can also access the same information on the left sidebar
- Resources tab – people can access a variety of local and statewide resources related to disability. Additionally, there is a form available if you would like to submit a new resource.
- Housing & Transportation – handy information and videos

- New home page for the Committee – this is a great way to showcase what the committee and subcommittees are doing and to encourage others to get involved.
- March Disability Awareness Month page – you can find all the events and information for the month of March here.
- A new blog series for the month of March will launch on March 3, 2021. Every Wednesday will be a new blog. The first one focuses on caregiving. You can access the blogs via social media or go to: <https://www.thisisfishers.com/tag/disability-awareness-month/>

Cecilia noted that some of our 2021 award winners will be featured on the blog series. If you missed the kick-off on March 1st, the winners of the 2021 Accessibility & Inclusion Awards are:

Life Without Limits Award – Maddie Long, Student at Fishers High School

Cornerstone Employer Award – Ben Pigott, Manager at McAlister’s Deli in Fishers

Accessibility Award – Patrick Schooley, Dean of Students at Fishers High School

3. COVID update: Kelly Hartman, Co-Chair FACD

- The State of Indiana announced Appendix K extension – allows for some flexibility for families to better support people at home as well as the provision of services via telehealth. This was set to expire at the end of February but is now extended.
- Approx. 31,000 people with IDD receiving services in the state: to-date 3,023 of those individuals have tested positive (under 10%), which is a good when you look at staff coming in and out.
- The State has done a great job coordinating with providers.
- Any individual who lives with 2 or more people in 24 hour supports, now can get vaccinated.
- The groups of individuals who have had the highest number of cases are (#1) 20-29 yrs and (#2) 30-39 yrs.
- If you are looking to receive a vaccination but are not yet eligible, go to <https://www.fishers.in.us/1264/COVID-Vaccine> to complete the interest & standby list form. The Fishers Health Department will refer to the standby list if they have extra doses at the end of each day.

4. Special Needs Living Magazine - Jamie McCabe, Owner/Publisher

A magazine mailed monthly to special needs families living in Indianapolis and surrounding areas. Written for, by and about them to give hope and inspiration to other families.

- All the stories are written by individuals that have special needs, caregivers or family members and are very personal.
- Currently mail to 600 families in Indianapolis and surrounding counties
- Also, mail to ADA centers, developmental pediatrician offices, non-profits that support the special needs community.
- They post digital versions on their Facebook page
- To get on the email list to get the digital copy of Special Needs Living Magazine: SpecialNeedsLivingIndy@n2pub.com
- Follow them on Facebook - they post the digital copies here that can be re-shared: <https://www.facebook.com/specialneedslivingmagazine>

- To share a story:
<https://linktr.ee/community.stories>
- To nominate others for stories & inform them of resources they should connect with the community
<https://form.jotform.com/201385550158151>
- To set up a time to have a zoom call with Jamie McCabe - Publisher of Special Needs Living Magazine & to learn more about being involved you can set up a time here:
<https://calendly.com/jamie-mccabe/special-needs-living-magazine>
- BeLocal Fishers – another resource to find local favorites:
<https://belocalpub.com/location/fishers/>

5. Legislative Issues Affecting the Disability Community: Hannah Carlock, Public Policy Director of the ARC of Indiana

Here are the main bills the ARC of Indiana is working on:

- HB 1001 - Budget bill – working on a direct support professional wage increase. Currently, the State average wage for DSP's is \$11.25/hr. DSP's were designated as essential healthcare workers at the beginning of the pandemic but are not paid as such. In the budget they currently have the increase to \$13.00/hr. However, the goal is to get them to the \$15/hr. wage. Also, in this bill is a push for more Special Education funding. Special Education has been underfunded for over a decade. Looking at other states to compare.
- HB 1005 – Education bill establishing an education saving accounts for students with disabilities as well as foster families.
- HB 1313 – a workforce bill – currently implementing the alternate diploma in the State of Indiana. A fantastic resource for students so that they do not have to get a certificate of completion. This includes reaching out to past students who did not get the opportunity to get a diploma. This will help them get better paying jobs.
- HB 1516 – licensing ABA therapy – trying to license the profession. It also includes title protection for music therapists.
- SB 259 – putting into place some protections for parents with disabilities. Just because you have a disability does not mean you cannot be an awesome, loving parent. They want to make sure children cannot be taken away by DCS in those instances. This includes fostering and adopting.
- Session ends April 29th – that still gives people time to connect with your legislator. To find out the name of your legislator, go to: <http://iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/>
- If you have additional questions or would like help in reaching out to your legislator, email Hannah Carlock at hcarlock@arcind.org.

6. Supporting Direct Support Professionals -- Help Over Hurdles: Lucy Klym, Founder & Michelle Steltz, Financial Controller for Opportunities for Positive Growth

Click [here](#) to view Lucy's presentation.

- Organization that advocates for DSPs by providing financial assistance and education on financial stability.
- There is a need for strengthening the position (high turnover rate and low hourly pay rate)
- Applications are received through the website from DSPs / always anonymous
- Lucy shared they also have many DSPs who have donated to Help Over Hurdles – incredible!

- Helped 21 DSPs in 2020 with \$3,584.74 in donations. Utilities were a large chunk of donations.
- Asking for folks to help spread the word about Help Over Hurdles / share stories
- An easy way to donate to HOH is to use your Kroger Community Rewards or through Amazon Smile when you shop

7. My Point of View Day: Discussion of priorities and goals for the Fishers Advisory Committee on Disability – Cecilia Coble & Kelly Hartman, Co-Chairs FACD

- MPOV day will be held virtually this year / invitation only
- Disability stakeholders come together and share what life is like from their point of view with elected officials, the Mayor, city staff and community leaders
- Will be held on Tuesday, March 30th from 8:30am -10:30am
- Email Cecilia Coble and she will send the link to register.
- Roundtable discussions will be held for different topics like Transportation, Employment, Housing, Community Supports & Services, Recreational/Arts & Culture and Networking/Social Opportunities.
- If you know someone that may be interested in attending, please let Cecilia or Kelly know.

8. Announcements - none

9. Video Montage

10. Adjournment