



FISHERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY – MEETING NOTES
Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 5:30 pm

To access the recorded meeting, click [here](#).

Indiana Education Scholarship Accounts (INESAs) – Ryan Locke, Chief of Staff, Indiana Treasurer of State Office

The Education Scholarship Account Program is a new program administered and overseen by the Treasurer of State charged with establishing education scholarship accounts to provide grants to parents of eligible students or emancipated eligible students to use for qualified educational expenses. The program was passed during the 2021 legislation session and enrollment will open in the spring of 2022 for the following school year.

- The program in Indiana is new – currently still building the program
- Who's eligible? Students ages 5-22 years old
- What's a qualifying expense? School tuition and fees or other educational expenses, tutoring services, camps, special needs services, therapies and transportation. Looking for these types of vendors to participate.
- Working on getting a portal up and running - for vendors first then individuals
- Researching other state's programs to take the best ideas and implement into the Indiana program.
- The program is mainly for primary education (K-12), not post-secondary education although there is a rollover parameter.
- Program is very broad and free form at this point.
- For more information and to follow progress of the program, go to: <https://www.in.gov/tos/inesa/>

ABLE/Age Adjustment Act: Update – Amy Corbin, Executive Director INvestABLE

S.331 / H.R. 1219 - This bill increases from 26 to 46 the age threshold for tax-favored ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) accounts. (ABLE accounts are designed to enable individuals with disabilities to save for and pay for disability-related expenses. To establish an account, an individual must have a qualifying impairment that began before the individual attained the age threshold.)

- Amy provided a brief recap of the current ABLE program and asked for help advocating for the Age Adjustment Act. For more information on the ABLE program and to open an account, go to: <https://www.in.gov/tos/able/>
- For more information on the age adjustment act and access the Advocacy Toolkit, go to <https://nast.org/able/>
- Anyone can contribute to an ABLE account. Note: up to \$15,000 total from all sources can be contributed each calendar year.

Thrive Social Club Update: Mari Kennedy, President and Lauren Holland, member

- 75 members currently
- 60 attended the Big pool bash
- Average of 10 members attend each event
- Hold 4 events per month
- There are two potential thrive club off shoots, other communities
- 1 new board member – Terry Smith
- Lauren Holland – committee chair
- For more information, email ThriveFishers@gmail.com or follow them on Facebook or Instagram

Updates: Kelly Hartman, Co-Chair FACD

Southpointe Village

- project to be completed this Fall with tentative move-in being end of October/early November
- Janus to provide community-based day programming in Fishers using Southpointe as a HUB

State of Indiana initiatives: Division of Disability & Rehabilitative Services

- Waiver Redesign – continues to roll on, a lot of public comment periods right now. <https://www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/>. Kelly hopes the waivers will provide more flexibility, choice, independence and empowerment for people using those services
- A note about the most recent Governor's Orders – it's said to have disallowed any non-licensed Medicaid provider (i.e., rec therapy, behavior therapy, music therapy) to no longer to provide telehealth. There's no official word but Kelly is convinced it was an unintended consequence of writing a public health order. She's working to get more information and get the issue straightened out. She also noted that Appendix K, the addendum to the existing waiver program, (in the division where it allows flexibility on how services are delivered) is intended to last 6 months beyond the end of the public health emergency.
- Community Rec Center update - currently going through RFP (request for proposals) process, asking vendors to put in bids, location of center is to be determined, recreation center will be separate from the Community Arts Center.
- Outside the Box update – the City has reached out to OTB to partner on adaptive sports programming and be a partner in helping the rec center be inclusive. The rec center would be the permanent home for the OTB day program.

2022 March Disability Awareness Month: Cecilia Coble, Co-Chair FACD

- Next Committee meeting on Tuesday, September 21 at 11:30 am at Chicago Pizza, Fishers
- OneZone – Chamber Lunch - March 9, 2022 – looking for headliner/speaker, topic: employing people with disabilities
- Coffee / Small business group event – March 22, 2022
- Looking for headliner for March kickoff
- Thinking about holding a small film festival
- MPOV / Breakfast – date TBD
- Arts Reception at Conner Prairie
- Will continue with “Be an Ally” initiative
- Looking for ideas on themes
- Stacey Oldham suggested – “Joining Together: Breaking Barriers and Boundaries”
- Contact Cecilia or Kelly with any ideas you have or attend the next meeting

Announcements

- September 11 - Special Olympics Plane Pull – Thrive Club will be participating
- September 12 – An Afternoon of Jazz with Matt Savage and Friends at The Club at Chatham Hills, Westfield. More info at <https://www.ccrewindiana.org/news>
- Noah Malone won 3 medals in Tokyo Paralympics
- Tom – Fishers Arts Council – trying to expand Art on the Prairie in 2022, looking for more artists. Contact: info@fishersartscouncil.org
- Last FACD meeting of the year: December 7, 2021 at 5:30pm