



family @ linkages

NEWSLETTER

A way to connect families of children and youth with special needs in Michigan with information, education and support

As 2012 begins, we wish you and yours a healthy, happy and prosperous year. It is our intent to provide you with information and resources that are helpful to caring for your child or young adult with special needs. We welcome ideas for future editions. If you have an event that you would like to share with other families and providers please forward it to cook-gordonl@michigan.gov

Michigan Family-to-Family Health Information and Education Training Dates/Times/Locations

Individualized Education Program (IEP) the Basics: What you need to know!

- January 17, 2012 from 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM at Detroit Public Library, Jefferson Branch, 12350 East Outer Drive, Detroit, MI 48224 (313) 481-1760
- January 17, 2012 from 5:00 PM – 8:30 PM at The Arc Dearborn, 22450 Park Street, Dearborn, MI 48124 (313) 945-0044
- January 25, 2012 from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM at Detroit Public Library, Jefferson Branch, 12350 East Outer Drive, Detroit, MI 48224 (313) 481-1760

For More Information visit www.bridges4kids.org/f2f or call (800) 552-4821

Everything My Child Needs to Know About Sexuality But, I Was Afraid to Tell!

- January 23, 2012 from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM at Greater Kalamazoo United Way, 709 South Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007 (269) 343-2524

For More Information visit www.bridges4kids.org/f2f or call (800) 552-4821

Tools I Can Use to Help Young Adults Reach Their Hopes and Dreams

- January 26, 2012 from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM at Ingham ISD, Thorburn Education Center, 2630 West Howell Road, Mason, MI 48854 (517) 676-1051

For More Information visit www.bridges4kids.org/f2f or call (800) 552-4821

2012 Lunchtime IEP Learning Series — Webinars

with Kelly Orginski

Join Michigan Alliance for Families as we present a series of webinars focusing on specific parts of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process.

To register, click on the underlined title/date for the webinar you want to attend. After completing a registration form, you will receive a confirmation email with directions for the webinar.

- Thursday, January 19th, 2012 (noon to 1 PM)
The Importance of the Present Level of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (PLAAFP) Statement
- Thursday, February 16th, 2012 (noon to 1 PM)
Thinking About Goals and Objectives
- Thursday, March 15th, 2012 (noon to 1 PM)
An Introduction to Positive Behavior Supports
- Thursday, May 17th, 2012 (noon to 1 PM)
IEP Supports and Services, including Accommodations and Modifications

New Brochure Available from LDA of Michigan's Healthy Children Project

Learning and Developmental Disabilities and Toxic Chemical Exposure: What's the Connection?

Download the brochure to learn:

- What Role Do Toxic Chemicals Play in Child Development?
- Which Chemicals Should I Be Most Concerned About?
and
- How Can We Protect Our Children From Toxic Chemicals?

Download at <http://www.ldaofmichigan.org/EnvironmentLDCConnectionBrochure.pdf> or send an email for print copies to jackie.igafoteo@ldaofmichigan.org.





Statewide Autism Safety Training

with Mr. Dennis Debbaudt, International Autism Safety Expert

The Autism Alliance of Michigan (AAoM) will be hosting a **FREE state-wide autism safety training opportunity to individuals across Michigan**. With the prevalence of autism increasing an estimated 17–18 percent per year in the U.S., the likelihood of law enforcement, fire/rescue, educators, community members, and others coming into contact with an individual with autism is extremely great. This training offers options for positively managing stressful or potentially dangerous situations with individuals with autism. This includes issues around wandering, law enforcement situations, family planning for emergencies, and much more.

AAoM is pleased to announce training on the following dates:

February 7, 2012: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM Law Enforcement Sessions

(MCOLES credit for law enforcement participation specific to location of training)

6:30-8:30 PM Family Session-Evening (6:00 – 6:30 PM reception)

February 8, 2012: Fire/Rescue/EMS Session-Morning; Educators, Community, Other-Afternoon

Location: DTE Headquarters (Town Center), One Energy Drive, Detroit, MI 48226

Venue: Training will be offered both on-site at DTE and VIRTUAL, interactive webcast to numerous audiences across Michigan. This includes autism advocacy, educational, emergency responding, law enforcement, and other organizations.



A professional investigator and law enforcement trainer, Dennis Debbaudt has presented his course throughout North America and internationally since 1995. Debbaudt is known for his knowledge, dedication, insight, humor, passion, and ability to connect with law enforcement audiences. He has authored or co-authored over 30 articles and books since 1993 including the book *Autism, Advocates and Law Enforcement Professionals* and *Contact with Individuals with Autism: Effective Resolutions* for the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin. He's consulted and contributed to Chicago's and New York Police Department's autism training, presented at the Department of Homeland Security's FLETC, and was a subject matter expert for the development of California POST autism training. Debbaudt's Autism & Law Enforcement video (2004) is in wide use in U.S. training. His work has been featured in reports in the New York Times, Newsweek, Associated Press, Wired and People Magazine and he has consulted to ABC News 20/20 on autism and false confession. Dennis is a member of the International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association. Check out Dennis' website at: www.autismriskmanagement.com.

REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 9, 2012

Participants who will be attending on-site training for Law Enforcement, EMS/Fire/Rescue, Family, and/or Educator/Community/ Professional can register at the Autism Alliance of Michigan website at: www.autismallianceofmichigan.org.

Note that although each presentation is targeted to a specific audience in a specific area, the participants are welcome to attend one or all of the sessions.

If you are interested in participating and have questions, or you wish to provide a virtual hosting site, contact stacie.rulison@autismallianceofmichigan.org.



Special THANK YOU to DTE for allowing the use of their facility for this vital training!



Association for Children's Mental Health

The Association for Children's Mental Health (ACMH) is a statewide, non-profit, family-run organization offering peer-delivered support, advocacy, education, information & referrals to families raising children with emotional, behavioral, and/or mental health challenges. Currently, ACMH has over 25 family members providing support services to families across Michigan. **For more information about ACMH and the resources available in your community, please contact 1-888-ACMH-KID or acmhadmin@sbcglobal.net.**

SUPPORT/RESOURCE GROUPS FOR FAMILIES

.....

⇒ **The Effects and Treatment of Childhood Trauma (Waterford)**

A workshop designed to help caregivers and professionals understand the effects of trauma on youth and how they can help in the course of treatment.

Where: Oakland Schools, 2111 Pontiac Lake Rd., Waterford, MI 48328

When: Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2012 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM AND Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2012 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Contact: Andrea Fisher at 248-858-9125 or 248-858-1210 ext. 311

⇒ **ACMH Resource & Support Group for Parents of "Bipolar/Behaviorally Challenged Children"**

This group is open to any parent/caregiver who has a child with emotional, behavioral, or mental health challenges interested in connecting with other families with similar situations for support, education, information and resources.

When: Jan. 5 and 19, Feb. 2 and 16, Mar. 1 and 15, Apr. 19, May 3, 17 and 31, 2012

Where: Havenwyck Hospital

Contact: Marega DeLizio, ACMH Parent Support Partner/Parent Guide at 248-828-4343 or marega@juno.com

⇒ **ACMH Muskegon Foster Care Parent Trauma Training**

This group is for foster care parents to learn how trauma impacts children who come into their care and how they can best support and respond. All foster parents welcome – Refreshments provided.

When: Mondays, Jan. 9 through Feb. 20, 2012 (except for Jan. 16, 2012) 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Where: Muskegon County CMH, 376 E. Apple Ave., Muskegon, MI

Contact: Leann Brow @ 231-724-6058 or brow@cmhs.co.muskegon.mi.us

⇒ **Parent Support Partners**

The Association for Children's Mental Health (ACMH), in partnership with the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), is hosting the fifth Parent Support Partner Certification Cohort beginning on Jan. 17, 2012. To date, over 45 parents/caregivers have participated in this project!

Parents/caregivers of youth with mental health needs will begin the nine month process to achieve certification to deliver Parent Support Partner services to families whose children are actively supported by the public mental health systems. **For more information about this project, please contact Jane Shank, Statewide PSP Coordinator, at acmhjane@sbcglobal.net.**