

Fall 2009

Volume 17, Issue 1

# Hand-In-Hand

## **The Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee (SECAC)**

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Join our  
Yahoo Group,  
BaltoCO-SECAC@  
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### **Meeting Dates 2009**

**September 14**  
**October 12**  
**November 9**  
**December 14**

**2010**  
**January 11**  
**February 8**  
**March 8**  
**April 12**  
**May 10**  
**June 7**

*All meetings are open to  
the public.  
7-9 p.m.  
ESS Building  
Room 114*

**New Members Welcome!**



A joint publication of the Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee (SECAC) and the Baltimore County Public Schools, Office of Special Education.  
**Its purpose is to provide families and staff with information related to children with disabilities.**

## **YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE UPCOMING SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMUNITY FORUM**

Monday, September 21, 2009



7 - 8 p.m.

The Office of Special Education and the *Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee (SECAC)* are asking for your input on the *approved Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) Special Education Staffing Plan for 2009-2010*. This input will be used to update the current staffing plan in preparation for drafting the *(BCPS) Special Education Staffing Plan for 2010-2011*. These community sessions also provide an opportunity for parent input on other issues regarding special education.

### **What is a staffing plan?**

The staffing plan documents the information and procedures used by BCPS to recommend the number and types of service providers needed to ensure the provision of FAPE (free, appropriate, public education).

### **Where are the community forums being held?**

- *Charlesmont Elementary, 7800 W. Collingham Drive, Baltimore, MD 21222.*
- *Church Lane Elementary, 3820 Fernside Road, Randallstown, MD 21133.*
- *Dogwood Elementary, 7215 Dogwood Road, Baltimore, MD 21244.*
- *Padonia International Elementary, 9834 Greenside Drive, Cockeysville, MD 21030.*
- *Vincent Farm Elementary, 6019 Ebenezer Road, Baltimore, MD 21162.*

### **Why is community input needed?**

- To provide comments/recommendations for the draft of the BCPS Special Education Staffing Plan for 2010-2011.
- To give parents an opportunity to express opinions about the delivery of special education services in BCPS.

### **If I can't attend the meeting, are there other ways to provide input?**

The community can provide written comment through September by sending an e-mail to: [staffingplan@bcps.org](mailto:staffingplan@bcps.org) or by writing to the Baltimore County Public Schools, Office of Special Education at 6901 Charles Street, Towson, MD 21204.

To preview the current BCPS Special Education Staffing Plan for 2009-2010 visit:  
[www.bcps.org/offices/special\\_ed/staffing-plan.html](http://www.bcps.org/offices/special_ed/staffing-plan.html)

### **Early Intervening Services in Baltimore County Public Schools**

Early Intervening Services (EIS) are a set of coordinated services for students in kindergarten through grade 12 who are not currently identified as needing special education or related services, but who need additional academic and behavioral support to succeed in a general education environment. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) provides for the use of up to 15 percent of Part B funds to develop and implement early intervening services.

For more information please contact the Office of Special Education at 410-887-3660.



## OCTOBER IS NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

### ***Facts about Down syndrome***

Down syndrome is a common genetic variation which usually causes delay in physical, intellectual, and language development.

The exact causes of the chromosomal rearrangement and primary prevention of Down syndrome are currently unknown.

Down syndrome is one of the leading clinical causes of cognitive delay in the world – it is not related to race, nationality, religion, or socio-economic status.

The incidence of Down syndrome in the United States is estimated to be 1 in every 800-1000 live births.

Of all children born in this country annually, approximately 5000 will have Down syndrome.

There are approximately ¼ million families in the United States affected by Down syndrome.

While the likelihood of giving birth to a child with Down syndrome increases with maternal age; nevertheless, 80% of babies with Down syndrome are born to women under 35 years of age, as women in that age group give birth to more babies overall.

There is wide variation in mental abilities, behavior and physical development in individuals with Down syndrome. Each individual has his/her own unique personality, capabilities, and talents.

30%-50% of the individuals with Down syndrome have heart defects and 8%-12% have gastrointestinal tract abnormalities present at birth. Most of these defects are now correctable by surgery.

Individuals with Down syndrome benefit from loving homes, early intervention, inclusive education, appropriate medical care, and positive public attitudes.

In adulthood, many persons with Down syndrome hold jobs, live independently, and enjoy recreational opportunities in their communities.

Reprinted for the National Down syndrome Congress website.

### **Chesapeake Down Syndrome Parent Group, Inc (CDSPG)**

**CDSPG** is a non-profit organization serving families in the greater Baltimore area, including Baltimore, Harford, Carroll, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City.

**Mission:** The purpose of the Chesapeake Down Syndrome Parent Group, Inc. (CDSPG) is to serve families of and persons with Down syndrome by providing information and support.

**Vision:** The group wishes to promote a happy, healthy, accepting environment which enables independence for people with Down syndrome so that they may reach their potential at all stages of their lives.

**History:** The group was founded in 1982 by eight sets of parents looking to share information and network in order to serve their children with Down Syndrome. Currently the group consists of over 400 families, individuals, and organizations.

#### **Offerings:**

- *Education and support/Quarterly newsletter.*
  - Support to families of newborns and families new to the area.
  - Support for local, state, and national workshops and conferences.
  - Counselor-facilitated self-advocacy peer groups.
  - Listserv for communication via the internet.
- *Variety of social events & small, informal gatherings.*
  - Playgroups for children.
  - Dads'/Moms' night out.
  - Grandparent Group.

#### **Membership:**

The group is primarily for families of children with Down syndrome; however, educators, professionals, and organizations are also welcomed as members.

#### **Contact information:**

Phone: 410-321-5434  
Website: [www.cdspg.org](http://www.cdspg.org)  
Email: [infoplease@cdspg.org](mailto:infoplease@cdspg.org)



FREE CONFERENCE  
FOR PARENTS

Great Expectations:  
Helping your child with special needs succeed!

## Agenda (Tentative)

- 9 – 9:30 a.m.**                      **Registration & Welcome (continental breakfast)**
- 9:30 – 10 a.m.**                      🌸 **Keynote: “Building Bridges to Partnerships; Parents & Educators Working Together”**
- 10:15 – 11:45 a.m.**                **Breakout Sessions**
- 🌸 A System of Services for Young Children: Implementing the Extended IFSP Option for Families
  - 🌸 Show me the money: finding \$\$\$ for services your child needs
  - 🌸 Healthy & Ready: Health Care Transition & Self Advocacy
  - 🌸 “Community Works”... identifying college students, studying in health related fields, to work as caregivers for children and young adults with developmental disabilities.
- 12 noon – 1 p.m.**                    **Networking Lunch (Provided to all registrants, FREE!)**
- 🌸 Vendor Displays/Local Resources
  - 🌸 Baltimore County Public Schools Parentmobile
- 1 – 2:30 p.m.**                        **Breakout Sessions**
- 🌸 Understanding HSAs and Graduation Requirements for students with IEPs
  - 🌸 Parent’s Basic Rights in Special Education
  - 🌸 Early Childhood Topic
  - 🌸 Mental Health 101/Behavior Tips?
- 2:30 – 3 p.m.**                        **Wrap-up, Evaluations & Door Prizes**

Saturday, October 10, 2009  
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
New Town High School  
4931 New Town Blvd.  
Owings Mills, MD 21117

**Sponsors: Baltimore Collaborates!**  
Baltimore County Public Schools – Office of Special Education  
Resource Center for Families & Schools  
Baltimore City Partners for Success  
The Parents Place of Maryland  
Abilities Network  
The Arc of Baltimore  
Resource Finder – Kennedy Krieger Institute  
Maggie’s Light Foundation  
Maryland School for the Blind  
Villa Maria Continuum

***For more information or to register  
contact  
the Resource Center at (410) 887-5443.  
Registration is required and limited,  
so please call early.***

**DOOR PRIZES!**

# Important Parent Workshops

Brought to you by the Resource Center for Families and Schools:

### **Applying for Social Security Income**

Answers questions about the SSI process and eligibility for students with mental retardation or other developmental disabilities who are 17 or older.

**October 21, 2009**

### **What Will Happen to My Child When I am Gone?**

Focuses on planning for your child's lifelong financial security.

**October 28, 2009**

### **DDA New Directions Waiver**

This workshop will be of interest to families whose children are eligible for DDA funding and who turn 21 in the next two years or who are already receiving supports from a SSA-funded agency. The New Directions waiver allows families to design their child's DDA-funded program and supports without signing up with an agency. There is a required process which can take several months to complete.

**November 4, 2009**

### **Exploring Guardianship Issues**

Answers questions about the pros and cons of obtaining guardianship for children with mental retardation or other developmental disabilities who are over 16 years-of-age.

**November 18, 2009**

7-9 p.m.

All workshops are **FREE!**  
ESS Building, Room 114  
Greenwood Campus  
To register call  
**410-887-5443**

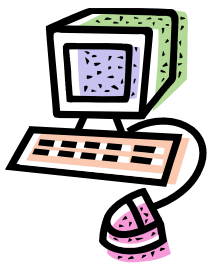
**Hand-In-Hand is available online:**  
[http://www.bcps.org/offices/special\\_ed/parent-resources.html](http://www.bcps.org/offices/special_ed/parent-resources.html)

Comments, questions, or submissions to this newsletter should be directed to:

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Visit [www.bcps.org](http://www.bcps.org) for more news and information about Baltimore County Public Schools

## Community Bulletin Board



### Sibshops

A program for siblings of children with disabilities is offering Saturday sessions.

For more information or to register call **410-578-5169**.

### **FREE!** A Special Edition: Focus on Autism 2009

A publication of  
*BALTIMORE'S CHILD*

For a copy call the R Center at **410-887-5443**.



Don't forget to register for the parent conference On Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup>!

See details on pg. 3



### Back to School IEP Checklist



- Review your child's IEP.
- Contact your child's case manager to make sure supports and services are in place for the new school year.
- Make sure appropriate staff are aware of any changes in the IEP, behavior plan, or medication needs. Don't forget the bus drivers, they need information too!
- Plan to attend "Back to School Night!"