

Hand-In-Hand

The Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee (SECAC)

- Mary Baskar, Chairperson
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- Sharon Saroff
Vice Chairperson
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- PJ Shafer, Secretary
PJShafer@jpl.com

Join our Yahoo Group,
BaltoCO-SECAC@
yahoogroups.com

Meetings & Topics

January 11, 2010
Education of Twice
Exceptional Students

February 8, 2010
Standards Based IEP Goals

March 8, 2010
Conversation with
Dr. Hairston

April 12, 2010
Educating Students with
Autism Spectrum Disorder
(ASD)

May 10, 2010
Modification of Math and
Writing Curriculum

June 7, 2010
Election of Officers

*All meetings are open
to the public. 7 - 9 p.m.*

ESS Building, Room 114
6901 Charles Street
Towson, MD 21204

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 **SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMUNITY FORUM**

Monday, February 22, 2010



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 February, 2010 by sending an e-mail to: staffingplan@bcps.org or by writing to the Baltimore County Public Schools, Office of Special Education at 6901 Charles Street, Towson, MD 21204.

You can get a copy of the staffing plan by calling the Office of Special Education, 410-887-3660 or online at www.bcps.org/offices/special_ed/staffing-plan.html. For more information about parent input into this process contact Mary Baskar, Chairperson, at 410-453-6644 or MARYAF@aol.com

FREE CONFERENCE FOR PARENTS!

**Back By Popular Demand!
Great Expectations!
Helping Your Child with Special Needs Succeed!**

Sponsored by Baltimore Collaborates!

Activities include:

- Parent Panel - Sharing Stories
- Breakout Sessions:
 - 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
 - Understanding HSAs and Graduation Requirements
 - Parents' Basic Rights in Special Education
 - Social Skills
 - Managing Behaviors

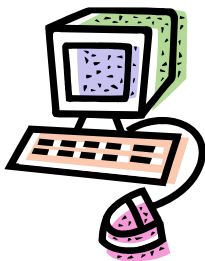
Hand-In-Hand is available online:

http://www.bcps.org/offices/special_ed/parent-resources.html

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

Jean Considine,
Parent Coordinator.
jconsidine@bcps.org
410-887-5443

The Resource Center
for Families and
Schools
8401 Leefield Road,
Room 100,
Baltimore, MD 21234



"Our purpose is to support you and your child."

**Saturday, April 17, 2010
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Baltimore City College High School
3320 The Alameda #A
Baltimore, MD 21218**

**For more information or to register
contact Deliscia Casey-Pack or
Marsha Robinson at (410) 396-8995
Registration is required and limited, so
please call early.**

The HSAs

Know the Tests.

The HSAs (High School Assessments) are end-of-course tests in four content areas—algebra/data analysis, biology, government, and English. Meeting the testing requirement is one of the state requirements to graduate with a Maryland High School Diploma.

Know Your Options.

To meet the testing requirement:

Pass all Four HSAs

OR

Earn a combined score of 1602

OR

Use the Bridge Plan for Academic Validation.

Know the Score.

Passing scores for the Four HSAs:

Algebra/Data Analysis
412

Biology
400

English
396

Government
394

www.HSAexam.org: Get to know it!

Where to get help.

Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) has developed intervention strategies for students who do not pass a High School Assessment.

Check with your child's teacher or school guidance counselor for more information.

WHAT IS THE EXTENDED IFSP* OPTION?

*Individualized Family Service Plan

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) was awarded federal stimulus funds to offer families the option to extend early intervention services provided on an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) beyond age 3 to kindergarten age.

As part of this option, by age three, if a child has been receiving services on an IFSP and is determined to be eligible for special education services, a family may choose to continue services through an extended IFSP.



Children currently enrolled in a local Infants and Toddlers Program, who will be three-years-old on February 1, 2010 or later, and who are eligible for preschool special education and related services will have the opportunity to continue to receive services through an extended IFSP or choose to receive services on an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

For more information please contact
 Marlo Lemon (mlemon@bcps.org)
 or
 Julie Waldron (jwaldron@bcps.org),
 Early Childhood Parent Education Coordinators at
 410-887-2169

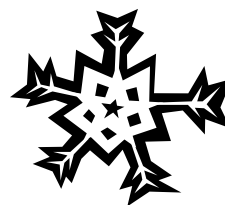
YOU ARE INVITED TO THE CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH FAIR!

Baltimore County is holding the third annual Child and Adolescent Mental Health Fair, showcasing mental health services and resources for children, adolescents, and families. This event provides a forum for parents and family members to talk with providers and staff from the mental health services community. The fair will be held on Wednesday, April 14, 2010, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., location to be determined. A light dinner will be provided, for free, with pre-registration. This informative evening offers an opportunity for mental health, education, and other service providers to meet informally with families, to present their services, share information, and

listen to the questions and concerns of families in Baltimore County.

The fair is sponsored by Baltimore County's Department of Health, Social Services, the Local Management Board, the Public School System (BCPS), the Mental Health Association of Maryland, NAMI-Metropolitan Baltimore, and the Villa Maria Continuum.

For more information or to register please contact:
 Erin Leatherwood
 Mental Health Association of Maryland
 711 West 40th Street
 Baltimore, MD 21211
 410-235-1178 x202
 eleatherwood@mhamd.org



*Baltimore County
 Crisis Response
 System
 Community Hotline
 (410) 931-2214*

- Telephone triage for mental health needs.
- Linkage to psychiatric treatment services.
- Crisis stabilization in the community.
- Community education.
- Family Intervention Team.

Available on Request from the Resource Center:

*Building IEPs with Maryland Families: What A Great IDEA!
 A Guide to Developing, Implementing and Reviewing IEPs for
 Students with Disabilities*

Published by the Maryland State Department of Education

Call the Resource Center for Families and Schools at
(410) 887-5443 for a free copy.

Community Bulletin Board

Resource Center for
Families and Schools
Parent Workshops

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.

March 3, 2010
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

What Will Happen to My Child When I am Gone?

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

March 10, 2010
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

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.

March 17, 2010
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

All workshops are **FREE!**

9:30-11:30 a.m.

ESS Building, Room 114

Greenwood Campus

To register call

410-887-5443

Baltimore's Child Camps and Summer Programs Fair.

Sunday, February 28, 2010
Noon - 3 p.m.

Crowne Plaza Timonium
2004 Greenspring Drive.

For more information call 410-367-5883 or info@BaltimoresChild.com www.BaltimoresChild.com

Featuring programs for the summer of 2010. Meet camp directors and ask questions. Children's entertainment provided. Back by popular demand, **Camp for Everyone**, sponsored by the Arc of Baltimore. Admission is **FREE**.

Workshops

Family Workshops at White Oak School

Winter Parenting Series
7-8 p.m.

Medication: Myth Busters: What's true and what's not
January 12, 2010

Stop & Think: Helping Children Behave
February 9, 2010

Parent Panel: the Parent Journey: Sharing Our Stories
March 9, 2010

TBA
April 13, 2010

White Oak School
8401 Leefield Road
Baltimore, MD 21234
7- 8 p.m.

All workshops are FREE!
To register call
410-887-5443

Sibshops

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

Call **410-578-5169** for more information.



Save the Date!

1st Annual Honestly Autism Day: Looking at Life from a Different Angle

Saturday, April 24, 2010
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
New Town High School

For more information please call
410-655-7933

Brought to you by the partnership between Baltimore County Public Schools and the Baltimore-Chesapeake Chapter Autism Society of America

Guy Talk!

Join other dads as they discuss the challenges and joys of having a child with a developmental disability. ****POT LUCK DINNER****

Third Thursday of every month

6:30 - 8 p.m.

The Arc of Baltimore
7215 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212

Please RSVP to Dorothea Nikas 410.296.2272 ext. 5349 or dnikas@arcobaltimore.org

Library Corner

Accessible IEPs for All

When school staff and parents meet to discuss a child's goals, all team members will find that confidence, comfort, and equality are crucial to a successful planning partnership. This DVD shows the way!

Call **410-887-5443** to borrow.

We can send it to your school for pick-up.

