



APRIL 2012 NEWSLETTER

From the desk of Janet Simmons, Community Outreach Coordinator



PRE-REGISTER TODAY FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2012 SPECIAL SPEAKERS NIGHT WITH BERNIE BAUGH SERV ACHIEVEMENT CENTERS TOPIC: UNDERSTANDING BEHAVIORS WHEN: TUESDAY, APRIL 3 FROM 6:30-8:30 WHERE: OCEAN MENTAL HEALTH/OCEAN ACADEMY 160 Atlantic City Blvd., (Route 9), Bayville PLEASE CONTACT KAREN AT (609) 693-4121 TO REGISTER FREE FOOD AND CHILDCARE

Note from Janet Announcements YP News Calendar

- FSO Employees: Denise Coraggio Executive Director Heidi Schneider Assistant Executive Director Janet Simmons Community Outreach Coordinator Barbara Kelly Peer Support Partner Wes Young Peer Support Partner Michelle Scarpitti Peer Support Partner Karen Troiso Administrative Assistant Nicole Kelly Youth Coach Leader

Transition Planning for Special Education Students The transition planning process represents the best opportunity to ensure that your child is provided with the instructional supports necessary to achieve his or her post-secondary goals. The school district has an obligation to teach the students to become as independent and self sufficient as possible. The IDEA defines transition services as a coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability that: Is designed to be within a results-oriented process, that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the child with a disability to facilitate the child's movement from school to post-school activities, including postsecondary education, vocational education, integrated employment (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation. Is based on the individual child's needs, taking into account the child's strengths, preferences and interests Includes instruction, related services, community experiences, the development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives, and, when appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation. (continued on Page Two)





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Parents Empowering Parents

(continued from Page 1)

For students with an IEP that process begins no later than age 14. The student must be invited to the transition planning meeting. If the child does not attend the district must take steps to ensure his/her preferences and interests are considered.

To begin the process, it may be helpful to first administer a Vocational Assessment to the student. This involves an assessment to determine the student's goal, interests, strengths and weaknesses. Next, the IEP team must include "appropriate measureable postsecondary goals related to training, education, employment and, when appropriate, independent living skills" into the IEP. This requires the IEP to consider not only the required courses that will lead to graduation, but also other educational experiences in the school or in the community that can help the student achieve his or her desired post school goals or outcomes (higher education, employment, military, technical training, independent living).

Beginning in the school year in which the student turns 16, the IEP must include a statement of needed transition services. This describes the coordinated set of activities and strategies that will lead to the desired post-school outcomes, and identifies those responsible for providing them. Strategies may include but are not limited to: instruction, related services, community experiences, employment, and the like.

Here are some factors to consider in assessing whether the Transition Plan is appropriate:

- What does my child want to do when he or she graduates? If she/he is unable to communicate, have you been able to identify interests, strengths and/or weaknesses.**
- If she or he is going to college, what does he or she like to do? Is there interest in computers? Cooking? Auto mechanics? What skills does he or she need to be successful in those areas.**
- Will your child require the supports of a state agency such as DDD, DVRS in New Jersey? Did you invite the representatives from those agencies to your IEP meetings? Note, if they do not attend, the district cannot escape their responsibility to provide the necessary supports.**

Once a student accepts a diploma, the district is not required to continue to provide services under IDEA. Since students with IEP's are entitled to receive special education services through age 21, it is important to review your child's progress towards his or her transition goals prior to consenting to graduation.



**APRIL 2012
ANNOUNCEMENTS**



****IMPORTANT NOTICE ****

SEE YOU ON TUESDAY, APRIL 3 FOR OUR SPEAKER'S SPECIAL AT OCEAN MENTAL HEALTH/OCEAN ACADEMY; 6:30—8:30 P.M.

Please note that Parents Empowering Parents (PEP 1) and Youth Partnership will be cancelled for Tuesday April 10th due to the School being closed.

If you have any questions, please contact the office at (609) 693-4121 and speak to Karen or Janet.

The next PEP 1 meeting will be the 4th Tuesday of the month, April 24; 6:30—8:30 p.m.

Youth Partnership will resume on Tuesday, April 17th and continue weekly for the rest of the month.



OCEAN COUNTY FAMILY SUPPORT IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE OUR NEW STATEWIDE PARENT ADVOCACY NETWORK (SPAN) FAMILY RESOURCE SPECIALIST

Donna Milanowycz will be starting at our offices at 35 Manchester Avenue, Suite 202, Forked River on Wednesday, March 28th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and will be in our office every Wednesday. Feel free to contact her at 609-693-4121 X19 to set up an appointment or ask any questions.

For further information, please contact Janet Simmons, Community Outreach Coordinator at 609-693-4121 X16.





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SAMHSA NEWS RELEASE

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation are collaborating on an effort targeting the behavioral health needs of youth in contact with the juvenile justice system. The project is aimed at diverting youth with behavioral health conditions from the juvenile justice system to community based programs and services.

Most youth in contact with the juvenile justice system have a diagnosable mental, substance use, or co-occurring disorder. Studies have found that 60-70 percent of youth in the juvenile justice system met criteria for a mental disorder: Over 60 percent of these youth also met criteria for a substance use disorder. Of those youth with mental and substance disorders, almost 30 percent experienced disorders so severe that their ability to function was highly impaired. Youth with these mental, substance use and co-occurring disorders often end up unnecessarily in the juvenile justice system rather than getting the proper help they need—help that could vastly improve their prospects for attaining healthy, productive lives.

The initiative will emphasize:

- Reducing the overrepresentation of youth of color with mental and/or substance use disorders in the juvenile justice system**
- Incorporating mental, substance use and co-occurring screening and assessment practices throughout the juvenile justice system; and**
- Recognizing the important roles of evidence-based practice, treatment, and trauma informed services.**

“This innovative effort will help ensure that fewer at risk young people fall through the cracks and into an overburdened juvenile justice system that is very often unable to address their underlying behavioral health problems,” said SAMHSA. “This initiative focuses on helping divert these youth whenever possible to community-based behavioral health services that can actually turn their lives around for the better.

Would you like to give back to your Community?

THE HOPE CENTER is in need of volunteers. THE HOPE CENTER is a faith based non-profit agency that provides resources, referrals, advocacy, food and limited financial assistance to those in need in our community.

**Volunteers are needed in the following areas:
Receptionist, Intake volunteer, Fundraising committee**

Volunteers need to be 18 years and older. If you are interested please contact Jennifer at the HOPE CENTER at 732-341-4447.



Bill of Rights
**FOR ADULTS, YOUTH, AND CHILDREN WITH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE
NEEDS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS**

- 1. I have the right to speak and to make decisions about my behavioral health care and/or my child(ren)'s emotional and behavioral health care.**
- 2. I have the right to know about the full range of promotion of wellness, prevention and treatment options available to me and/or my child(ren).**
- 3. I have the right to access this range of interventions regardless of my race, ethnicity, level of education, level of English proficiency, location, or insurance coverage.**
- 4. I have the right to know about and use healing practices within my own culture.**
- 5. I have the right to a provider who understands and respects my culture and can speak to me in my language.**
- 6. I have the right to plan for future crises, e.g. by preparing an advanced directive for when I might not be able to participate in decision-making about my own child(ren) regardless of my or their behavioral disabilities, and get the help I need to do so successfully.**
- 7. I have the right to ask for and access an advocate who can help me understand and exercise my rights and/or the rights of my child(ren).**
- 8. I have the right to raise my own child(ren) regardless of my or their behavioral disabilities, and get the help I need to do so successfully.**
- 9. I and/or my children have the same rights to safety, non-discrimination, and social inclusion as any other individual.**
- 10. I have the right to set my own goals and/or help set my child's goals, to expect that we reach our highest potential wellbeing, and for those providing me and/or my children with services to expect and reinforce the same.**

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

www.ffcmh.org

**34 Manchester Avenue, Suite 202, Forked River, New Jersey 08731
Telephone: 609-693-4121 Fax: 609-693-4125**



YOUTH PARTNERSHIP

*** April 2012 ***

Spring into Spring!

Ocean YP's BOWL-O-RAMA fundraiser was a great success! Thank you to all of those who donated and/or came out to support us and make meeting our goal of \$1000 possible. We truly appreciate it. We will be doing another Bowl-O-Rama again on June 9th at 5:00 p.m. to help raise money for the 2012 Statewide Youth Conference. More details to follow.

****PLEASE NOTE: NO YP ON TUESDAY, APRIL 10****
The Youth Conference will be **August 11th & 12th** at Rowan University. More information will come over the next few months. Please **BE SURE TO SAVE THE DATE!**

This month Youth will be meeting with Colleen and a professional photographer to do a photo shoot surrounding the theme of **STOMP OUT STIGMA**, to help campaign the Rock Musical which is in the works.

YP would like to wish members, Sam and Corrine a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Happy Easter and Passover to all!

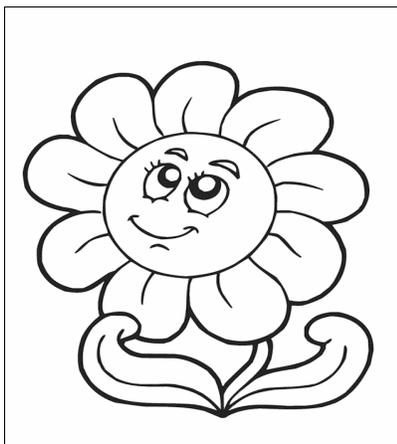
Contact

Nicole Kelly to register for YP.

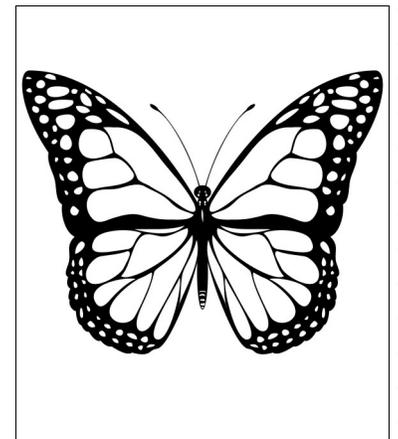
Cell 732-678-8181

Work (609) 693-4121

ext:18



**Meetings every Tuesday,
6:30-8:30pm
Ocean Academy in
Bayville**





APRIL 2012—CALENDAR



PEP 1 – OCEAN MENTAL HEALTH/OCEAN ACADEMY, 160 Route 9, Bayville 6:30-8:30
YOUTH PARTNERSHIP (every Tuesday) 6:30-8:30 p.m.-contact Nicole Kelly 732-678-8181 or Katie Colhoun at 732-597-4394 to confirm.

PEP 3 SUPPORT GROUP—OCEAN PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN, 1610 Rte. 88, 3rd Floor, Brick
REGISTRATION APPRECIATED—FREE CHILDCARE AND LIGHT DINNER

IEP CLINIC—OCEAN COUNTY FAMILY SUPPORT, 34 Manchester Ave., Forked River Ste. 202
GRANDPARENTS GROUP—OCEAN COUNTY FAMILY SUPPORT, 34 Manchester Ave., Forked River
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED—SPACE IS LIMITED Contact Karen Troiso (609) 693-4121

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	2	3 YP—6:30-8:30 Special speaker Bernie Baugh 6:30-8:30 Register 609-693-4121	4	5	6 Passover at sundown Good Friday	7 HAPPY PASSOVER
8 HAPPY EASTER	9 Easter Monday	10 NO GROUPS TONIGHT	11 PEP 3— 6:30-8:30	12	13	14
15	16	17 YP 6:30-8:30	18 IEP CLINIC 10:00-12:00 REGISTER CALL KAREN (609)693-4121	19	20	21
22 EARTH DAY	23	24 PEP 1 6:30-8:30 YP 6:30-8:30	25	26 GRANDPARENTS GROUP 10:00-12:00 REGISTRATION REQUIRED CALL KAREN (609) 693-4121	27	28
29	30					

**Ocean County FSO Inc.
34 Manchester Avenue
Suite 202
Forked River, N.J. 08731**



***PLEASE OPEN
IMPORTANT DATES
AND
INFORMATION INSIDE***