



Renee Uitto, CLS/OC Citizens' Advisory Committee Chairperson

SEPTEMBER 2012

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

WAYNE PACE – BIG TALENT IN A TINY WAY



Wayne Pace is an amazing 13 year old who has a big talent with tiny little details. This impressive young man and his twin brother, William, live with their mom and sister in Pontiac. He also has an older brother who lives on his own and a

niece. Wayne enjoys going to the zoo and library, participating at his church, and playing games on his computer. He also enjoys spending time with his dad, bike riding, flying kites and fishing.

Wayne is a handsome, shy, quiet teenager with an incredible eye for detail; and this eye for detail shows in the tiny creations he makes. At the age of *five* Wayne's art creations began after watching the television show Dexter's Laboratory. He is fascinated with cartoons and frequently acts the characters out. His first art creation was a skeleton from the Dexter's Laboratory show made out of cotton. Wayne makes his art characters out of any thing he can find - paper scraps, wrappers, gum, saliva, etc. The details on his art are astonishing, he does not miss a thing, from each little fur spot on Sylvester's paws, to the tiny little spurs on Woody's boots. Wayne so enjoys making his little art creations out of whatever he finds that mom has to hide important papers and documents that she does not want turned into little characters. To help with this, Wayne now has his own containers to keep his papers and supplies in and he carefully organizes them by color and texture.



Wayne has been working on his art skills at the Art Experience in Pontiac one day per week. His mentor, Judy Wilson, the Director of the Art Experience, has been working with Wayne to expand his talents and the items he makes. Often when Wayne is at the Art Experience others taking classes like to observe his work and can't wait to see his

newest creations. At times, people have offered to purchase his art. Wayne recently participated in the Pontiac Art Skills Competition, where he earned an honorable



mention. He was the only child competing and he sold a "frame" of his work for \$50. Being that Wayne is only 13 years old, there has only been introductory discussions about Wayne starting a MicroEnterprise so he can utilize his passion and talents to earn income. Wayne's parents and support circle definitely believe that Wayne's art talent is his future.

Wayne's Mom and Dad are very dedicated to their son. Given his disabilities, they feel that he will likely need supports for the remainder of his life, but they



indicate they would never seek placement for him in a group home. Pat Christian, Wayne's Independent



Support Coordinator, indicates that his parents have expressed to her that they are very glad that they have found CLS and learned about the option of Self-Determination as they are confident that Wayne's desires and wishes for his future will be respected and his needs for support and assistance to be successful will be honored.

Thank you, Wayne for sharing your amazing talent with our readers. We look forward to seeing your future projects and successes; and we sure thank you for donating some of your amazing art for display in our CLS/OC lobby!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song."

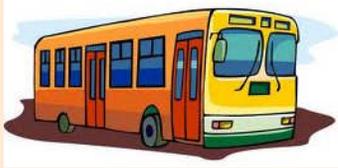
-Maya Angelou

SELF-DETERMINATION - REAL LIFE QUALITY STANDARDS

CONTROL OVER TRANSPORTATION



Self-Determination is all about freedom; Freedom to decide how one wants to live their life while having active and meaningful connections in their community. Real Life Quality Standards are universal human aspirations that can help guide a person with disabilities to real freedom. Universal human aspirations include: health and safety, having a place of one's own, income generation, long-term relationships, community membership, and this month's topic, Control Over Transportation.



Control over transportation is a critical component in living a self-determined life. Lack of transportation is often one of the most significant barriers to employment and community connections for people with disabilities who don't or are unable to drive. However, there are possible solutions. Try developing a variety of ideas and investigating to see what may work for you. Perhaps start with options that are typically used by the general public, like mass transit, car pooling, bicycling, or maybe your community maintains specialized transportation services for people with disabilities, such as paratransit (under the Americans with Disabilities Act, public transit providers must provide equivalent service to individuals who cannot utilize the public transit system)..

If transportation is an important concern in your life, talk with your Supports Coordinator and/or support circle about your transportation needs and they can help you come up with some ideas to enrich your life by having a means of transportation to get you out and around in your community.

Watch for future newsletter articles as we continue to explore all of the Real Life Quality Standards and ways support based on Self-Determination can help people achieve success related to Universal Human Aspirations.

FREEDOM ROAD TRANSPORTATION

By Renee Uitto



Freedom Road Transportation (FTR) is a volunteer driver program that assists with transportation needs for individuals with disabilities, seniors, and low income individuals.

FRT is a non-profit organization that is working to assist those whose lives are impacted by social isolation as a result of not having access to affordable transportation. FRT indicates they seek "to educate, motivate, and assist people to strengthen or rebuild their social network, to access needed human and social services, and to continue to live successfully and independently in their communities." Their vision is to "fill the public transportation gap for underserved people in Oakland County and give individuals the freedom to avoid social isolation, attain employment, and to have access to medical appointments, shopping and other activities."

If you would like to learn more about FRT or to determine if you may be eligible for their assistance, you can visit their website www.freedomroadtransportation.org or call 248-232-1259.

NATIONAL ADA PARATRANSIT SERVICE CARD

A national coalition of disability advocates is seeking support for a national ADA paratransit service card. If implemented, a card holder would be able to access paratransit across the country. The challenge right now is when a person applies for ADA paratransit to a specific city, yet when he/she visits another town, city, or state the individual cannot access the ADA paratransit of that community.



If you are interested in supporting this idea or would like more information, please visit the blogspot link below. The blogspot welcomes ADA paratransit users to share stories about their difficulties in accessing ADA paratransit in another community

For more information and to share your stories go to: <http://adaparatransit.blogspot.com/2012/02/ada-para-transit-universal.html>

TRANSIT ACCESS PROJECT – PORTAL SITE



Do you use public transit to get to your job, educational and recreational activities, and to get out and about in your community? As a person with a disability, you are entitled to the same public transit opportunities that everyone else enjoys. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guarantees equal access to public transportation for people with disabilities.

Accessing public transit systems can be confusing and frustrating. Well, there is a portal site that can help you get out and understand your public transit rights. This portal site provides public transit information in a single location. The ADA Transit Portal searches and indexes all of today's most pertinent ADA information relating to public transportation and accessibility. Within this search portal, you will find guidance materials, research reports and the latest case law information. This portal will quickly direct the user to appropriate transit accessibility documents.

At the Transit Access Project Portal site you will also find the Rider's Guide. This guide is designed to assist you in accessing your fixed route and ADA paratransit systems by describing your rights and responsibilities under the ADA and offers useful tips that may increase your chances for a successful ride. The guide takes you through the process of using public transit from start to finish. It identifies what these services are, what you need to know when planning your trip, what you will potentially encounter during your trip, and it covers topics that may arise after you've been riding awhile. The guide does not cover any other types of public transportation other than fixed route and ADA complementary paratransit. If you need information regarding other types of transportation, there are resources listed at the end of the guide.

To check the portal site go to <http://www.transitaccessproject.com/>. The Rider's Guide can be found under the Main Menu "General" section or you follow the below link to take you directly to the guide.

<http://www.transitaccessproject.com/InternalDocs/RiderInfo/ridersguide.pdf>

"USING NETWORKING TO FIND A JOB" BOOKLET

The Michigan Comprehensive Employment Services Grant, as a part of the Michigan Strategic Plan for Employment Services, has created a tool kit for persons with disabilities to define and implement networking strategies for finding a job, including social networking.



This book is for individuals with disabilities who are seeking employment. It contains material from authors who have published articles about the use of networking skills on the internet. The intent is to take advantage of the process that determines who gets hired for a majority of the job openings that are filled. This process is via informal referrals and sharing of information about job openings and job seekers; known as "networking." The material in the booklet is based on the belief that you can define, develop, and utilize your personal network to help you find a job.

This booklet is a great resource for job seekers. If you would like to check it out, download it at <https://sites.google.com/site/mimigworkgroup/networking-to-find-a-job>

2-1-1 GET CONNECTED, GET ANSWERS



Did you know that 2-1-1 is Michigan's universal number to call for health and human services information and referrals? 2-1-1 is the Health and Human Services equivalent to 9-1-1 to give or get help. Spearheaded by the United Way, 2-1-1 is free for callers, available 24/7/365 and includes multiple language interpreter services. Eight regional 2-1-1 Call Centers manage Michigan's most up-to-date, comprehensive health and human services database listing of 8,550 agencies offering almost 75,000 services. Some examples of services include: utility bill assistance, food pantries, prescription assistance, free tax preparation, health care, volunteer opportunities, mental health and addictions, child care resources, clothing, **transportation**, legal aid, and more. Over 90% of Michigan's population has 2-1-1 access with further expansion underway. In



Oakland County just dial 2-1-1 or call 800-552-1183. For more information visit the website www.uwmich.org/2-1-1

GT INDEPENDENCE - MAKING CHANGES

CUSTOMER SERVICE



GT Independence, the Fiscal Intermediary for people who self-

direct services through CLS-Oakland, is reorganizing their approach to customer service. GT indicates that as part of their effort to improve services, they will be re-organizing their customer service department to address inefficiencies that have been identified including customers being transferred too often, and backup options for people with simple service issues. Their new customer service structure includes a new Call Center to handle incoming customer service calls. They have transitioned experienced customer service staff into the Call Center to receive and resolve routine customer service requests. Additionally they now have specific customer services associates assigned to handle more complex issues. GT has updated their contact information:

Mail: 215 Broadus Street, Sturgis, MI 49091
Phone: Customer Service- 877-659-4500
Main: 269-651-4500
Fax: Customer Service Fax 877-600-4056
General Fax: 269-651-4501
Timesheets: 877-511-6168

GT Independence's contact information can also be found on their website at www.gtindependence.com.

SURVEY RESULTS

After several few months of gathering and compiling data from survey respondents regarding the monthly budget reports, GT has identified three key areas for improvement:

1. Budget reports need to arrive sooner to be effective
2. People would benefit from reduced "clutter" in the report format
3. Report users are requesting more guidance when their reports show "over budget"

Based on the results of the survey, and state fiscal intermediary requirements, GT will be reformatting their reports. They will continue to develop the new formats, but these changes are definite:

1. The reports will contain a specific alert when a person has exceeded their budget by more than 10%.
2. The reports will be switched from an "accrual basis" of accounting to a "cash basis" meaning that expenditures will be reported based on the date they were paid, rather than the date the service was provided.
3. Reports will be issued no later than the 15th of the month following services.

GT indicates that they will release the new format in upcoming months. They hope you will be pleased with the changes and thank everyone who took the time to respond to their survey.

NEW DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH DIRECTOR *By Renee Uitto*

On August 15, 2012 Governor Rick Synder announced that Olga Dazzo stepped down as the Department of Community Health (DCH) Director. The governor named former Director James K. Haveman as the new Director of DCH.



Dazzo was appointed by Governor Synder in 2010. Governor Synder's office indicated that Dazzo wanted to go back to work in the private sector. Dazzo said in the statement that she enjoyed serving as DCH Director and she is pleased, "that we set a vision and a framework to address chronic illnesses and infant mortality." She went on to say, "Serving as Director has given me a great opportunity to see the different aspects of health care at the policy level and the need to integrate public health, primary and specialty care, mental health and other services to prevent illness, improve services, and reduce costs. I am looking forward to working in the private sector to make this happen."

James. K. Havemen served as DCH Director from 1996 to 2003 and Department of Mental Health Director from 1991 to 1996. In the announcement the Governor said, "We have an ambitious health and wellness agenda that is vital to Michigan's economic future and overall quality of life, and we're fortunate that former DCH Director Jim Haveman has agreed to return to state service and drive that agenda forward. Jim is an experienced leader and a recognized innovator. His appointment demonstrates our commitment to maintaining health and wellness as a top priority." Haveman will begin his appointment as the Director of DCH on September 1, 2012.

We welcome James Haveman to this important role, and look forward to working with him in advancing Self-Determination for ALL citizens in Michigan.

BEACH TIME FUN IN THE SUN!

CLS' August gathering at Addison Oaks Park was another great event!!



UPCOMING EVENTS

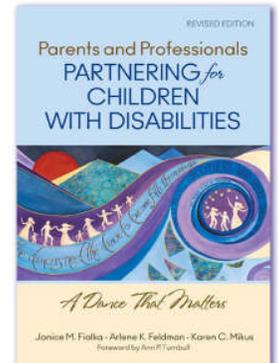
OCCMHA ANNUAL PLAN PRESENTATION



Join the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority (OCCMHA) on Wednesday, September 5, 2012, 4:00pm-5:30pm for the Presentation of the 2012/2013 Annual Plan, Budget & Strategic Plan. At this presentation you will learn about the plan for mental health services in Oakland County during the upcoming fiscal year and the Strategic Plan. Time will also be available to provide feedback. The presentation will take place at the OCCMHA office located at 2011 Executive Hills Boulevard, in Auburn Hills. If you have questions please contact Debbie Wisser at 248-858-0929.

DANCE OF PARTNERSHIP

On September 20, 2012, 7:00-8:30pm join co-author Janice Fialka, for conversation and celebration at the signing of her new book, Professionals Partnering for Children with Disabilities- A Dance that Matters. This book is written from both the parent's and the professional's points of view, and draws upon the metaphor of dance to highlight the essential partnership between teachers, administrators, support staff, and parents of children with disabilities. Rich with humor and heart, the book offers helpful steps for self-reflection, personal preparation, and parent-professional training. The event will take place at the Huntington Woods Library, 26415 Scotia Road, in Huntington Woods.



To learn, or for more resources on this parent/professional topic, Janice's website at www.danceofpartnership.com.

Copies of the plan are available:

At the CMH Building
2011 Executive Hills Blvd.
Auburn Hills, MI 48326
Or at the website
www.occmha.org

If you would like to provide written feedback

Mail to :
Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority
ATTN: Vicki Suder
2011 Executive Hills Blvd.
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION - LGBT

Mental Health Forum



On September 24, 2012, from 6:30pm - 8:00pm, join Dave Garcia, Executive Director of Affirmations and Jeff Brown, Executive Director of OCCMHA for a forum supporting the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender community (LGBT).

The forum conversations will include:

- Community Participants - Shared Concerns and Perspectives: Important LGBT community Issues.
- Jeff Brown: OCCMHA Integrated Mental and Physical Healthcare Initiative.
- Dave Garcia - Affirmations Mental and Physical Healthcare Action Plans.
- Kathleen LaTosch: OCCMHA Grant update

This forum will take place at Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road in Ferndale. RSVP is appreciated, but not required. Visit www.goaffirmations.org to RSVP.



CLS/OC BLOOD DRIVE



Are you looking for an opportunity to get involved and give back to your community? Donating blood is a great way to give back and save lives.

On Thursday, September 6, 2012, from 10am-4pm. Community Living

Services-Oakland County Division will be hosting a Blood Drive at our Ferndale office, 642 E. Nine Mile Road. Everyone who gives blood between June 1st and September 30th will be entered to win a \$500 Gas card.

If you are interested in participating in CLS/OC blood drive on September 6th, call Colleen at 248-547-2668 to reserve your time slot. If you would like to learn more about giving blood including: getting ready for the donation, the donation process, and eligibility requirements visit the Red Cross website at <http://www.redcrossblood.org/>.

THE NEXT CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING



Will take place on:
Monday, October 29th
2:00-4:00pm.
At the CLS/OC office in
Ferndale

CLS EVENING WITH FRIENDS EVENT

This year's exciting event will take place on Thursday, September 20th. This big celebration is a beautiful



evening where hundreds of people enjoy and celebrate the victories of people with disabilities. The 2012 Evening with Friends Awards Ceremony and Fundraiser will take place at Laurel Manor in Livonia. The evening will begin at 5:00pm, dinner at 6:30pm, followed by the highlight of the evening; the awards ceremony which honors people living their lives to the fullest. Tickets are \$50 per person. Please call Shari Davidek or Tiffany Devon at 734-467-7600 if you would like to attend, or if you are interested in making a donation to *Friends of CLS*. Funds raised at this spectacular event will go to *Friends of CLS* to assist CLS/OC by helping people to pay for opportunities that might otherwise not be available through traditional funding methods.

SELF-DETERMINATION TRAINING will take place on September 28th, 10:00am-12:00pm at the CLS/OC office, 642 E. Nine Mile Road.

At this Self-Determination Training you will hear how people are making great things happen in their lives by self-directing their supports and services through Person-Centered Planning and the use of individual budgets. The implementation of Self-Determination, individual budgets, and options for creative income generation will be explored. If you would like to attend this upbeat training session, please register by calling Diana Kaszyca at 248-547-2668.

EMPLOYER OF RECORD TRAINING-



will take place on Tuesday, October 2nd, 9:00am-12:00pm, at the CLS/OC office, 642 E. Nine Mile Road in Ferndale. This training is available for people supported by CLS and their staff. Topics will include how you could go about hiring

your own staff, the expectations of any staff you hire and your role as employer. If you are interested, call Diana Kaszyca at 248-547-2668 to register.



Oakland County Division

642 E. Nine Mile Road
Ferndale, MI 48220
Phone: 248-547-2668

THINGS TO DO IN YOUR COMMUNITY

FORD ARTS, BEATS AND EATS



This is one of Oakland County's Favorite Summer Festivals celebrating art, music, cuisine and humanity. This year it will take place August 31st-September 3rd, in

Downtown Royal Oak. The festival will offer more than 200 performances on ten stages, a highly ranked Juried Fine Arts Show, and local restaurants with some of the finest cuisine in the area. The festival admission is \$3 before 5pm, \$5 after 5pm and admission covers all of the concerts.

This year, Ford Arts, Beats & Eats is teaming with Autism Alliance of Michigan and Autism Speaks to offer select families a unique experience and an all-access pass to the festival. Families with members affected by autism will have two chances to enjoy Ford Arts, Beats & Eats ahead of the hundreds of thousands of people who turn out for the four-day Labor Day weekend festival. On the mornings of Sept. 1 and 3, the festival will open early to give families with autism exclusive, free access to parking, carnival rides, activities and food. The goal is to raise awareness about Autism and let families experience the event in the safest environment possible. To participate, families are asked to fill out an online application available at www.autismallianceofmichigan.org. Festival packages will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis. The hours for Inclusive Family Day are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 1 and 3. In addition to the Inclusive Family Days, both Autism Speaks and the Autism Alliance of Michigan will receive a share of the gate receipts.

Also, this year's title sponsor Ford Motor Company and its Southeast Michigan Ford Dealers will donate exhibit space for the first annual Deaf Arts Festival featuring as many as ten outstanding artists that are hearing impaired. The mission of the Deaf Arts Festival is to celebrate the arts by exhibiting diverse, quality visuals and performing arts through the support of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing population. The essence of this organization is to enrich and educate the audience through personal interaction among Deaf and Hard of Hearing Artists.

For more information about this event visit their website at <http://www.artsbeatseats.com>

SMOKIN' JAZZ & BARBEQUE BLUES FESTIVAL

This festival will take place on September 7th and 8th in Brighton. This festival has become a signature event in the City of Brighton. Each year, thousands upon thousands of visitors and locals flood the streets of Brighton enjoying ribs infused with the tastiest and tangiest of barbecue sauce while listening to the sassy sounds of blues and jazz from musicians that trek to Brighton from across the country. Admission is \$3 for adults, and children under 12 are free. Anyone under 21 must be accompanied by someone 21 or older until 9pm. After 9pm, everyone must be at least 21 years of age. For more information call (810) 227-5086 or follow the link <http://www.brightoncoc.org/General/smokin-jazz-and-barbeque.html>



ART & APPLES FESTIVAL

The Art & Apples Festival will take place on September 7th - 9th in Rochester at Sixth and Pine Streets. This Festival is Michigan's second largest juried fine art festival with 285+ artists from across the country, local entertainment acts, a free Kids Art Zone, three food courts and more. The Art & Apples Festival ranks as the #29 art festival in the nation as determined by Sunshine Artist Magazine. For more information on this event visit the website <http://www.artandapples.com/> or call (248) 651-4110.



SOUTH LYON PUMPKINFEST



The South Lyon Pumpkinfest will take place on September 29th and 30th in South Lyon.

The Pumpkinfest brings thousands of people to downtown South Lyon for a weekend filled with fun for all ages. Movie nights at the historic Lyon Theater downtown, bands, a beer tent, and children's entertainment are just the start of what you'll find at Pumpkinfest. The event is completely free, and parking is a snap with free shuttles to bring you downtown. For more information visit their website <http://www.southlyonpumpkinfest.com>.

SELF-DETERMINATION TRAINING

At this Self-Determination Training you will hear how people are making great things happen in their lives by self-directing their supports and services through Person-Centered Planning and the use of individual budgets. The implementation of Self-Determination, individual budgets, and options for creative income generation will be explored.

Consider joining this upbeat training session about making a difference in your life or the lives of those you know, love and support.

Where & When:

Friday
September 28, 2012
10:00am - 12:00pm

**Community Living
Services -
Oakland County Division**
642 E. Nine Mile Road
Ferndale, MI 48220

Everyone is welcome!

**Please register by calling
Diana Kaszyca at 248-547-2668**



Join us for Food, Fun the Best Silent Auction in Town!

VOLUNTEER DRIVER PROGRAM



Friday, September 28, 2012

Silent Auction 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
 Dinner 7 p.m. ~ Music & Dancing 8:30 p.m.
LAFAYETTE GRANDE BANQUET FACILITY
 One Lafayette in Downtown Pontiac

For Information Call (248) 232-1259

There will a gourmet buffet, beer and wine, music for your dancing pleasure and a huge selection of Silent Auction items to bid on! Come and bid high on an MGM Grand Player Package, a Royal Park Hotel Escape Package, an Xbox 360 Kinect dance package, or maybe the 40" Westinghouse LCD HDTV will entice you! Anyone for a bowling party of ten? We have a party package for you.

Tickets Online \$60 by September 25th www.freedomROADtransportation.org or \$75 at the Door

A glimpse of just a few of this year's silent auction items!



Royal Park Hotel
 The Escape Package
 \$300 VALUE



MGM Grand
 Player Package
 \$289 VALUE



40" Westinghouse
 LCD HDTV
 \$350 VALUE



Jewelry

Freshwater Pearl
 Necklace & Bracelet
 \$185 VALUE



iPad 2 w/WiFi
 16 GB
 \$400 VALUE

**Entertainment
 & Electronics**



Xbox 360 w/Kinect,
 Game, Zoom Adapter,
 HDMI Cable Package
 \$500 VALUE



Samsung Wi-Fi
 14.0 Megapixel
 Digital Camera
 \$230 VALUE



Canon PowerShot SX
 14.1 Megapixel
 Digital Camera
 \$220 VALUE

Cameras

**Signed,
 Matted & Framed
 Lithograph
 Artwork**

Priceless



"Autumn Haven-Wood
 Ducks" by David A. Maass



"Sniffing a Hinckley Breeze"
 by Donald W. BLAISS



"Girl and a Dog" by
 T.B. Robinmon

And More...

Dinner Packages
 Bowling Party For 10 people
 Kids Krew Rocking Horses
 Gift Baskets

EMPLOYER OF RECORD TRAINING

This training is available for people supported by CLS and their staff. Topics will include how you could go about hiring your own staff, the expectations of any staff you hire and your role as employer.



Please register by calling
Diana Kaszyca at 248-547-2668

Where & When:

Tuesday
October 2, 2012
9:00am – 12:00pm

**Community Living
Services -**
Oakland County Division
642 E. Nine Mile Road
Ferndale, MI 48220

