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 42ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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Rep. Dan Miller's



March 13 - 15, 2019
Beth El Congregation

Special Guests

March 13th



Jennifer Antkowiak
 Caregiver & Media
 Personality

March 14th



Gab Bonesso
 MH Advocate &
 Comedian

March 15th



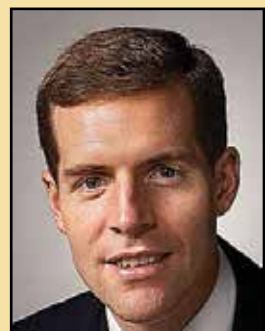
**Secretary W.
 Gerard Oleksiak**
 PA Dept. of Labor &
 Industry

March 15th



Mike Doyle
 Congressman
 18th District

March 15th



Conor Lamb
 Congressman
 17th District

Summit at a Glance

Wednesday, March 13th • Resource Fair, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Keynote Speaker: Jennifer Antkowiak Caring for the Caregiver	
9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Influence to Action: Advocacy, Leadership and Transition A program for students by PA Youth Initiative	
10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	Not Everyone's a Golden Girl	Access to Healthcare: A System Approach to Meeting the Needs of People with Disabilities
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Impact of Isolation on Older Adults	Personal Stories: Panel of Persons with Disabilities
12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.	Providing Culturally & Linguistically Appropriate Services to the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Community	Guardianship & Forms of Substitute Decision Making
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	A Conversation with Local Elected Officials	
5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	A Transition Plan is Not Just a Form: A program by 21 & Able and The PEAL Center	

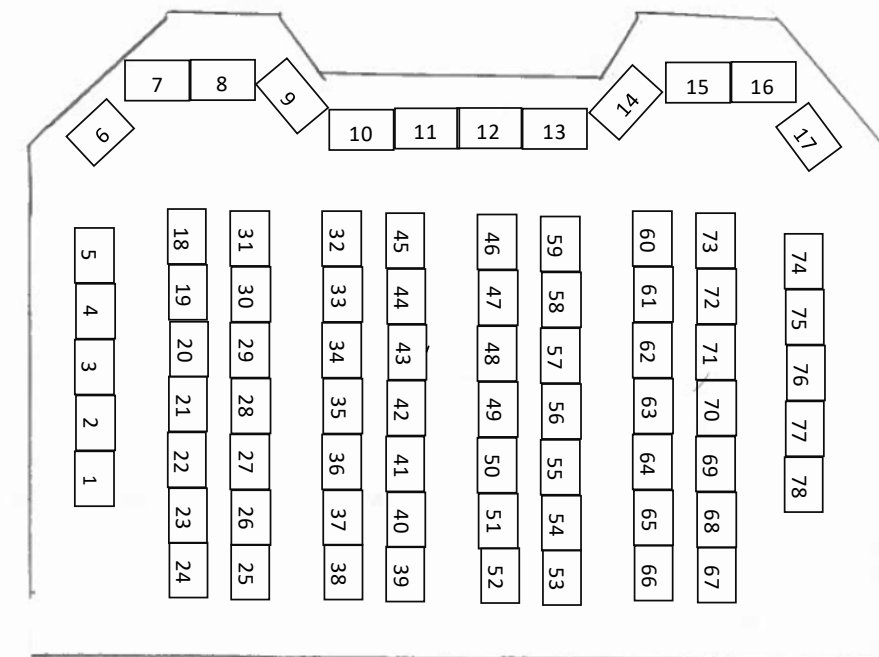
Thursday, March 14th • Resource Fair, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Keynote Speaker: Gab Bonesso Riding the Wave of Mental Health with Humor		
10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Early Reach Initiative	Special Needs in the Preschool Years	Children's Mental Health: A Family System Approach
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Why Mindfulness & Parenting Make Great Partners	Things No One Told Me After My Kid Was Diagnosed with Autism	Continuum of Mental Health Supports in Schools Today
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK		
1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	My LD to Ph.D Journey: I Couldn't Have Done It Alone	Ten Things You Need to Know About Special Education	Talk Saves Lives: An Introduction to Suicide Prevention
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Dyslexia: An Overview of Screening, Assessment & Evidence-Based Intervention Practices	Home Visiting and Family Support	From Parent to Advocate in 5 Easy Steps
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Need IEP help? Ruder Law will have attorneys on site to meet individually with you to answer your questions		
4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.	Future Planning with Special Needs Trusts & ABLA Accounts	In Our Own Voice - Mental Health Recovery Presentation: A Veteran's Journey	Building A Youth Mental Health Advocacy Movement
6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Office of Vocational Rehabilitation: Partnership with Bureaus of Juvenile Justice Services		
6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Turning Points - A Discussion of Teen Decisions		

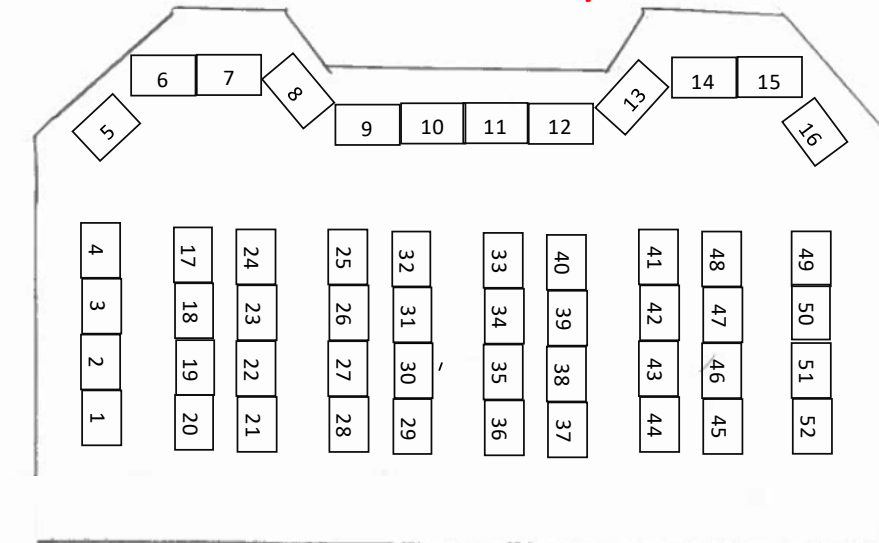
Friday, March 15th • Resource Fair, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Keynote Speaker: Department of Labor & Industry Update with Secretary W. Gerard Oleksiak
9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Influence to Action: Advocacy, Leadership and Transition A program for students by PA Youth Initiative
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Disability Employment: Supporting both People with Disabilities and Businesses A Federal Policy Update from the Office of Senator Casey
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Congressional Conversation about the Importance of Disabilities & Mental Health Congressmen Mike Doyle and Conor Lamb
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Legislative Panel: State Policies on Disabilities & Mental Health

Resource Fair Wednesday & Thursday



Resource Fair Friday



Exhibitor Locations

Special thanks to our program partners for this year's Summit!



Resource Fair — Friday, March 15th

21 and Able	2	Miracle League of the South Hills	15
ADEPT -The Arc of PA	10	New Horizons	37
Allegheny County Human Resources	13	Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)	7
Allegheny Department of Human Services	8	PA Connecting Communities	34
Allegheny Family Network	5	PA Health & Wellness	29
Amazon	52	PA Human Relations Commission	44
Bidwell Training Center	3	PA Rehabilitation Council	32
Brain Advances Neurofeedback	47	Passavant Memorial Homes Family of Services	16
CARES of Western PA	45	Pathways	25
Changing Spaces	35	PEAL Center	4
Disability Options Network	6	Pitt Talent Acquisition	22
Disability Rights PA	21	Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre	14
Dollar Bank	41	Port Authority of Allegheny County	18
Emmaus Community of Pittsburgh	24	River Communities Fiduciary Services, Inc.	11
Exceptional Adventures	30	St. Clair Hospital	20
Giant Eagle	27	The Woodlands	28
Golden Triangle Council of the Blind	26	U.S. Senator Bob Casey	39
Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania	1	United Healthcare	42
Hockey Sticks Together	33	University of Iowa UI REACH Program	9
IUP Labyrinth Center	50	UPMC Community HealthChoices (CHC)	38
Main Line Rehabilitation Associates, Inc.	36	UPMC Disabilities Resource Center	17
Mainstay Life Services	51	Watson Institute	19
McMorrow Law, LLC	43	Western PA Disability History & Action Consortium	49
Merakey	12		

SESSIONS

Wednesday, March 13th 9:00 – 10:00 am Keynote

1. Keynote: Caring for the Caregiver

Main Sanctuary

Jennifer Antkowiak, *Caregiver & Media Personality*

Jennifer Antkowiak is an award-winning newscaster and knows about caregiving. Caregivers for people with a disability provide critical work, and it is easy for them to be overworked and under supported. As a wife, mother of five, and stepmother of one, Jennifer knows firsthand how caring for a family member with extra needs is often a lonely and unforgiving task. Join us as Jennifer frames these issues and talks about what caregivers can do to help balance their lives and what policymakers should be doing to support them.

Wednesday 10:15 – 11:15 am

2. Not Everyone's a Golden Girl

Main Sanctuary

Brenda Slagle, *Allegheny County Department of Human Services Area Agency on Aging*

Whether you are living alone, or with friends or family, becoming empowered with the knowledge of programs available through the county is essential. While some seniors have been living with disabilities for many years, others become disabled as they age. No matter what your circumstance, there are programs available to assist you. This session will help you navigate the continuum of services offered.

Important Information about Lunch

The Lunch Buffet is for individuals who have preordered lunch. There are no sales during the event. Individuals will receive a lunch ticket for each day they have prepaid.

Wednesday, March 13th —no lunch offered
12:30—1:30 pm Thursday, March 14th blue ticket
12:00—1:00 pm Friday, March 15th yellow ticket

NO OUTSIDE food is permitted inside the synagogue. If you did not preorder lunch, there are several local restaurant options nearby. We ask that you finish your lunch before returning to the Summit in respect to our hosts. Thank you for your cooperation.

3. Access to Healthcare: A System Approach to Meeting the Needs of Patients with Disabilities

Sufrin Chapel

Matthew Berwick, *UPMC Disabilities Resource Center*

For more than 28 years, the Americans with Disabilities Act has mandated the provision of barrier-free medical care to patients with disabilities in healthcare facilities. The UPMC Disabilities Resource Center was established in 2007, charged with the mission to ensure equal, accessible healthcare for UPMC patients with disabilities across the UPMC Health System. Our work focuses on four areas: education, facility accessibility, community engagement and policy. A high-level account of our strategies for barrier-free care, effective communication from an executive leadership perspective to the operational staff perspective, and implementation will be provided. This session highlights needs, strategies, tools, resources and best practices to ensure accessible, effective healthcare to patients with disabilities across a broad system of care.

Wednesday 11:30 – 12:30 pm

4. Impact of Isolation on Older Adults

Main Sanctuary

Dr. Elaine Malec, PhD, GC-C, CDP *Allegheny County Age-Friendly Community Initiative*

Disabilities related to mobility issues, cognitive impairment, vision and hearing loss can increasingly isolate adults as they age. This session will discuss the effects of isolation, and the importance of socialization and other strategies to address these issues.

5. Personal Stories: Panel of Persons with Disabilities

Sufrin Chapel

Dr. Josie Badger CRC, DHCE, *J Badger Consulting Inc., RAISE, United Way #IWantToWork Campaign*, and others

In this session, a panel of people living with varied disabilities will share their personal stories. These accounts of challenges and of triumphs will help broaden our understanding of the barriers that still exist, as well as inspire us all to continue to work to make a truly inclusive world a reality for all.

Wednesday 12:45 – 1:45 pm

6. Guardianship & Forms of Substitute Decision Making

Main Sanctuary

Rich Howard and Eric O'Connor, *River Communities Fiduciary Services, Inc.*

Most societies seek to assist at-risk individuals, and, if necessary, protect them from their own risky decision making or from the behavior of others. Doing so should be done with the minimum intrusion on their rights, always seeking the least restrictive means of assistance possible. This session will provide helpful information about Powers of Attorney, Representative Payee Services, types of Substitute Healthcare Decision Makers, Guardianship, and more.

7. Providing Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community

Balk Chapel

Christina Costello, *PAHrtners Deaf Services*, Lori Milcic, *Pressley Ridge*

This presentation will serve as an overview for providing services to individuals with hearing loss who also have other special needs, primarily mental health diagnoses and/or intellectual disabilities. The presenters will discuss the special considerations that need to be afforded to these unique populations when providing clinical services. This presentation will be a high-level overview of Deaf culture and the treatment needs of Deaf and hard of hearing individuals, along with an explanation of the impact of hearing loss on mental health. Time will be allotted for questions and answers.

Wednesday 1:00 – 2:00 pm

8. A Conversation with Local Elected Officials

Sufrin Chapel

Moderated by State Representative Dan Miller

Arguably there is no level of government more impactful to someone's day-to-day life than local government. Whether a municipal commissioner, school director, or county official, these positions matter, especially for the administration of services and the accessibility of our communities. Join us for a special roundtable discussion as we talk about what it means to have local communities and services that are truly open for everyone, regardless of their disability or mental health issue.

Wednesday 9:00 – 1:30 pm For Pre-Registered Students Only

9. Influence to Action: Advocacy, Leadership and Transition



Community Room

A Pittsburgh Youth Initiative Program

This session is for transition-age students only. Students will learn skills for how to become a leader of tomorrow, how to navigate disability support services through self-advocacy, how to interact with elected officials, and how to network with potential employers at the Resource Fair. This program will culminate with youth conversations with local elected officials.

Wednesday 5:30 – 8:00 pm

10. A Transition Plan is Not Just a Form: A 21 & Able/PEAL program



Community Room

A 21 and Able Program, an initiative of United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania in partnership with PEAL

The Transition portion of the IEP can be a powerful tool for building an IEP that presumes competence and leads to positive outcomes. However, the family and youth must have a vision and ambitious goals and understand the possibilities in order to maximize the power. Learn how person-centered planning can form the foundation for strong IEPs that support our youth to learn and achieve in ways that lead toward their dreams.

Notice of Photographic & Media Recording

When you attend Rep. Miller's Disability & Mental Health Summit, you enter an area where photography and video recording may occur. By entering the event premises, you consent to such recording media and its release, publication, exhibition or reproduction. If you have any questions or concerns about waiving these rights, please contact one of the event organizers.

Resource Fair — Thursday, March 14th

ACHIEVA Family Trust	3	Pace School	47
AIU Special Education & Pupil Services Division	39	Parent to Parent	68
Allegheny Children's Initiative	34	PEAL Center	5
Allegheny County Coalition for Recovery (ACCR)	42	Pediatric Specialty Care	29
Allegheny Department of Human Services	9	Peer Support & Advocacy Network	73
Allegheny Family Network	6	Pittsburgh Center for Autistic Advocacy	59
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention	22	Pittsburgh Mercy Health System	60
Apraxia Kids	28	Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium	46
ASERT	65	PLEA	69
Autism Connection of PA	18	Quest Camp	50
Autism Society of Pittsburgh	30	River Communities Fiduciary Services, Inc.	12
Autism Speaks	70	River Therapies	71
Autism Urban Connections Inc	35	Solevo Wellness	61
Boy Scouts of America	51	Southwestern Human Services	25
CASA of Allegheny County	15	Southwood Psychiatric Hospital	55
Center for Autism & Related Disorders (CARD)	54	Special Notes Music Program	57
Chartiers Center	45	St. Clair Hospital	21
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC		STEADY Study	75
Behavioral Science Div	52	TEIS	74
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh South	72	TELI	48
Children's Therapy Center of		The Alliance for Infants & Toddlers	36
Washington Health System	37	The Children's Institute of Pittsburgh	4
Community Care Behavioral Health Organization	31	The Day School at the Children's Institute	
Disability Options Network	7	of Pittsburgh	4
Eruption Athletics	40	Theiss Early Autism Program of	
Every Child Inc	2	Western Psychiatric Hospital	27
Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania	19	Trying Together	38
Highmark Caring Place	56	Tucker Arensberg, P.C.	64
Horses with Hope	63	U.S. Senator Bob Casey	58
Human Services Administration Organization	67	University of Iowa UI REACH Program	10
Include Me -The Arc of PA	14	University of Pittsburgh Center for	
Institute on Disabilities at Temple University	41	Excellence in Autism Research	77
Learning Disabilities Association of America	23	UPMC Child & Adolescent Research Programs	76
Matilda Theiss - COOL Zone Programs	53	UPMC-WPH Partial and IOP Programs	78
Matilda Theiss Therapeutic Nursery & Preschool	53	Verbal Beginnings, LLC	43
Merakey	13	Watson Institute	20
Miracle League of the South Hills	16	WAVE research study	75
NAMI Keystone Pennsylvania	24	Wesley Family Services	32
New Story Schools and Services	44	Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children	11
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)	8	Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic	78
Outreach Teen & Family Services	26	Young Life Capernaum	62
PA Family Network: Vision for Equality	66	Your Child's Place	33
PA Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	17	Youth and Family Training Institute	49
PA Treasury Dept./PA ABLE	1		

Resource Fair —Wednesday, March 13th

21 and Able	4	PA Deaf-Blind Network PaTTAN	34
AARP	25	PA Health & Wellness	41
ACHIEVA Family Trust	3	PA Human Relations Commission	66
ACLD Tillotson School	33	PA Independent Enrollment Broker	62
ADEPT -The Arc of PA	11	PA Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	17
Aetna Better Health	72	PA Rehabilitation Council	45
Allegheny Department of Human Services	9	PA Treasury Dept./PA ABLE	1
Allegheny Family Network	6	PAHrtners	14
Amazon	77	Passavant Memorial Homes Family of Services	16
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention	22	Pathways	42
Auberle	36	Paula Teacher & Associates, Inc.	50
Blackburn's	27	PEAL Center	5
Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services	8	Pitt Talent Acquisition	51
CARES of Western PA	68	Pittsburgh Cultural Trust	44
Center for Community Resources	53	Pittsburgh Mercy Health System	60
Center for Independent Living of North-Central PA	64	Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium	46
Changing Spaces	47	Port Authority of Allegheny County	20
Community Care Behavioral Health Organization	31	Pressley Ridge	52
Consumer Health Coalition	15	River Communities Fiduciary Services, Inc.	12
Disability Options Network	7	Solevo Wellness	61
Disability Rights PA	28	St. Clair Hospital	21
Dollar Bank	78	The Arc of Washington County	37
Emmaus Community of Pittsburgh	29	The Woodlands	35
Empowered Medical Advocacy	70	Tucker Arensberg, P.C.	73
Every Child Inc	2	University of Iowa UI REACH Program	10
Exceptional Adventures	43	UPMC Community HealthChoices (CHC)	57
Familylinks	54	UPMC Disabilities Resource Center	18
FedEx	55	UPMC For You	30
Giant Eagle	40	Wesley Family Services	32
Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania	19	Western PA Disability History & Action Consortium	74
Hope Grows	59	Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf	38
Horses with Hope	63	Women and Girls Foundation	69
In-Stride Therapeutic Riding	48		
Intervention Fundamentals	58		
IUP Labyrinth Center	75		
Main Line Rehabilitation Associates, Inc.	49		
Mainstay Life Services	76		
Make-A-Wish Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia	26		
Merakey	13		
Mind Body Center, PLLC	71		
NAMI Keystone Pennsylvania	24		
New Horizons	56		
PA 211 Southwest	23		

Free IEP/504 Clinic

Private, 15-minute appointments are available with Ruder Law to answer your questions. Appointments may still be available for Thursday. Look for the Clinic sign in the Registration area to check in.

Thursday, March 14th 9:00 – 10:00 am Keynote

11. Keynote: Riding the Wave of Mental Health with Humor

Main Sanctuary

Gab Bonesso, *mental health advocate and award winning comedian*

Mental health advocate and award winning comedian Gab Bonesso openly discusses her experience with mental health in a high energy, comedic, yet earnest discussion.

Thursday 10:15 – 11:15 am

12. Pittsburgh Office of Vocational Rehabilitation: Early Reach Initiative & PETS Programming

Community Room

Andria McCourt, *OVR Early Reach*, Ashley Mullen, *OVR Early Reach*, Brett Glavey, *OVR*, Lindsay Coulehan, *OVR*

The Early Reach Initiative of OVR provides education, outreach, and consultation services to students, families, and professionals, and addresses career and post-secondary options, workplace readiness, and independent living. Presenters will provide an overview of Early Reach, as well as discussing Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS), which are preparatory services for students with disabilities designed to identify career interests, practice and improve work skills, and explore postsecondary training opportunities at an earlier age.

13. Special Needs in the Preschool Years

Sufrin Chapel

Lissa Geiger Shulman, *Trying Together*, Eileen Sharbaugh, *St. Paul's Episcopal Nursery School*

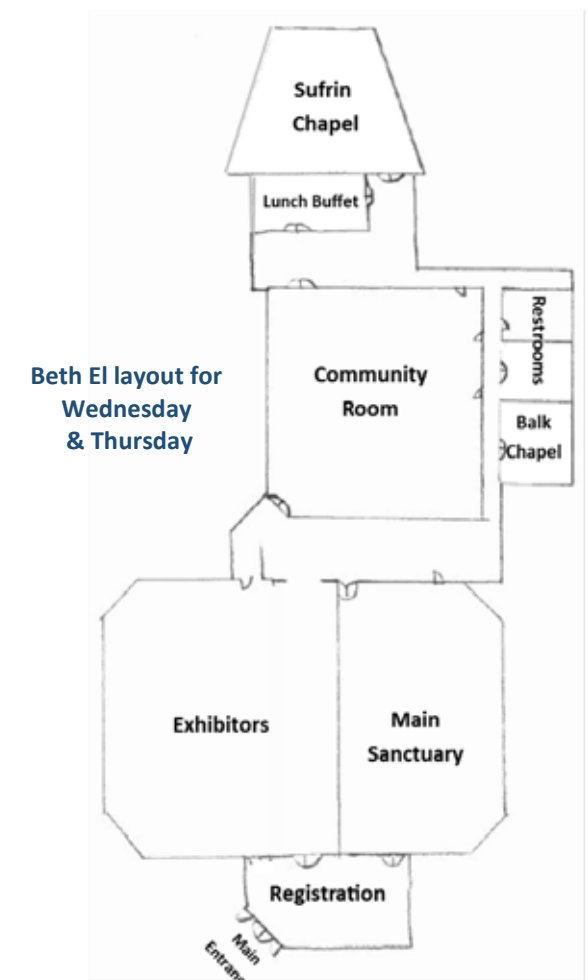
This session will explore some of the considerations surrounding finding and working with preschools to get the best outcomes for children with unique needs. We will talk about how to find programs that are more inclusive, including what to look for and what questions to ask. We will share tips for working cooperatively with your preschool to help to ensure that your child has the best possible experience.

14. Children's Mental Health: A Family System Approach

Main Sanctuary

Amanda Meredith, Kimberly Kir, and Bryce Shirey, *Every Child, Inc.*

Presenters will discuss the challenges an entire family encounters when one member has a behavioral health diagnosis, address when to seek treatment as a family, and where to start to access family support. The presentation will cover common misdiagnoses and give an overview of the different types of treatment models available. Presenters with specialties in Obsessive Compulsive and Autism Spectrum disorders will provide insight into how those diagnoses have impacted the families they have worked with and how interventions have helped.



Thursday 11:30 – 12:30 pm

15. Things No One Told Me After My Kid Was Diagnosed with Autism

Sufrin Chapel

Marilyn Hoyson, Ph.D., *Watson Institute*

Through this panel of parents and grandparents of children with autism, parents at all stages of their child's diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder will come away from this session with insights and practical tips on parenting their child, while tending to their own needs. From navigating the grieving process, handling unsolicited advice and how to set appropriate goals for your child, as well as how to access supports for you and your child, this session will provide parents with strategies and resources.

16. Continuum of Mental Health Supports in Schools Today

Main Sanctuary

Tina Beer, *Mt. Lebanon School Dist.*, Dr. Heather Doyle, *Mt. Lebanon School Dist.*, Suzanne Lochie, *Keystone Oaks School Dist.*, Lori Sutton, *Bethel Park School Dist.*

In this session, information will be presented on various mental health supports that are integral to current school safety initiatives and how to access these services in local school districts. An understanding of how to improve school climate with social and emotional learning approaches will be shared with examples from the research and current evidence-based practices. Resources will also be shared for parents and other community members to assist in supporting students with mental health needs outside of school.

17. Why Mindfulness and Parenting Make Great Partners!

Community Room

Dr. Tracy Scanlon, LPC, *Outreach Teen & Family Services, Inc.*

They can be some of the most frustrating and embarrassing child behaviors—temper tantrums, lashing out at others, impatience, and short attention spans. So what can you do about them? Research has found that having a sense of mindfulness, or the ability to be present and think before reacting, can provide children with the skills they need to better understand their feelings, to pay more attention and to make wiser decisions. Mindfulness also means paying attention to the moment without judgment and intentionally pausing before reacting. Mindfulness is a wonderful way to help children, especially those with particular physical and emotional struggles, manage their

emotions, reduce their stress, improve their academics, and even develop greater empathy. The hidden benefit of practicing mindfulness with your family is that as parents you get to reap the benefits too. Learn eight easy ways to get started.

Thursday 1:45 – 2:45 pm

18. Talk Saves Lives – An Introduction to Suicide Prevention

Main Sanctuary

Katelyn Lamm, *American Foundation for Suicide Prevention*

Talk Saves Lives helps general community and family members gain more information that could help save a life one day. Attendees will learn about the latest statistics, what research is revealing about suicidal persons, risk factors, warning signs that can be observed, how to talk to someone who may be in crisis, and options for getting them help. This is important information that will give attendees greater confidence in having mental health conversations and encouraging those struggling to seek help.

20. My LD to Ph.D. Journey: I Couldn't Have Done It Alone

Sufrin Chapel

Dr. Collin Diedrich, *Learning Disabilities Association of America*, *Learning Disabilities Association of Pennsylvania*

Dr. Diedrich has multiple learning disabilities that wounded his self-esteem growing up. Despite his learning disabilities, he was able to get a PhD in molecular virology and microbiology from University of Pittsburgh. During his decade-long career examining how HIV makes people more susceptible to tuberculosis, he felt stuck between two opposing worlds: success in a field that obsesses over intellectualism and his personal experiences struggling with multiple everyday activities like reading menus and street signs. Inhabiting these dual spheres can be emotionally exhausting. However, Dr. Diedrich learned to embrace his learning disabilities and now understands the benefits of having them. He now believes that he wouldn't be the scientist he is today if it wasn't for his learning disabilities! For this presentation, he will discuss personal stories about how he was able to overcome and use his learning disabilities to become a better scientist. He will give advice and techniques to students, parents, and educators on how best to overcome obstacles. The presentation will focus on how the techniques we learn to help overcome the negative stigmas associated with learning disabilities can be used to help us live more productive lives.



Continuing Education Credits

CEU Credits for Social Workers

This program is offered for up to 18 hours of social work (minimum of 2.0 hours) continuing education through co-sponsorship of the University of Pittsburgh's School of Social Work, a Council on Social Work Education-accredited school and, therefore, a PA pre-approved provider of social work continuing education. These credit hours satisfy requirements for LSW/LCSW, LPC, and LMFT biennial license renewal. You must provide a check in the amount of \$10 payable to the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, along with your completed forms, prior to leaving the Summit.

Act 48 Credits for Educators

Up to 18 Act 48 hours are offered for this event. To ensure that your Act 48 hours are correctly reported to PDE, please provide your seven digit Professional Personnel Identification (PPID) number when completing your registration. There is no cost to obtain these credits and no additional paperwork to submit. These credits are sponsored by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit.

CLE Credits for Lawyers

Many sessions are approved for substantive CLE credit. Individuals will receive forms for each session they attend and are responsible for completing and mailing all forms, along with the appropriate fee (payable to PACLE) to the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board. The certification fee is \$1.50/credit hour or partial credit hour. All sessions on the form are available for legal credit. These credits are sponsored by River Communities Fiduciary Services, Inc.

CEU Credits for Rehabilitation Counselors

This program is offered for up to 18 hours of credit and satisfy CRC requirements of continuing education for rehabilitation counselors. There is no cost to obtain these credits. These credits are sponsored by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Thank You!

Thank you to all the members of our planning committee. They worked for months to develop sessions, secure continuing education credits and ensure that we offer programs well-tailored to the issues of today. I would also like to thank our major programming partners – The Peal Center, 21 & Able, Allegheny Family Network, Autism Connection of PA, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and PYI – who have brought their expertise to the table to help us create the preeminent event in Western PA. Many thanks also to Joe Polk from Thirteen Ball, who volunteered his time to update and manage our website and to St. Clair Hospital who, for the 5th consecutive year, has covered our costs so that we can keep the event free for everyone. Of course, there would be no event without the fantastic support of Beth El Congregation. Our hosts open their doors to us and spend months helping to make this event special. There can be no doubt that all of these people and organizations helped my office to help others, and I am truly grateful for everyone's efforts.

Dan Miller
State Representative, 42nd Legislative District



**BETH EL CONGREGATION
OF THE SOUTH HILLS**



State Representative Dan Miller's



Save the Date!

7th Annual Disability & Mental Health Summit

MARCH 6, 2020

David L. Lawrence Convention Center



21. Ten Things You Need to Know about Special Education

Community Room

Jeff Ruder, Esq., *Ruder Law*

IEPs and 504 plans can be confusing. With so many pages and so much data, it's easy for parents and self-advocates to get lost in the process. Ruder Law, which specializes in representing parents of students with disabilities in school matters, will share the keys to being a strong advocate. Attorneys from the firm will also offer free, private consultations to go more in-depth as to your child's specific issues.

Thursday 3:00 – 4:00 pm

21. Dyslexia: An Overview of Screening, Assessment and Evidence-Based Intervention Practices

Sufrin Chapel

Dr. Heather Doyle, *Mt. Lebanon School District*, Tina Beer, *Mt. Lebanon School District*, Suzanne Lochie, *Keystone Oaks School District*, Lori Sutton, *Bethel Park School District*

This session will focus on developing the participant's understanding of dyslexia through discussion of the neurobiological origins, signs and symptoms, screening, assessment, and social-emotional implications of dyslexia. Participants will also become familiar with evidence-based intervention practices including classroom strategies which will be presented with specific examples from local school districts. Resources designed to assist parents, community members, and professionals in supporting students with dyslexia will be shared.

22. From Parent to Advocate in 5 Easy Steps

Main Sanctuary

Allegheny Family Network

Most people would agree that parents fill many roles in the lives of their children, including teaching, encouraging, supporting and setting limits. For parents of children with disabilities, there is another important role for them to play – the role of advocate. Advocating for your child in school, in medical settings and in other areas is a critical piece in ensuring that their needs are met as effectively as possible. Join us as we talk about five steps in the journey from parent to advocate and learn more about how to become a successful advocate for your child.

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12:30—1:30 pm Thursday, March 14th blue ticket
12:00—1:00 pm Friday, March 15th yellow ticket

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23. Home Visiting and Family Support

Community Room

Lissa Geiger Shulman, *Trying Together*, Heather Arenth, *Allegheny County Department of Human Services*

Family support and home visiting services are available in Allegheny County for parents who are concerned about their young child's development. This session will describe the range of programs, developmental screenings, and supports for the entire family unit. We will also touch on how programs support caregiver stress, parenting strategies, child health, and more.

Thursday 4:15 – 5:15 pm

24. Future Planning with Special Needs Trusts and ABLÉ Accounts

Main Sanctuary

Nora Gieg Chatha, Esq, *Tucker Arensberg, P.C.*

Individuals with disabilities often rely on essential government benefits for assistance with the costs of shelter, food, care (both in the home and in long-term care facilities), medications, medical visits and procedures, co-pays, and many other day-to-day needs. These government benefits have strict income and asset limits that prevent an individual from saving money or accumulating wealth. In this session, we will discuss how special needs trusts and ABLÉ accounts can be utilized to allow individuals with special needs to have monies available to them for supplemental use, above and beyond their government benefits. We will also discuss ways for family members to formulate an estate plan to include their loved ones with disabilities without jeopardizing any benefits.

25. In Our Own Voice: Mental Health Recovery Presentation: A Veteran's Journey

Community Room

Fred Terling and Nicole Dawson, *NAMI*

This program is an interactive presentation that is designed to shatter the negative stereotypes and stigma that individuals with mental illness face. This presentation will provide audience members the opportunity to gain insight into the lives of two veterans whose lives are impacted by mental illness and substance abuse. Presenters will share their journey of recovery and wellness and encourage audience members to further their own learning by participating in Q&A with presenters.

26. Building a Youth Mental Health Advocacy Movement

Sufrin Chapel

Carol Frazer, LPC, *Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative*, Deborah Murdoch, MPH, *Jewish Healthcare Foundation*, The Reverend Sally Jo Snyder, *Consumer Health Coalition*

Ignite the power of the youth voice! Join youth from across Southwestern PA who are concerned about teen mental health issues for a session focused on advocacy. Participants will learn how youth activists are taking steps within their schools, communities, and across the state to share their concerns and advocate for an improved safety-net for teen mental health. Join us as we build a statewide advocacy network inspired by the power of the youth voice. We welcome youth, student advisors, and other stakeholders to attend.

27. OVR & Juvenile Justice: Partnership with Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services

Balk Chapel

Erika Kauffman, *OVR*

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) has partnered with the Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services (BJJS) to assist juvenile court involved students or youth with disabilities in reaching improved employment outcomes. This session will describe the goals of this joint effort, which include improving high school graduation rates, aiding with the transition to post-secondary schools or training programs, and improving the ability of these youth obtain and retain employment.

Thursday 6:00 – 8:30 pm

28. Turning Points - A Discussion of Teen Decisions



Community Room

Shawn McGill, LCSW, Aprilynn Artz, LPC, Lu Randall, MRC, & Heather Conroy, LCSW, *Autism Connection of PA*

The late teen years are turning points for all students. Some unique challenges exist for students with disabilities, especially autism, when it comes to social decision making, legal issues, job readiness, and dating. Join us to hear from experts who have supported teens for decades, and let them help you make the best decisions for your life moving forward. This program is for teens accompanied by a trusted adult.

Friday, March 15th 9:00 – 10:00 am Keynote

29. Keynote: Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry Update with Secretary Oleksiak

Main Sanctuary

Secretary W. Gerard "Jerry" Oleksiak, *Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry*

The Department of Labor & Industry oversees multiple offices including Vocational Rehabilitation, Deaf & Hard of Hearing, and the Bureau of Blindness & Visual Services. Secretary Oleksiak will give us an update on the department's efforts at establishing an 'Employment First' policy and increasing competitive, integrated employment for Pennsylvanians with a disability.

Friday 10:00 – 11:00 am

30. Disability Employment: Supporting both People with Disabilities and Businesses: A Federal Policy Update from the Office of Senator Casey

Main Sanctuary

Dr. Michael Gamel-McCormick, *Disability Policy Director for Senator Bob Casey*

Michael Gamel-McCormick will provide an overview of efforts to increase the employment of people with disabilities, focusing on federal policy aimed at enhancing opportunities for people with disabilities to earn a living wage and for businesses to hire and retain employees with disabilities.

Friday 11:00 – 12:00 pm

31. Congressional Conversation about the Importance of Disabilities & Mental Health

Main Sanctuary

Congressman Mike Doyle, *18th District*, and Congressman Conor Lamb, *17th District*

Congressman Mike Doyle and Congressman Conor Lamb will provide a detailed update regarding disability and mental health advocacy occurring in Washington, and will talk about their own work and experiences concerning making our country more open and inviting for everyone.

Friday 1:00 – 3:00 pm

32. Legislative Panel – State Policies on Disabilities

Main Sanctuary

Moderated by State Representative Dan Miller

Representatives, Senators, and elected leaders from across the area will get together for a panel discussion to talk about state policies and legislative initiatives that need to advance in order to increase independence and opportunity for everyone.

Friday 9:00 – 1:30 pm For Pre-Registered Students Only

33. Influence to Action: Advocacy, Leadership and Transition



Community Room

A Pittsburgh Youth Initiative Program

This session is for transition-age students only. Students will learn skills for how to become a leader of tomorrow, how to navigate disability support services through self-advocacy, how to interact with elected officials, and how to network with potential employers at the Resource Fair. This program will culminate with youth conversations with state legislators.

