

State Representative
Dan Miller's

2nd Annual

Children & Youth

**DISABILITY
& MENTAL
HEALTH**

Summit

March 11 & 12, 2015

At Beth El Congregation
1900 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220

www.pahouse.com/miller

650 Washington Road, Suite 102 • Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228 • (412) 343-3870



www.pahouse.com/miller • [@RepDanMiller](https://twitter.com/RepDanMiller) • www.facebook.com/RepDanMiller

Paid for with state funds

State Rep. Dan Miller's Summit Schedule

Schedule at a Glance

Beth El Family Sanctuary

Sufrin Chapel

10 am - 11:30 am	Stand Up Advocacy	
1 pm	Navigating Early Intervention	Special Needs in Court
2 pm	Warning Signs of Suicide & Fighting Stigma	Getting Around! Transportation Assistance in Allegheny County
3 pm	Post Secondary Education Supports	Family Stress: Parenting a Child with Special Needs Together
4 pm	K-12 Education: The 4-1-1 on IEPs, 504s, and SAP	Financial Planning & the ABLE Act
5 pm	Bullying and Kids with Special Needs	Waivers & Insurance; Financial Reality of Adulthood

Community Room

6 pm - 8:30 pm	Survival Guide to Life After High School, presented by 21 & Able
----------------	--

Day 1 – Wednesday, March 11, 2015

10 am – Stand Up Advocacy – Beth El Family Sanctuary

11:30 am How to be an effective advocate for your child or a self-advocate to ensure you are receiving services to help achieve your goals. Tips and techniques for sharing your life experiences with decision-makers. Also, the nuts and bolts of communicating with legislators about important policy decisions that would increase independence and opportunity for all.

Jeanine Schultz, Director of Advocacy, Achieva

Cindy Duch, Director of Parent Advising, PEAL Center

Maria Silva, Senior Supervisor, Allegheny Family Network

Kurt Kondrich, PA SICC Coordinator and Family Member

11 am ***Resource Fair Open***

1 pm Navigating Early Intervention – Beth El Family Sanctuary

For those diagnosed young, starting and maintaining services until kindergarten is key to preparation and progress. This session will discuss the evaluation process and initial service involvement as well as the early transition markers from Alliance for Infants, to DART or PPS Early Intervention, and then school.

Erica Balint, Outreach Coordinator, Alliance for Infants and Toddlers

Amy Sukay, Preschool Service Coordinator, Allegheny Intermediate Unit #3

Elizabeth Strickland, Early Intervention Medical Coordinator, Pittsburgh Public

1 pm Special Needs in Court – Sufrin Chapel

Entry into our court system can be stressful enough, but what additional challenges can one face when having a disability or mental health diagnosis? Whether for divorce, delinquency, dependency, or a simple interaction with law enforcement, learn what to talk about before the need arises.

Hon. Alexander Bicket, Judge, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas

Jennifer Staley McCrady, Program Policy Supervisor, KidsVoice

Scott Bailey, Officer, Aspinwall Police Department

2 pm Warning Signs of Suicide & Fighting Stigma – Beth El Family Sanctuary

Warning signs can range from the obvious to the hidden and everywhere in between. Learn how to identify them, talk about them, and how to build a support system. Discussion will also focus on the stigma often associated with mental illness and suicide and how to break down barriers of ignorance throughout society.

Kathe Niznik, Director, Psychiatry & Mental Health Services, St. Clair Hospital

Debbie Ference, Associate Director, National Alliance on Mental Illness

Leigh Carlson-Hernandez, Family Member

2 pm **Getting Around! Transportation Assistance in Allegheny County - Sufrin Chapel**
Transportation is vital to independence – whether traveling to school, work or back to home. This session will discuss how to qualify for transportation assistance, what programs exist that provide individual travel training, and how the public transit system works to provide access for all.

Karen Hoesch, Executive Director, ACCESS Transportation Systems
Deborah Skillings, Community Outreach Coordinator, Port Authority
Michelle Holsopple, Travel Instructor, Allegheny Intermediate Unit #3

3 pm **Post-Secondary Education Supports - Sufrin Chapel**
Transition from high school to college is filled with significant changes. Preparation done in advance will help students and parents have a better understanding of postsecondary education options. We will discuss planning for college while still in high school, differences between high school and college and expanding postsecondary education opportunities in Pennsylvania for students with disabilities.

Lisa Silverman, Parent/Community Advocate
Alexandra Robinson, Parent/Community Advocate

3 pm **Family Stress: Parenting a Child with Special Needs Together - Sufrin Chapel**
Raising children and keeping the family unit together is tough enough for the average family. When one or more children's needs require more than the typical, the associated stress can often test the strength of the entire family. Learn about strategies for discussing issues and maintaining family wellness.

Christina Hostutler, LCSW, Clinical Director, Outreach Teen & Family Services
Renee Corrigan, M.S. CCC-SLP, The Watson Institute
Lu Randall, Executive Director, Autism Connection of PA
Darci Ellsworth, LSW, Family Therapist II, Wesley Spectrum Services

4 pm ***Resource Fair Closed***

4 pm **K-12 Education: The 4-1-1 on IEPs, 504s, and SAP - Sufrin Chapel**
Join local school districts in a discussion as to your rights and responsibilities as a parent when dealing with a 504 plan or an IEP, and how you can be an effective member of the IEP team. Also learn about recent changes to the Student Assistance Program and how they impact your child.

Tina Tolkacevic, Inclusion Specialist, Mt. Lebanon School District
Lori Sutton, Director of Special Education, Bethel Park School District
Suzanne Lochie, Special Education Coordinator, Keystone Oaks School District
Jeff Ruder, Attorney, Ruder Law

4 pm **Financial Planning & the ABL Act - Sufrin Chapel**
Planning for your future is never a bad thing, but when dealing with the challenges often associated with disabilities and mental health, such planning is a must. Discussion items will include special need trusts, powers of attorney, and guardianships. Thanks to recently passed federal legislation we will also talk about the benefits of establishing an ABL account.

Lisa Dougan, Trust Attorney, Achieva Family Trust
Eric O'Connor, Trust Service Assistant, Life Enrichment Trust

5 pm **Bullying and Kids with Special Needs - Beth El Family Sanctuary**
Students with special needs may be victims of bullying; learn the impact of bullying and the possible ramifications on children who are diagnosed with a disability or mental health issue. We will also discuss the cycle of aggression and the warning signs if your child has been impacted by bullying behaviors. Learn how to empower your child and build up their support structure.

Sophia Barrett, Clinical/Educational Consultant, The Watson Institute
Lori Morin, Elementary School Counselor, Mt. Lebanon School District

State Rep. Dan Miller's Summit Schedule

Wednesday, March 11, 2015 continued...

- 5 pm** **Waivers & Insurance; Financial Reality of Adulthood - Sufrin Chapel**
Reaching the age of 21 has a major impact on the amount of assistance and support one can receive for their caring of a loved one or how they might be able to live independently. While there are many waivers in PA, the application process and maintaining eligibility is often cumbersome with ridiculously long waiting lists. This session will go over the waiver process and the difficulties likely to arise.
Staff, Department of Human Services
Janice Meinert, Paralegal, Pennsylvania Health Law Project
-
- 6 pm – 8:30 pm** **Survival Guide to Life After High School - Community Room**
Program designed by 21 & Able, an initiative of the United Way of Allegheny County
Program includes welcome and dinner (for registered participants), an explanation of the "Planning for the Future Checklist," an overview of the new OVR Early Reach Project, breakout sessions for parents and students, and a question and answer session with knowledge experts.
Mary Hartley, Lead Consultant, 21 and Able *Matt Berwick, Independent Living Youth Specialist, TRCIL*
Michael Stoehr, Educational Consultant, PaTTAN *Tina Calabro, parent*
Sarah Vogel, Early Reach Coordinator, OVR

Day 2 – Thursday, March 12, 2015

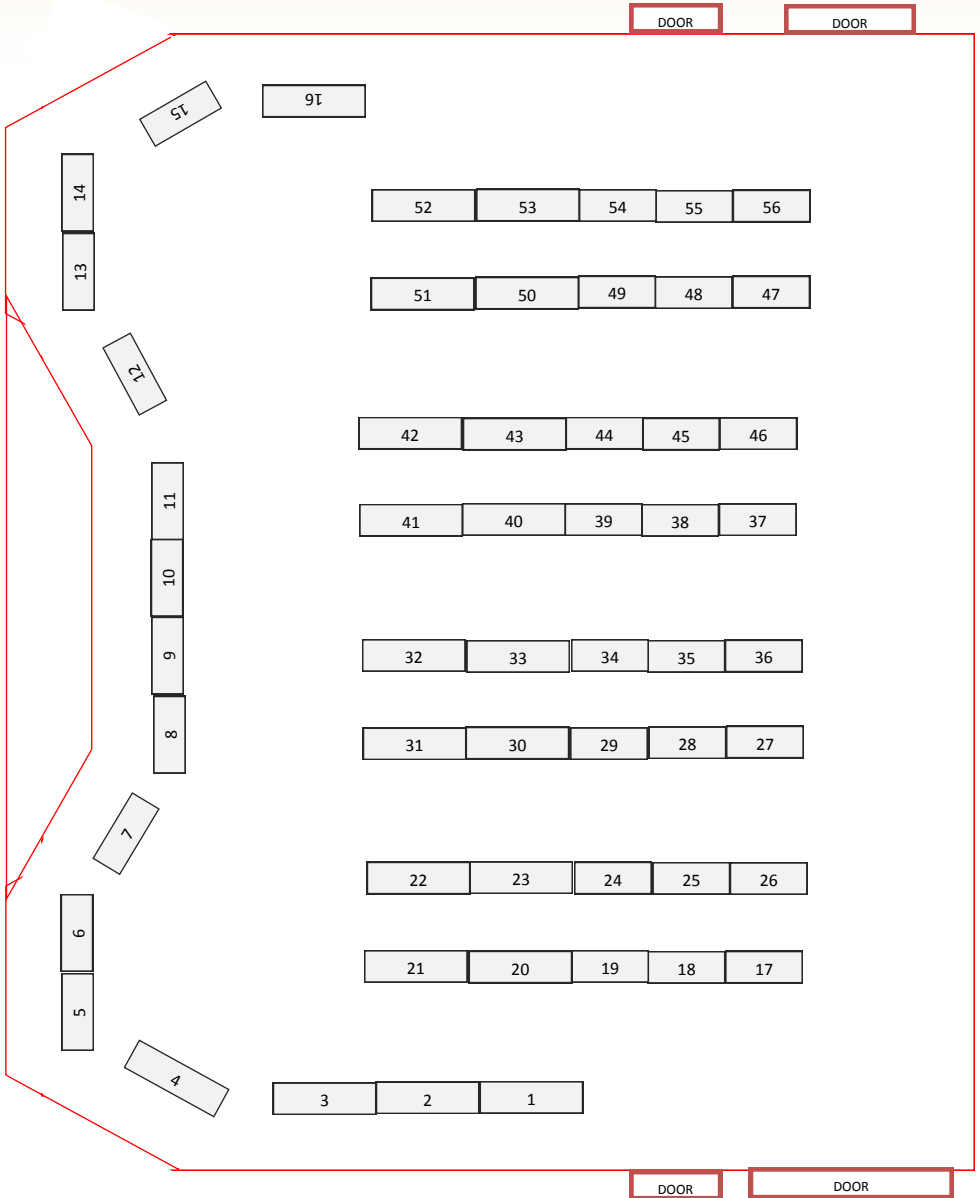
- 10 am** **Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act**
Congressman Tim Murphy will describe how his groundbreaking bipartisan legislation redirects resources to patients and families most in need of services by expanding treatment options, integrating mental and physical care, and reducing barriers and stigmas associated with mental illness.
-
- 11 am** **Local Disability and Mental Health Stories in the News**
This heartfelt panel of local families will discuss their disability and mental health stories that brought them into the news in 2014.
Featuring Ian Cummins of Ian Walks America, Kondrich family known for Chloe's law, the Lund family of "The Family Next Door", and the Babsinck family in the news for an extreme case of bullying. Moderated by Mary Robb Jackson.
-
- 12 pm – 2 pm** **Legislative Panel**
Join Senators, Representatives, and other government officials as we discuss disability and mental health policy changes that need to occur in order to increase independence and opportunity for all.



List of participants is for general informational purposes only. Individuals and organizations are participating in this event as a public service designed to promote public dialogue and their inclusion does not act as endorsement or support of any services or products provided. The exhibitors in bold have graciously contributed their time and/or donated a door prize.

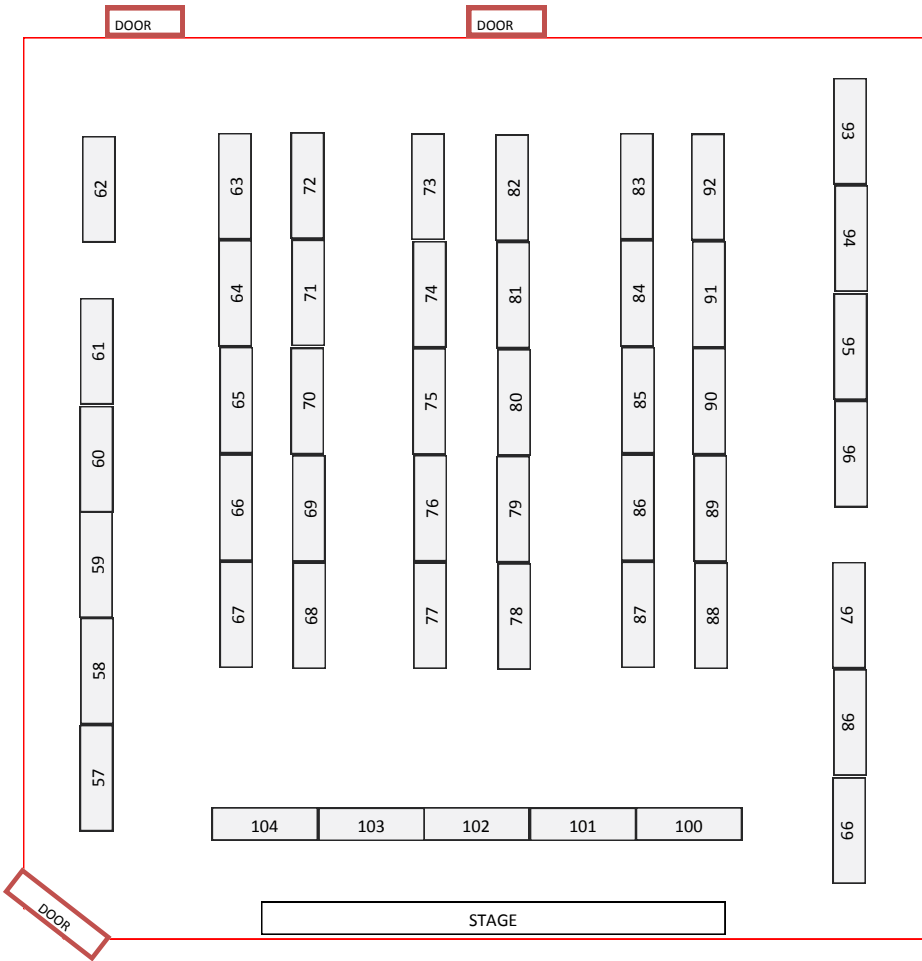
Resource Fair Exhibitors:

- Accessible Dreams, 6
ACHIEVA, 1
AHEDD, 79
Allegheny Children's Initiative, 27
Allegheny County Coalition for Recovery, 80
Allegheny County Council, 78
Allegheny County Department of
Human Services, 18
Allegheny Family Network, 50
Allegheny Family Support Network, 54
Alliance for Infants and Toddlers, 2
American Academy of Pediatrics PA Chapter, 45
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, 93
ASERT Collaborative, 29
Autism Connection of PA, 61
**Autism Housing Development Corp. of
Pittsburgh**, 70
Autism Society of Pittsburgh, 87
Autism Speaks, 47
Bair Foundation, 90
Beth El Congregation, 56
Bethel Park School District, 21
BHU Lifecare Hospital of Pittsburgh, 39
Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh, 37
CASA of Allegheny County, 69
CCAC Vocational Education Programs, 11
Chartiers Center, 71
Chatham University - Infant Mental Health/Infant &
Toddler Development, 42
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC -
Adolescent & Young Adult Medicine, 16
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC - Center
for Independence, 15
Children's Institute, 22
Community Care Behavioral Health Organization, 74
**Community Living and Support Services
(CLASS)**, 44
Comprehensive Psychology and Education Solutions, 73
Computing Workshop, 62
Consumer Health Coalition, 94
Disability Rights Network, 67
Down Syndrome Center / Down Syndrome Assoc., 60
Emmaus Community of Pittsburgh, 43
Epilepsy Foundation of Western/Central PA, 14
Eruption Athletics, 104
Every Child, Inc., 59
Exceptional Adventures, 95
Familylinks, 30
Find Some Flow, 100
Goodwill of Southwestern PA, 65
Har-Kel Inc., 93
Highmark Behavioral Health Unit, 81
Highmark Caring Place, 81
Horses with Hope, 103
Ideal Dance, 98
IKOR of Western Pennsylvania, 12
In-Stride with Therapeutic Riding, Inc., 101
Integrated Care Corporation, 36
Keystone Oaks School District, 21
KidsVoice, 68
Life Steps, 23
Lisa R. Clark, Attorney at Law, 86
Local Task Force on the Right to Education in
Allegheny County (LTF3), 8
Mainstay Life Services, 85
Make-A-Wish Greater PA & WV, 75
McMorrow Law, LLC, 88
Mental Health America Allegheny County, 46
Milestone, 13
Minto Law Group, LLC, 82
Miracle League of the South Hills, 102
Mt. Lebanon School District, 21
NAMI Southwestern Pennsylvania, 55
New Story, 97
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, 3
Officer Scott Bailey, 7
Outreach Teen & Family Services, 53
OVR Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services, 3
PA Association for Infant Mental Health (PA-AIMH), 42
PA Connecting Communities, 66
PA Senator Matt Smith, 25
PA Tourette Syndrome Alliance, 33
Pace School, 5
Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania, 9
Partners For Quality, Inc., 96
Passavant Memorial Homes Family of Services, 58
PEAL Center, 4
Pediatric Healthcare for Kids, 38
Pediatric Specialty Care, 28
Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation, 48
**Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance
Network (PaTTAN)**, 19
Pittsburgh International Children's Theater, 99
**Pittsburgh Mercy Intellectual Disabilities
Services**, 41
Pittsburgh Pirates, 24
Pittsburgh Public Schools, 20
Port Authority, 64
Pressley Ridge, 32
Southwestern Human Services, 40
Southwinds, Inc., 35
Southwood Psychiatric Hospital, 31
Special Kids Network, 72
Spina Bifida Association of WPA, 92
St. Clair Hospital, 17
TEIS Early Intervention Provider, 26
TELI - The Early Learning Institute, 34
Three Rivers Center for Independent Living, 77
Tucker Arensberg PC, 94
U.S. Congressman Tim Murphy, 91
U.S. Senator Bob Casey, Jr., 84
U.S. Senator Pat Toomey, 83
United Way-PA211 SW & 21 and Able, 63
UPMC for You, 89
Watson Institute, 52
Wesley Spectrum, 57
Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, 10
Woodlands Foundation, 76
Youth and Family Training Institute, 49



SOCIAL HALL

COMMUNITY ROOM



RESTROOMS

A special thank you to this year's event sponsor

St. Clair Hospital

A note of thanks

This event would not have been possible without the help of many people.

First, I would like to thank everyone who volunteered for months on our planning committee. The planning committee worked to develop this program with us, shared their ideas, and offered solutions to the problems that arise when creating a free event of this magnitude. Their help was instrumental in bringing this program to fruition.

I would also like to thank our fantastic event hosts at the Beth El Congregation. Joan and Steve - and through them, all of Beth El - have never said no to any idea we came up with that would make this event bigger, better and more helpful to those with disabilities or a mental health diagnosis. They were active partners in the entire process and I have no doubt that because of their unending commitment this event will help more people.

Dan Miller
State Representative
42nd Legislative District



Beth El Family Sanctuary is accessible through doors to the right of the main lobby, or doors located in the hallway between the 2 exhibitor rooms.

Sufrin Chapel is located behind the Community Room (which is the second exhibitor room).

Restrooms are located on the main floor of the event, adjacent to the Community Room.