



CONNECTIONS

Summer 2017

A publication of The Moore Center Family Support Department

Join the Family Support Advisory Council!

The NH Bureau of Developmental Services established and supports the Family Support Advisory Council for each of the ten area agencies. The council advises the area agency regarding family issues and monitors the use of family support funds.

The Family Support Advisory Council is made up entirely of parents and or family members of individuals served by The Moore Center who live at home. The Council provides a voice for families in our region to identify the unique needs of loved ones with a disability and the families that care for them. We hope you will consider joining the council and sharing your voice.

Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month, 6:30 – 8:30 PM at the Moore Center. Please email Luis Raymundo at luis.raymundo@moorecenter.org or Susan Goddard at susan.goddard@moorecenter.org for more information.

Here's what members have to say about being on the Council:

"I have been part of the Family Support Council since my daughter was a toddler. She is now 21 years old and has transitioned into adult services. The Council meetings are very informative. The people on the Council are a great group of people who are working to make families' lives better."

"It's important to know about the available resources and the latest changes at the area agency and the state legislature and how they affect the quality of my brother's life. Knowledge is power. I also learn from other providers' experiences and enjoy the comradery. That's why I'm a Family Support Council member."

"I learn so much about the services and the agency by being part of the council. It is important for my child that I am educated about future services and what I can do to influence them."

"I have a place to share my opinions and ask questions, and I have people I can go to when I need help"

Family Support Advisory Council Programs

Detailed information on each program on page 2

PRIDE (Providing Resources, Information, Dollars, and Education)

Respite

Environmental Modifications

Transition Coordination

Respite

In-Home Supports

Resource and Referral



Our 2017 Family Support Advisory Council

Family Support Advisory Council Programs (continued from front page)

PRIDE (Providing Resources, Information, Dollars and Education) is available to assist families by providing resources, information, education, and financial support if necessary to address short term emergent needs of families eligible for Family Support Services. For more information, contact your case manager or transition coordinator.

Respite is short-term care for an individual eligible for The Moore Center services who lives at home with family members. For more information contact Aida Schneider at 206-2714 aida.schneider@moorecenter.org

Environmental Modifications are available to modify homes and/or vehicles to address specific accessibility needs for eligible individuals who live at home with their families. For more information contact your case manager or transition coordinator.

Transition Coordination is available for individuals ages 16-21, who are transitioning into adult services, including resource and referral, educational advocacy, guardianship and benefits assistance, advocacy regarding wait list, and the development of adult services. For more information, contact Susan Goddard 206-2794 susan.goddard@moorecenter.org

Respitality is a free getaway to regroup and refresh. Free overnight stay in one of 11 host hotels throughout New Hampshire. For more information call Aida Schneider at 206-2714 or Luis Raymundo at 206-2755

In-Home Supports is a family directed, Medicaid funded program to support eligible children and young adults ages 3-21. Services include planning, provider and staff selection, training and supervision within the home. For more information, contact Susan Goddard 206-2794/susan.goddard@moorecenter.org

Resource and Referral is available by all Family Support Staff

31st Annual NH Family Support Conference: Putting Families First

Luis and Kelly joined 16 Moore Center families at this year's Family Support Conference, held in the beautiful white mountains.

The conference offered a variety of information, on topics ranging from gentle teaching, to MEAD and special needs trusts, to transition services. Maybe more importantly, it offered a forum for families to meet, share stories, and relax.

Luis Raymundo, our Resource Coordinator, described it as a wonderful chance to engage with families, and learn more about resources available to our families.

Couldn't make it this year? We hope to see you there next spring! Financial assistance is available.

Transition-Age Family Member? Join our Advocacy Support Group!

The group provides support and resources to empower parents to advocate for their children's needs.

Meetings are held every third Friday of every other month from 10am-12pm at The Moore Center. Please contact Luis Raymundo, 206-2755 or luis.raymundo@moorecenter.org



Resources

Check out all the great things happening in our area...Contact Luis at luisraymundo@moorecenter.org/206-2755 unless otherwise noted

Chuck E. Cheese's Sensory Sensitive Sundays

What: Special early opening for children with disabilities – lights will be dimmer, music will be quieter and crowds will be smaller. Limited appearances by costumed characters.

When: First Sunday of every month from 9-11am

Where: 1525 South Willow Street, Manchester and 30 Fox Run Road, Newington

Social Skills Groups

What: Social Skills Groups for ages 6 – 21

When: Every Saturday from 9am – 2pm

Where: Compass Innovative Behavior Strategies

For more information, contact Ally Dube at Compass Behavior at (603) 488-5008

Manchester Area Autism Support Group

What: Support group for parents and caregivers of those with ASD

When: First Monday of every month from 6:30-8:30pm

Where: Barnes & Noble Café (1741 South Willow St, Manchester)

Please RSVP to Steve Hambleton (s.hambleton@comcast.net)

Sensory Night at Skyzone Trampoline Park

What: Sensory jump night (no music, low lighting)

When: First Wednesday of every month from 4-6pm

Where: Skyzone Trampoline Park (500 Valley St, Manchester)

Buy Tickets: <http://manchesterstore.skyzone.com/areas/Default.aspx>

Client & Family Advocacy Support Group

What: Advocacy support group for clients and families of those with disabilities

When: Third Friday of every other month from 10am-12pm

Where: The Moore Center (195 McGregor St. #400, Manchester)

For more information, contact Luis Raymundo (Luis.Raymundo@moorecenter.org)

Derry Social Connections

What: Autism Social Group for young adults

When: Fourth Thursday of every month from 6:00-8:15pm

Where: Derry Public Library (64 E Broadway, Derry)

For more information, contact Nick Saporito at (603) 717-1410

Social Thinking Groups at The Moore Center

What: Groups based on Michelle Garcia Winner's Social Thinking curriculum (socialthinking.com)

When: 10-week sessions begin in September and February

Where: The Moore Center, (195 McGregor Street, Unit 400, Manchester)

For more info, contact Barbara.didona@moorecenter.org/206-2832 or Donna.raiche@moorecenter.org/206-2809

Corey's Closet

What: A thrift store whose purpose is employing those with developmental disabilities

Where: 1234 Hooksett Road, Hooksett

For more information, contact coreyscloset@outlook.com or (603) 722-2712

Backpacks: One Day of Community

On Saturday, August 5, 2017 from 10am-2pm Manchester Christian Church will provide thousands of **free filled school supply backpacks**, food, music, carnival events, prizes and lots of other fun stuff at the Sheridan-Emmett Park in downtown Manchester.

And Speaking of Conferences...

The **5th Annual Self-Advocacy Conference: Learn It! Live It! Love It!** drew 230 attendees, 60 of whom came from Region 7, utilizing \$1000 in scholarship money from The Moore Center. Self-Advocates presented on topics such as benefits, rights, friendship and relationships, and social media.

Many members of Rising Stars and DreamCatchers 2.0 had an active role in the planning and presentations. As these young adults learn more about their rights and advocacy, they will be a force to be reckoned with as they advocate for opportunities for a good life!

Senator Maggie Hassan delivered encouraging words, and then met with a small group of advocates to hear their concerns.

The keynote speaker, Sam Habib, of “Including Samuel” fame, was a big hit, with fans coming from as far as Albany, NY to hear him speak. He talked about the importance of grass-roots advocacy, the history of IDEA, and access to schools. His message was empowering and resonated with the crowd.

We are so encouraged by the overwhelming success of this conference, due in large part to the efforts of Chet Bobola, our Director of Residential Services. Please contact Chet if you have questions or would like to be involved in next year’s conference. Chet.bobola@moorecenter.org



Panel Members at the Learn It! Live It! Love It! Self-Advocacy Conference

Legislative Update

The full House and the full Senate passed the Governor's budget on June 22nd. This means that the developmental disability community will receive an increase in funding when compared to the current budget, but it falls short of funding the DD waitlist, or of factoring in the complex needs of many of the people being supported. Despite coordinated attempts to get additional funding for the DD waitlist, we are still about \$18 million short. Area Agencies will be advocating for additional waitlist funds at the very next available opportunity. This could include a “waitlist funding bill” for the 2018 legislative session.

The good news is, the budget includes additional new funding for the Early Supports and Services program for the first time since 2009.

You can subscribe to the *E-Connect* legislative newsletter on our website to stay up-to-date with news that impacts your families (www.moorecenter.org), or call Jillian at 206-2728 with your legislative concerns.



Dancing with the Rising Stars

The Rising Stars' annual fundraiser, Dancing With The Rising Stars, A Salute to Broadway, was attended by over 300 people, and featured 42 dancers, of which 36 were Rising Stars members, performing songs from famous Broadway musicals.

The show featured a special tribute to Miss Dally Zyla, of Zyla's Dance Studio, who assisted the group in its first 4 performances and who passed away in January.

Judges included Paul Boynton, President and CEO of The Moore Center, Miss Kolby Tracey, Miss NH-Teen USA, and Mayor Ted Gatsas, who has participated in all 5 years of performances, and who is pictured above with the dancers from The Wiz.

Returning Emcees Pat B. and Sean McDonald, from WMUR/NH Chronicle, delighted the audience with jokes and introductions.

The show raised funds to send Rising Stars members and their supporters to Canobie Lake Park in June. The event also featured raffles, a concessions stand and this year, added chair massages and Reiki. Special Thanks to REQ for donating the ramp for the stage, Seacoast Repertory Company, for costumes assistance, and Trinity High School for creating the back drop. The event raised nearly \$4,000 for the organization.

The Rising Stars wound up the 2016-17 season with a trip to Chunky's Theater, and of course the trip to Canobie Lake Park.

The Rising Stars take a summer break and will return in September. Please watch for special Meet and Greet Announcements near the end of August.

Scholarships to UpReach Therapeutic Riding Center

In Brian's memory, his family have established a scholarship program through which others can experience riding at UpReach, which brought him so much joy.

A sincere thank you to Brian's family for their generosity.

Interested families should contact Luis at 206-2755.

For more information about UpReach, visit www.upreachtrc.org/



Strategic Intentions

Our Strategic Intentions Committee will be reaching out to families for your input on how we are doing from your perspective. We value your feedback and look forward to connecting with you.



Like us on Facebook!

Case Management That is Free of Conflict

As we mentioned in our letter, we will keep you posted as we learn more about any potential changes to the Area Agency system. As soon as dates are scheduled for stakeholder input meetings, we will email you as well as update our website. If you would like to receive our EConnect newsletter for legislative updates, please visit moorecenter.org and subscribe.



The Moore Center
Creating opportunities for a good life.™

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AARC: All About Recreation Committee

As many of you know, the ARC of Greater Manchester hosted dances for our teens and adults for decades., as well as organized bowling on Saturday afternoons a twice a month from September through April at Lakeside Lanes.

Last year, the ARC dissolved their association with the national organization and turned the funds over to The Moore Center so we could continue hosting dances and other social events, and the AARC was born.

The dances and bowling continued throughout the year and many new faces attended! We usually have 5 or 6 dances between September and April. Individuals and families look forward to these so they can see their friends and have a nice, relaxed social evening.

Many of our staff have become involved and our recreation committee is active and looking for new ideas for social experiences. We recently sent out a survey and received good information about what activities people are interested in.

We will continue offering a variety of activities throughout the year and will use newsletters and emails to let everyone know when events are coming up.

We now have an email address here at the Moore Center so if you have ideas or want to be sure we have your email address contact us at:

AARC.Committee@moorecenter.org