



FAYETTE COUNTY FAMILY COUNCIL

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APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS!

During the month of April, we want to shine a light on autism. Autism now affects 1 in 68 children and 1 in 42 boys. Autism rates have risen steadily every year.

Many families in our communities have been affected by this disorder either directly or indirectly. There is no cure as of yet for autism.

Early detection and intervention is a key component when managing autism.

Autism Spectrum Disorder has a very wide range of signs and symptoms. From very high functioning to severely autistic.

Here are some signs and symptoms some people may experience:

Social interaction difficulties, speech delay, poor eye contact, compulsive behavior, repetitive behaviors, seizure disorders, sleep dysfunction, sensory processing problems, pica, mood disorders, anxiety disorders and hyperactivity.



(2018.AutismSpeaks.autismspeaks.org)

Please contact Early Intervention if you have questions or concerns about your child at 724-430-1370

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 4/14 SPRING UNITY CONCERT, ST. THEATRE UNIONTOWN 1P-3P
- 4/19 FCFC MEETING/ CARNEGIE FREE LIBRARY, CONNELLSVILLE, DADS MATTER 11A-12P
- 4/20 PARTNER IN RECOVERY-ART SHOW, EEUCC, UNIOINTOWN 12P-3P
- 4/26 OPEN HOUSE PITTSBURGH JOB CORPS, 7175 HIGHLAND DR PITTSBURGH PA 15206 10A-2P
- 5/8 FCFC MEETING/ EEUCC, UNIONTOWN 1P-2P

Advocacy Network  Spring Unity Concert

The Fayette County Family Council was proud to present along with the Advocacy Network a Spring Unity Concert.

The Concert turned out to be a very inspiring and entertaining event. Alice Coleman of Adelphoi Village, HIFI Wraparound, was the Master of Ceremonies.

The performances moved the crowd to their feet, clapping and dancing. Musical

performances by: Mt. Lebanon Baptist Choir, Divas of Gospel, Levi Gradt, Interfaith Assembly for Christ Church, Spirit & Truth band, Joel Chrisler, Roxanne Johnson, and Mr. Burton, Dance performances by: Damita Jones (mime) and Caleigh McClay.

It was a afternoon of fun, surprises, family and fun. Not only were we entertained but families received information about

community events, projects and social service programs. There was a silent auction, 50/50 drawing, big screen TV winner and many giveaways for everyone.

We are very thankful for everyone's participation . A special thank you to Roxanne Johnson, Family Advocate for Fayette County and the State Theatre of the Arts Center for going above and beyond.

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## Employment Opportunities for Youth



With summer upon us. Your teens will be looking for something to do. And luckily we have some answers for you. Work.

Private Industry Council, Experience Works! Is now accepting applications through June 2018. This is for youth ages 16-18, hourly wage \$9, 20-40 hours weekly. Applications can be downloaded at [www.westfaywib.org](http://www.westfaywib.org) or at your local CareerLink. Or please contact Roxanne Johnson or

Adrienne Russell, Family Advocates at 724-430-4907. We have applications printed and available.

Job Corps is seeking youth 16-24 who are committed to bettering their futures. They provide housing, meals, healthcare and education all free. They have over 30 different trades from nursing to heavy equipment, clerical, you name it.

If you are a youth or know a youth serious about starting a

career and furthering their education this is for you.

An open house will be held at the Pittsburgh Job Corps, 7175 Highland Drive, Pittsburgh Pa 15206 on April 26 2018 10am-2pm.

Please contact Ms. Cherrie' Russell, Admission Counselor at 412-660-8684 or email [Russell.Cherrie@jobcorps.org](mailto:Russell.Cherrie@jobcorps.org) for more information.

"DON'T BE ASHAMED  
OF YOUR STORY. IT  
WILL INSPIRE OTHERS"

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- 5/10 COUNTY LEADSHIP TEAM (CLT) MEETING 11:30A-1P, MENTAL HEALTH BUDG
- 5/10 CHILDRENS MENTAL HEALTH DAY, EEUCC, UNIONTOWN
- 5/11 SPECIAL KIDS NETWORK GATHERING, FCBHA, UNIONTOWN 11A-12P, RSVP BY APRIL 27.
- 5/18 HOPE SPEAKS, Uniontown HS Auditorium, 7p-8:30p
- 5/17 THE RIPPLE EFFECT- SUICIDE MOVIE SHOWING, UNIONTOWN MALL, AMC 7:30P
- 5/19 CLUBHOUSE YARD SALE, UNIONTOWN 9P-3P

Family Road Map Institute has created a training to help families and professionals navigate a system of care.

Getting a new diagnosis for a child is overwhelming in itself. But also figuring out what supports you and your child may need and jumping through hoops of this system and that system can be exhausting. Believe me I know.

This training is geared to help you clearly define your families goals, learn system basics (such as healthcare, education, and insurance), help you build relationships within the system to overcome obstacles, manage information (help you keep good records and get organized) and find support from people and resources to help

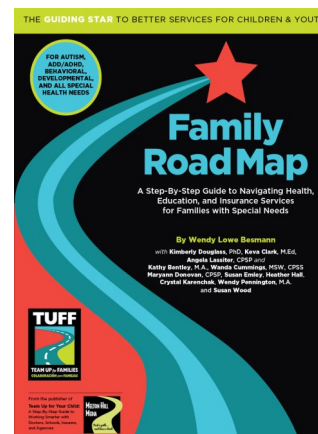
you cope with challenges and create the future you want for you and your family. You will learn step-by-step methods for breaking down big, messy life situations into manageable tasks.

The Fayette County Family Advocates have recently re-

ceived their facilitators training certificates on March 17, 2018. They are excited to give county families the training they wish they had upon receiving their children's diagnosis.

More information about dates and times of training will be released at a later date. We are hoping to start classes in the Fall.

Please contact the Fayette County Family Advocates and Family Road Map Facilitators, Roxanne Johnson or Adrienne Russel for more information at 724-430-4907.



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Circles Laurel Highlands works with families living in poverty, to increase skills, educate and engage the entire family. Circles has become a national effort to advocate change for families.

We have been very grateful and exited to have CIRCLES Program Director, Greg Fike, speak at our FCFC meetings. Mr. Fike is a Fayette County native and has a deep love for his community. His drive and

willingness to empower local families is quite remarkable.

The Circles program is unique because it helps each family build their very own long-term goals. Their goal is not only to empower but to help families become financially stable, going beyond the 200% federal poverty line.

There are weekly meetings where families are encouraged and supported, while enjoying

dinner, new friends, emotional support, career counseling and encouragement.

Participants must be at least 18, live in Fayette County, May not be in serious crisis, willing to commit to an 18 month program. The program is available in the Uniontown and Conneville areas.

Circles is also looking for Allies to help support participants at weekly meetings. Childcare is provided at Circles meetings. For more information please contact Greg Fike, 724-437-6050 Ext. 3216, [gfike@fccaa.org](mailto:gfike@fccaa.org)

"WHETHER YOU THINK YOU  
CAN, OR YOU CAN'T—  
YOU'RE RIGHT"  
—HENRY FORD

## Fayette County Leadership Team Updates

The goal of the Fayette County Leadership Team (CLT) is to gather youth, families and system partners to work together toward effective service intervention for youth and families in our community.

At the April 12, 2018 CLT meeting guest speaker Mike Maendel, of "Breaking the Cycle" informed the CLT that **HOPE SPEAKS** will be holding a presentation on May 18, 2018 at the Uniontown HS, from 7:00pm-8:30pm.

This is a free event open to the public. "This will be an inspiring evening to listen to stories of overcoming hate, addiction and pain through forgiveness and learn what others have

done to make a difference". Community service providers will also be on hand with information for the public. We hope all our families will be able to attend this event.

The next CLT meeting will be held on May 10, 2018 from 11:30am-1:00pm.

Tri-Chair nominations and voting will be held at this time. "The purpose of the Tri-Chair position is to support the activities of the Fayette County Leadership Team in order to implement the mission and vision of the PA System Of Care Partnership."

The current Tri-Chair positions are held by Jana Kyle- Support Partner, Roxanne Johnson- Family Partner and Rachael Schiefelbein-Youth Partner.

## FAYETTE COUNTY FAMILY COUNCIL

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**YOUR VOICE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



*We are a group of families sharing our concerns and experiences with county services. These county services may include...*

- *Behavioral Health*
- *Juvenile Probation*
- *Drug & Alcohol*
- *Children and Youth Services*
- *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*
- *Or any other Fayette County Serving System*

*The FCFC works together with county professionals to improve and achieve positive outcomes in system services. We do this by...*

- *Supporting each other*
- *Sharing our stories and experiences*
- *Participating in trainings and outreach events*
- *Advocating for families*
- *Using our voices to make a difference*

## ***Featured Council Member—Pam Kloss***

Pam Kloss is the Co-Chair of the Fayette County Family Council, in Connellsville, County Leadership Team- Family Partner, advocating for herself, grandchildren and families in the community.

**Question.** As a Co-Chair on Fayette County Family Council (FCFC), what is it that you do?

**Answer.** I'm able to help different families get information and help that they need.

**Question.** How have you seen other families affected by being involved with FCFC?

**Answer.** It has helped a lot of families to know that there is help out there and know that they are not alone. I'm a grandparent raising my grandchildren and I was able to help other grandparents find resources. They helped me so much with my grandkids and their special needs and also that helped me.

**Question.** What have you learned while working with County Leadership Team?

**Answer.** I can bring what Connellsville needs to the head people. I can also bring to Connellsville ideas, papers and information. It has been awesome working with the CLT.

**Question.** Do you have any encouraging words for new families coming to the Fayette County Family Council meetings?

**Answer.** The more people that come, they can get help and see there are people out there who want to help them. It is so very helpful. It helps us learn what our kids needs and abilities are. The speakers have helped us so much to learn so much for ourselves and families. I'm very thankful for the council. There is help out there for those who need it. Come to the meetings they will help you. The council is about sharing our stories and learning from each other.



Pam Kloss, Family Council Co-Chair, CLT Family Partner, grandmother and advocate.