

## Meeting Minutes May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018

### Special Needs Committee

#### Attendees:

Alexis Harvey: Co-Chair

Jess Hewitt

Michele Manley

Linda Nevins

Ashley McFadden

MaryJo Rosnia-Harvie

#### Discussion Topics:

##### 1) Approved Missions Statement

The Special Needs Committee has members who are experienced special needs professionals, families with special needs concerns, and those who care about special needs issues. The committee is devoted to providing education, resources, engagement, advocacy and the opportunity to meet and discuss the needs of the Lehigh Valley community, surrounding areas, and special people everywhere.

##### 2) Playground Meet Up suggestions:

- a. Weekdays at Cedar Beach
- b. Catasauqua playground – Saturday
- c. Keystone Park (Easton) – Saturday

##### 3) Suggestion for June Meeting – Saturday Meeting at Live Learn and Play

##### 4) BooFest information provided for committee

##### 5) Special Needs Awareness Day – Kevin Cope made progress with the Special Needs Awareness Day with a potential date in September. The group suggested holding the event in Spring of 2019. The Charter Arts school was suggested as a possible location by MaryJo Harvie. Other suggestions for locations included the Lehigh Valley Zoo and ArtsQuest.

##### 6) Special Speaker suggestions

- a. Bethlehem Pediatrics Therapy
- b. Jennifer Doyle/Jennifer Davis
- c. Financial Planning
- d. Karen Barbarics – organizes the Autism Walk
- e. Kathy Pursell- Music Therapy
- f. Developmental Pediatricians
- g. Charters Arts- Director of Special Needs
- h. Valley Youth House – Respite

- i. Center for Systematic Change
- 7) Education Opportunities:
  - a. Restaurant Training- Provide training to restaurant staff on Autism/Sensory Sensitivity. Then help host a Sensory Friendly evening at the restaurant with low lighting, low music, and diet sensitive menu options available.
    - i. Suggestions included Red Robbin and Friendly's
- 8) Meeting Location suggestion for June Meeting – Live Learn and Play on a Saturday