

CAPIS COMMENT

January 2012

MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION IN ORANGE COUNTY, INC.
73 James P. Kelly Way, Middletown, New York 10940
(845) 342-2400 24 hour HELPLINE (800) 832-1200 www.mhaorangeny.com

Number 130

MHA SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Mental Health Association provides a variety of services for individuals with developmental disabilities. The existing programs that can be utilized are CAPIS (Crisis Assessment Prevention and Intervention Services), the Sibling Project, ASSIST (Acquiring Social Skills Through Intervention Support and Training), ATM (Access to Money Reimbursement Program) which includes the Autism Spectrum Fund, MSC (Medicaid Service Coordination), Community Habilitation and Respite. Many of these programs are designed to support the family of the individual who has a developmental disability which helps in the overall adjustment. The MHA website has more detailed information about each of the programs listed. Go to www.mhaorangeny.com and click on programs and services.

MHA also facilitates several support groups for family members which provide support, information and understanding. See below for details of the groups and the possibility of two new groups to be formed.

MHA SUPPORT GROUPS RELATED TO DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

MHA facilitates the following support groups for parents, adult siblings and other caregivers:

- Autism/P.D.D. - for families of children with classic autism who are severely affected
- Asperger Information Alliance - for families of children with Asperger syndrome or who are more mildly affected by autism
- Adult Autism - for families of teenagers and adults with any spectrum disorder
- Residential Issues Discussion Group – for families of adults living in OPWDD certified residences
- Tourette Syndrome Networking Group – for families of individuals with Tourette syndrome

There has been interest expressed in forming two new groups, one for families of children in residential school and/or OPWDD certified residences and one for parents of capable young adults with developmental disabilities, especially spectrum disorders, who are experiencing unusual difficulties with social interactions in the community. If you or someone you know would be interested in joining with other families in either of these groups, please contact Anne Klingner at 342-2400 ext. 253 so that plans can be made to create the groups.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Do you have questions about future of the person in your family who has a developmental disability? Have you ever wondered who will make decisions for him or her when you are no longer able to do so? Do you have concerns about the need for extra money to supplement government benefits when you are not here to pay for things? If you have ever thought about these issues, perhaps you would like to meet with other families to learn about available tools to help you plan for the future of your son or daughter.

An evening seminar will be presented at Mental Health Association if there is enough interest in the topic of guardianship, trusts and other future planning tools. Call Anne at 342-2400 ext. 253.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ANNUAL FILM FESTIVAL

The Orange County Developmental Disabilities Training Consortium is sponsoring the second annual film festival to commemorate March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Films will be shown on March 3 and 17 at noon in Harriman Hall at SUNY Orange in Middletown and March 11 and 25 at noon at the Downing Film Center on the waterfront in Newburgh. All the films will be related to developmental disabilities will be open to the public and free to view. The consortium is pleased to be working with the SUNY Orange Psychology Club and Brian Burke of the Downing Film Center on this festival. If you would like to be notified of the specific film titles and venues when the schedule available, please contact Anne at 342-2400 ext. 253 or Shannon at 565-1162 ext. 231.

CONSUMER SATISFACTION SURVEYS FROM MHA

If you have received services from CAPIS, Sibling Project, ASSIST, Access to Money Reimbursement Program, Medicaid Service Coordination or any other program provided by Mental Health Association, you will be receiving a survey in the mail for **each program** utilized by you and your family. The surveys all look alike and contain the same questions but are definitely marked for the program intended. Please help MHA by filling out each survey that you receive and mailing it back in the envelope provided. It will take only a few minutes of your time for each survey but it will be a valuable tool for MHA, the programs and the funding sources. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. --Marie Curie

The MHA family shares a system of values and behaviors that recognizes and respects the presence and contributions of all diverse groups.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Autism/P.D.D. Group	7:00 pm	January 3
AMOC Planning Committee Meeting	7:00 pm	January 5
ASSIST Reunion Group	4:30 pm	January 10
Asperger Information Alliance	7:00 pm	January 10
Parents of Teens/Adults with ASD	7:00 pm	January 17
Super Siblings	10:30 am	January 21
Residential Issues Discussion Group	7:00 pm	January 24
Tourette Syndrome Networking Group	7:00 pm	January 26
Autism/P.D.D. Group	7:00 pm	February 7
ASSIST Reunion Group	4:30 pm	February 7
Asperger Information Alliance	7:00 pm	February 14
Super Siblings	10:30 am	February 18
Parents of Teens/Adults with ASD	7:00 pm	February 21
Residential Issues Discussion Group	7:00 pm	February 28

TAKE NOTE

- *** Sensory Friendly Films at AMC Galleria Metroplex in Middletown. One showing only, usually at 10 am. January 7, 2012 – *The Adventures of Tin Tin*; February 25, 2012 – *The Secret World of Arrietty*; March 10, 2012 – *The Lorax*; April 7, 2012 – *Pirates! Band of Misfits*. Co-sponsored by AMC Theaters and The Autism Society. Theater will have lights brought up and sound turned down. Audience is invited to get up, dance, walk and sing. Can bring own snacks. Tickets at the box office that day. Subject to change so please call Metroplex: 695-1724.
- *** Greystone Programs, Inc. presents Family Enrichment Nights for families of individuals with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities. The evening includes a family style meal, discussion, education, networking and support. There will be group childcare for children with disabilities and their siblings. Families of adults with disabilities encouraged to attend as well. January 6, February 10, March 9 and April 13, 2012. 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Greystone’s Sugar Loaf center. Regular attendance required as well as parent/caregiver participation. Call Jodi Rubenstein for details. 469-3760.
- *** Parents Run AMOC (Autism Move-a-thon of Orange County) is a volunteer group that meets monthly to plan for activities such as the Autism Move-a-thon, Bowl-a-thon, Canine Convention, Hustle for the Puzzle 5K run/walk, Candle Light Ceremony for Autism and other fundraising events which fund the Autism Spectrum Fund at Mental Health Association. If you are interested in becoming a member of the planning committee, please contact Natasha Tomlins by leaving a voice message at 342-2400 x 307.
- *** You have probably been hearing a lot about the 1115 People First Medicaid Waiver for which the New York State Office of People with Developmental Disabilities will be applying. For a series of informational videos that may answer some of your questions, go to www.opwdd.ny.gov/2011_waiver/index.isp. You can also call the comment line at (866) 946-9733.
- *** For a listing of services in Orange County for individuals with developmental disabilities, information about accessing services, a calendar of events, a forum for families and more, go to www.orangecountynyddconnection.com. This website is maintained by the Orange County Department of Mental Health and contains current and valuable information for anyone who is caring for a person with a developmental disability.

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