

IPAC Meeting Notes Tuesday November 15:

1) **The Island Autism Group** has been sponsoring “First Responder Days” in each town to introduce children with special needs to their corresponding first responders. Additionally, Kate DeVane is working on a program to supplement the 911 process. First responders will be able to click on additional information next to your address where special notes can be found which could be helpful as first responders prepare to enter your home. Kate will provide a process and the forms as the project continues.

2) **IPAC** is working on a parent/mentor network. If you are interested in being a mentor to another parent working through similar issues, or desire mentorship please contact Kim Leaird or Laura Silber.

3) Susan Mercier, IWYC Program Director, presented information about the organization. The mission of the **Island Wide Youth Collaborative (IWYC)** is to develop and provide an Island-wide integrated system of behavioral health care that is comprised of local providers and maintains on-island treatment options for our youth, young adults and their families.

Formed in 2013, partners of the IWYC include the Youth Task Force, YMCA of Martha’s Vineyard, Martha’s Vineyard schools, the Martha’s Vineyard Hospital and Martha’s Vineyard Community Services, who also serves as the program’s home. The IWYC receives its funding from the Department of Children and Families, the Tower Foundation, the MV Youth and municipal and private donations.

IWYC provides case management and referrals for families and has 2 case managers that provide help for issues such food assistance, housing, transitional issues, mental health, substance abuse, etc.

IWYC also has funding for training and workshops. Part of their mission is to bring training to the island. IWYC has trained 67 people on different issues around depression, anxiety, self harm and substance abuse among adolescence. They are holding workshops in December for worry and anxiety for ages 0-8, as well as 8-17. IWYC is working to build support groups for ages 18-26. All services are free of charge and funded through DCF and the Tower Foundation.

Susan is currently working with the Boys and Girls Club, and the YMCA to facilitate discussions and plans to help support ways to build more inclusiveness in their programs.

A complete list of programs and online registration can be found

<http://www.mvcommunityservices.com/programs-and-services/iwyc-2/calendar-of-events/>

Additional information regarding IWYC can be obtained from the main website:

<http://www.mvcommunityservices.com/programs-and-services/iwyc-2/>

or by contacting:

Susan Mercier
Program Director
smercier@mvcommunityservices.com
508-693-7900 x401

4) **Kathi Hackett** presented information regarding **Disability Services**. Kathi has spent 29 years with the organization and is a wealth of information to connect families with resources and information. The mission of Martha's Vineyard Community Services' Disability Services program is to promote maximum community integration and independence of Island residents with disabilities.

Two main arms of Disability Services are Island Employment Services and the Family Support Center. Island Employment Services works with students in their last year of high school as they transition into adulthood to help find and maintain employment. The Family Support Center is funded through the MA Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and supports families in whatever role is necessary. DDS provides service and support until age 22. Kathi encouraged all families to apply to the DDS via an online application listed below, or by contacting Kathi.

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/consumer/disability-services/services-by-type/intellectual-disability/support/developmental-services-eligibility-application.html>

Part of the application process includes an in-person intake interview with DDS staff. Kathi can help schedule with DDS staff who come to the island to interview families, making this step easier. Once enrolled in DDS getting into Mass Health and other programs is simplified. DDS also provides a flexible funding account, training, and financial resources depending on state funding.

Kathi spoke about the annual **Federation for Children with Special Needs** conference to be held March 4, 2017. Kathi is looking to hold an estate planning workshop on the island, which is important for long term Mass Health and SSI eligibility, as well as a sibling support group. Please provide Kathi feedback or contact directly with questions.

Kathi Hackett
508-693-7900 x249
khackett@mvcommunityservices.com

5) Matt D'Andrea spoke about the **Shared Services Evaluation** which will commence in December. The initial group will Shared Services to make sure the needs are being met. Thereafter it will expand to transition to high school, and the high school program. More details will be distributed from Matt regarding schedule, parent involvement, results presentation, and phase 2 planning.