

December 2010 / January 2011

# Kalamazoo Wraps News

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH COLLABORATION

## CALLING ALL YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Six youth representatives from Calling All Youth (CAY), three Advocacy Services for Kids (ASK) staff, and one staff member from Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (KCMHSAS) attended the 3-day Youth Driven Space (YDS) institute to learn how to continue to implement in Kalamazoo.



The institute provided youth participants with opportunities to strengthen their team, build leadership skills, and work together to create a work plan for the coming year.

**“The YDS institute gave us ideas of where to go in the future.” - A member of CAY.**

“The YDS institute gave us ideas of where to go in the future”, said one member of CAY who attended the institute. “We have bigger and better goals now”, said another CAY member.

The 2010-2011 work plans outline many of these goals, but mainly centers around the following three objectives:

1. Having youth serve on ASK’s board of directors;
2. Raising Calling All Youth’s profile throughout the Kalamazoo community; and
3. Coordinating trainings so that CAY members have the necessary skills to be 100% youth-led.

With support from ASK and KCMHSAS staff, consultation and coaching from YDS staff, and lots of hard work on the part of the young people who attended the institute, we hope to make steps toward reaching these objectives over the next few years.

One of the ways that we foresee CAY becoming more youth-driven is through continuing leadership trainings with the Adventure Centre at Pretty Lake Camp (ACPL). It is our hope that these trainings, in conjunction with trainings from YDS, will foster strong development in active facilitation and leadership amongst our six Youth Leaders.

**“We have bigger and better goals now.”  
- A member of CAY.**

Thanks to grant funds provided by Greater Kalamazoo United Way’s *Youth United Way*, these six young leaders had the opportunity to invite the entire CAY advisory board to join them at the ACPL for a day of teambuilding activities and fun.

The day turned out to be a huge success, giving the youth leadership team an opportunity to put their knowledge of facilitation to work. Everyone who attended stated they had more energy to work as a team as a result. We look forward to continuing our work with Adventure Therapists Janine Loughrin and Peter Nitz.

We are confident that together we can ensure that all voices—youth, parent, and professional alike—are present and are heard.

**For more information about Calling All Youth, please contact Mackenzie Hunter, Youth Involvement Coordinator for Advocacy Services for Kids (ASK) at [mackenzieh@askforkids.org](mailto:mackenzieh@askforkids.org) or 269-343-5896.**



## Parent Advisory Group

**Getting to Know You...**By Andy Agate, Parent Advisory Group Member.

Over the last few months the Parent Advisory Group (PAG) has been doing a number of team building activities to help us get to know each other and work more as a team/family. Ultimately, this will help make us a stronger group overall and give us the ability to accomplish more in a shorter period of time.

We started off having a picnic at Milham Park, while Calling All Youth (CAY), which is made up mostly of youth who are children of PAG members, was participating in their Leadership and Team Building Training. It gave us a chance to get together in a less structured environment than our usual meetings and allowed us to let loose and talk more on a personal level with no formal agenda. A good time was had by all.

At our next meeting, we had our own Team Building Training, which allowed us to let down our guards even more while learning to trust each other, communicate more and work together to achieve common goals. We ended our training with a color-based personality test that designated different personality types into different color groups.

It was very interesting to see which color/personality type each person was and helped to show how each of us copes with certain types of situations and our strengths and weaknesses. Some people were definitely solidly rooted to one specific color/personality type and trait, while others had characteristics of two and occasionally three different colors.

The Leadership Training and both Team Building Trainings along with the personality test were conducted by Bobbi Casey and Travis Wilcox, two clinicians from Kalamazoo Community Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services' (KCMHSAS) *Services for Youth and Families* unit.

They both did a great job of making the trainings fun and enjoyable while getting their various points across at the end of each exercise. Thank you both for a great experience. This was definitely interesting, eye opening, and brought us all even closer by the time we were done.

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I can safely say the Parent Advisory Group has never been stronger, or more unified as a group, and we look forward to setting and meeting our goals for future meetings.

If you are interested in helping to make positive changes within our system of care, we invite you to join us!

To learn more about PAG, please contact Kathy Howard, of Advocacy Services for Kids (ASK), at [kathyh@askforkids.org](mailto:kathyh@askforkids.org) or at 269-343-5896.

**Now you can find current news from PAG on Facebook!**

**The group name is:**

**“Kalamazoo Parent Advisory Group”.**

*The Lives Of Their Families So That They Have The Opportunity To Reach Their Full Potential.*

## Building Systems of Care

### Over 300 attended a 2–day conference regarding ‘Systems of Care’ creation.

On October 27 and 28, service providers, parents, youth, community members, and community leaders from Ingham, Kalamazoo, Kent and Wayne Counties presented **Partnerships and Possibilities: Sustaining Collaboration in Challenging Times**, at the Radisson Hotel Lansing.

Over 300 attended the event to learn about ‘Systems of Care’ implementation. The conference offered an impressive 34 breakout sessions covering a wide variety of topics including: building parent and youth involvement; family engagement; increasing cultural and linguistic competence; partnership with child welfare and Michigan Department of Human Services, foster care, juvenile justice, lessons learned; and more.

The informative and emotionally powerful messages energized the audience and reinforced the reality of positive outcomes resulting from system of care implementation.

The diverse group of welcome and keynote speakers also served to illustrate a primary system of care value: that all members of the community (parents, youth, service providers, community leaders) must be respected and heard, have an equal voice, and work together.

The event served as an excellent opportunity for attendees to learn about successful outcomes within the Kalamazoo, Ingham, Kent, and Wayne County Systems of Care, in addition to meeting some of the parents and youth who've been most instrumental to their success.

Another Systems of Care Conference is being planned for Fall 2011, so mark your calendars and plan to join us!

**Thank You!** - to all our local partners: parents, youth, service providers, and community members, who presented at the conference!

**Workshop:** Youth Leadership: The Value of Youth Voice

Presenter(s)/Trainer(s): **William Atwater, Jamika Flake, Justin Hartness, Mackenzie Hunter, Sintenesha King, Jessica Leese, Lindsey Leischner, Angel Pritchard, Airen Spindler and Mario Vaughn**

**Workshop:** SOC 101: Community Readiness

Trainer(s): **Michelle Houtrow and Matt Wojack**

**Workshop:** System of Care and Successful Partnerships with Schools

Trainer(s): **Bobbi Casey, Michelle Houtrow, Tina Johnson, Dawn Sylverster and Pat Weighman**

**Workshop:** SOC 101: Sustainability and Finance

Trainer(s): **Catherine Liesman, Kathy O’Neil, Robert Sheehan and Pat Weighman**

**Workshop:** When Your Child is Involved with the Juvenile Justice System- What Families and Professionals Need to Know

Trainer(s): **Kathy Flack and Mary Beth Mapes**

**Workshop:** Kalamazoo Wraps: Lessons Learned

Trainer(s): **Michelle Houtrow, Kathy Howard, Renée Huff, Mackenzie Hunter and Dianne Shaffer**

**Workshop:** SOC 101: Communication and Public Education

Trainer(s): **Andy Agate, Renée Huff, Amber Smith and Roni Rucker Waters**

**Workshop:** *What’s Love Got to Do With It?* The Impact of Family Acceptance on the Resiliency of LGBTQ Youth by the Family Acceptance of Children and Teens (FACT) Project of Kalamazoo

Trainer(s): **Karen Eddy, Dave Garcia, Melinda McCormick, Beth McLaren and Sharon Roepke**

## Community Events



### Teen Winter Break Camp

Kinetic Kids, LLC is pleased to offer a “Teen Winter Break Camp” for teens and tweens diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder / Serious Emotional Disturbance (ASD/SED).

This camp is rooted in sensory integration theory as a compliment to improved self-care and social skills. It is designed and run by certified therapists.

Camp will run for two weeks during the winter break.

Week one will run 12/20-23/2010. The second week will run 12/27-31/2010.

The camp will run from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. each day.

We are excited to offer a slightly different format in that the teens will engage in light meal preparation by cooking themselves breakfast.

Camp will be held at Kinetic Kids, LLC, 540 E. Milham Road, Portage, MI 49002.

Parents will be asked to provide one goal for their camper in each domain of sensory, self-care and social, prior to start of camp.

Sample of Camp Day:

- 9:00 am—10:00 am Welcome warm-ups/Breakfast/Oral care
- 10:00 am—10:45 am Sensory Motor Games
- 10:45 am—11:30 am Social Games/Individual Goal Work
- 11:30 am—12:00 pm Cool Downs/Dismissal

**If you are interested in Kinetic Kids, LCC “Teen Winter Break Camp” please contact Kinetic Kids, LCC directly at 269-381-1880, or speak with your child’s case worker.**



## Family Support Group

**For Parents and Caregivers of Children with Mood, Behavior, or Emotional Challenges.**

*ASK's Family Support Group is a place for parents and caregivers to meet, network, gain valuable resources and share ideas, concerns and solutions.*

*Bring the kiddies and join us for a relaxing good time.*

**Meetings are held on the First Monday of Each Month**

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 1747 W. Milham Road, Portage, MI**

**Childcare Available**

**\*No cost to attend**

**\*Bi-Monthly Guest Speakers**

**Contact Christine Eckrich, Parent Support Partner for ASK, at 269-492-1757**

The Kalamazoo Wraps Evaluation Workgroup is in the process of completing our “2010 Evaluation Report to Stakeholders”. This data report developed out of a collaboration among numerous stakeholders within the community. It serves as a kind of “snapshot” of how we’re doing across numerous change efforts that are happening within Kalamazoo’s System of Care Community.

Here is a sneak preview of some of the contents of the Year 5 report:

- On average, youth and families in Kalamazoo Wraps started off with more personal, family, and financial challenges than youth and families in most other System of Care sites.
- Most of the services that Kalamazoo Wraps youth and families receive are at home and in the community, rather than in restrictive out-of-home settings.
- Parents and youth are generally quite satisfied with access to and quality of services.
- The overwhelming majority of youth and families report that staff are respectful of them and of their culture.
- Most youth report positive social connectedness – e.g., support from friends and/or family-after six months of treatment.
- Parents report that their children show a substantial reduction of behavioral and emotional problems over time.
- Parents report a decrease in emotional strain over time as a result of caring for a child with challenges.
- Youth report huge drops over time in behaviors that get them in trouble with the law, especially physically aggressive behaviors.



Stay tuned for more details on each of these findings, and many others!

**Are there other things that you would like to see covered in our report or elsewhere?**

**Please contact Becca Sanders at [beccaanddan@gorge.net](mailto:beccaanddan@gorge.net).**

**To view more Kalamazoo Wraps System of Care, visit our website at [www.kalamazoowrapsevaluation.org](http://www.kalamazoowrapsevaluation.org)**

## Cultural & Linguistic Competence

The Cultural and Linguistic Competency Workgroup is developing training and educational resources to support the on-going efforts of our system of care partners to provide culturally competent services for youth with serious emotional disturbances.

In October, we participated in the Summit on Racism's "Employment Initiative" presentation, at this year's annual Summit conference. A representative of the Kalamazoo Wraps Cultural and Linguistic Competency Workgroup has been working with the Employment Initiative for the past two years.



The Employment Initiative of the Summit on Racism helps employers develop an environment which is inclusive and supportive of all people and addresses the problem of systemic racism in the workplace. The Employment Initiative has recently developed a survey to assess perceptions of an employer's anti-racism efforts.

Kalamazoo businesses and non-profit organizations were invited to participate in the Employment Initiative 2010 Pilot Program. The program consists of offering an anonymous survey to their workforce that assesses their perceptions of how successfully their employer is addressing systemic racism. The on-line survey asks questions in five domains: Accountability, Policy, Culture, Communications & Reporting and Human Resources. Questions such as, "I feel employees of color are compensated and promoted fairly, equitably and consistently in all levels of the organization", are asked to assess perceptions about the employer's Human Resource operations.

The online survey results went directly back to the Summit on Racism Employment Initiative staff, where they were compiled into aggregate results, and a report was developed that rated the results at four levels (starting with "Beginning", and progressing to "Cultivating", then up to "Nourishing", and then finally to the top level of "Flourishing"). The results were then shared with representatives of the participating organizations and the aggregate results of the Pilot Project were shared with the participants at this year's Summit on Racism Annual Conference on October 7, 2010.

There were four organization's participating in this year's Employment Initiative 2010 Pilot Project including Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. The aggregate results of all four organizations were as follows: the pilot organizations were rated as being at the Nourishing level in Accountability and Policy; at the Cultivating level in Culture and Human Resources and at the Beginning level in Communications and Reporting.

The next step in the Summit's Employment Initiative Pilot Project is to provide each participating employer with a resource Toolkit and to help them develop a plan to improve their anti-racism efforts.

The Summit's Employment Initiative hopes to involve as many organizations as possible in this important project and invites all businesses, whether they are for-profit or not-for-profit, to become invested in the effort to eliminate racism.

To explore opportunities for your organization to participate in the Employment Initiative Pilot Project please contact Caressa Hamby, at the YWCA of Kalamazoo, at [cehamby@ywcakalamazoo.org](mailto:cehamby@ywcakalamazoo.org).

**If you're interested in volunteering or learning more about the work of the Cultural and Linguistic Competency workgroup, please contact Sharon Roepke at 269 553-8118 or [sroepke@kazooemh.org](mailto:sroepke@kazooemh.org).**

**Si estás interesado en ser voluntario o aprender más sobre la labor de la Competencia Cultural y Lingüística de grupo de trabajo, por favor contactar con Sharon Roepke en 269-553-8118 o [sroepke@kazooemh.org](mailto:sroepke@kazooemh.org).**

# Kalamazoo RESA Department of Special Education

Proudly Presents:

## Understanding Autism and Asperger's Syndrome (ASD)

**People on the Spectrum: Uniquely Shaped to Make a Difference**

**Program Number: 10/11-154**

**Date: February 4, 2011**

**Time:** 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**Presenters:** Brenda Gagie, Kim O'Neill, Terra Brow & Michelle Simino

**Place:** Kalamazoo RESA.

**Limit:** 130

**Fee:** Free to Kalamazoo County  
\$10 Out of County

**Audience:** Teachers, Psychologists, Social Workers & other Support Staff, General and Special Education, Administrators, and Parents

**SB-CEUs:** 0.5 (additional \$10.00 fee)  
(pending approval)

**Lunch is Included**

**Cancellation Policy:** Classes are subject to change and may be cancelled because of inadequate enrollment or inclement weather. If a course is cancelled, you will be notified. If you are unable to attend, please cancel. Thank you.

**This workshop will enable participants to increase their awareness and understanding of people with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome.**

**As a result of attending this workshop, the participants will be able to:**

- ⇒ Define ASD including Autism/Asperger's Syndrome
- ⇒ State the basic facts and statistics about the incidence of ASD
- ⇒ Define the following Characteristics as they apply to Autism and/or Asperger's Syndrome:
  - Social (reading social cues, joint attention, perspective taking, understanding emotions)
  - Behavior (routines, preoccupations, rituals, attention/focus)
  - Communication (repetition, echolalia, pragmatics, literal thinking)
  - Sensory (covering all of the five senses)

These objectives will be accomplished through lecture, video examples and group activities.

**Please note: This is NOT a strategies workshop.**

**To register:** Go to [www.kresa.org](http://www.kresa.org). Under Site Shortcuts (on the left side), click on Professional Development Registration. Click on logon.

**If you have previously attended** a workshop at Kalamazoo RESA (whether you registered yourself or we registered you), complete the "Been Here Before" section. Your pre-assigned ID and password are the same. They are the first initial of your first name, the first initial of your last name and last four digits of your social security number (Example: zz1234). After you successfully complete the logon process, you will be able to change your password if you desire.

**If you have not attended any workshops at Kalamazoo RESA before,** you can establish an account by using the first initial of your first name, the first initial of your last name and last four digits of your social security number as your user ID. You can choose any password you would like.

**If you prefer to fax or mail** in your registration, you can print a registration form by going to [www.kresa.org](http://www.kresa.org). Under Programs and Services, drop down to Instructional Center. There you will see Printable Registration Form on the left hand side.

**If you need assistance with registration,** please call Linda Bussema at 269-250-9210. If you prefer, you may email her at [lbussema@kresa.org](mailto:lbussema@kresa.org)

**If you have questions about the actual workshop,** please call Toni Sergeant at 269-250-9324. If you prefer, you may email her at [tsergeant@kresa.org](mailto:tsergeant@kresa.org)

Advocacy Services for Kids  
414 E. Michigan Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

The Family Resource Center for  
**KALAMAZOO WRAPS**

# WHO IS KALAMAZOO WRAPS?

Parents, Youth, Citizens of Kalamazoo County, Private and  
Public Agencies serving Kalamazoo County...

# ....AND YOU!

