Local Task Force Meetings

Local Task Force Meetings are held at the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21’s Central Office in Schnecksville. Meetings begin at 10:00 a.m. All parents and interested persons are welcome to bring questions and concerns to the meetings. Call 610-769-4111 or 800-223-4821 for more information.

Future Local Task Force Meeting Dates

February, 2010—No meeting
March 18, 2010—Spring Workshop
May 20, 2010
June 2010 – No meeting

Spring Workshop
Local Right to Education Task Force
Carbon & Lehigh Counties
What's New In Special Education?
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2010
Time: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
(Complimentary lunch provided at noon)
Where: Troxell Building
Parkland School District
2279 N. Cedar Crest Blvd.
Allentown, PA 18104

For more information, contact Monica Swallop @ 610-769-4111, ext. 1218 or swallop@cliu.org.

Transition Services

The Carbon Lehigh Transition Coordinating Council meets four times each year. The purpose of the Council is to bring all stakeholders; parents, students, educators, and community support services together to maximize Transition Services for youth and young adults with disabilities, ages 14-21.

The Council seeks speakers within the community to share their expertise and knowledge of various transition topics. Additionally, updates are provided from agency representatives.

The Council encourages and welcomes parents and students to attend the meetings. For additional information on Transition Services and/or the Coordinating Council go to www.cliu.org, Click: Special Programs and Services - Scroll Down - left hand side to Transition, Click on Transition Resources, and the following topics with attached information will appear: Adolescent Relationship, Carbon Lehigh Transition Coordinating Council, Employment Outlook Fact Sheet, Health Care Services, Recreation and Leisure Activities, Resources, SSA & Work Incentives, Trainings and Workshops for Educators and Families, Transition School to Life, Transition Academy, Transportation and Youth and Young Adults.
DO NOT FORGET!!!!!

The Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 is utilizing a communication system, ConnectEd which will allow us to quickly communicate with all parents on a variety of issues. In the event of any emergency, school closing, early dismissal, or delay, or even notification of events that may impact you or your children, we will send an automated voice message and/or email within minutes. This will allow us to keep you well informed throughout the school year.

Please remember to update your emergency information with your child’s classroom and Transportation staff.

The following will still be used along with Connect Ed.

Snow Days, Delays, and Early Dismissals

Snowstorms and icy roads can change your child’s school schedule this winter. Listed below are some helpful guidelines to follow when the weather is threatening and you are concerned about sending your child to school.

1. Listen to your radio or TV stations. The Intermediate Unit #21 will contact the following stations with information regarding school closings and/or late start

   Carbon County
   WNEP - TV Channel 16
   WYOU - TV Channel 22
   WLSH - AM 1410
   Lehigh County
   WFMZ - TV Channel 69
   WAEB – AM 790
   WZZO – FM 95.1
   WCTO – FM 96.1
   HAWK - FM 99.9
   WEST – AM 1400
   WFMZ FM 100.7
   WLEV-FM 100.7
   WAEB FM 104.1

2. If your child takes CLIU Transportation, listen closely for delays or cancellations of CLIU Transportation.

3. Listen for announcements about the school district where your child’s class is located. If that district is closed due to inclement weather, the CLIU #21 class will also be closed.

4. Do not call the Intermediate Unit #21 office or radio stations. This only adds to the confusion by tying up phone lines. In case of an early dismissal, you will be contacted by CLIU #21 personnel. This information will also be broadcast on the above radio stations.

Basket Raffle

This year’s CLIU 2009 Basket Raffle raised over $4,000 to assist chosen families in helping to make the holidays brighter. Baskets were provided by various departments and groups within the CLIU. Eighteen families were identified by the CLIU Social Workers to receive groceries, clothing, and toys. This support truly helped fulfill holiday needs for identified families.
Volunteers Needed

The Carbon Lehigh #21 Intermediate Unit is in need of volunteers to act as Surrogate Parents for students who do not have a guardian available to act on their behalf. Volunteers typically will attend IEP or CER meetings, and act in place of a parent or guardian in making school related decisions. This is a service that the IU #21 provides for students who attend any of the 14 districts within Carbon and Lehigh Counties. If you have time during the day, and want to help meet the needs of a child in your area, please call or email Kellie Price or Rick Nicolazzi. We would be glad to answer any questions you have. Thank you in advance.

Rick Nicolazzi
610-794-1300 ext. 1667
Lehigh County Surrogate Parent Coordinator

Kellie Price
610-769-4111 ext. 1954
Carbon County Surrogate Parent Coordinator

2010 Transition Academy Day

2010 4th Annual Transition Academy

Transition: Rap Up Your Future Plans!

Special Guest
LeDerick Horne
Motivational Speaker, Poet, and Advocate for individuals with disabilities.

Sponsored by:
Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21
Local Right to Education Task Force
Hosted by Muhlenberg College

DATE
Tuesday, May 18, 2010
HOSTING SITE
Muhlenberg College
REGISTRATION
8:00 AM
CLOSING EVENTS
1:00 PM

“CLIU is a service agency committed to Helping Children Learn.”

CLIU Customer Service is providing quality, timely, knowledgeable, pleasant, and responsive services and support.
Project SEARCH Open House

Project SEARCH held its second annual Open House on December 7, 2009 at Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network (GSRN) in Allentown. In attendance were over 100 guests including interested high school students, parents, school administrators, local agency staff, and GSRN employees. The program opened with welcome messages from Sally Gammon, President and CEO, GSRN, and Jack Houser, Director of Special Programs and Services, CLIU #21. The interns from the graduating class of 2009 were recognized and presented with Project SEARCH pins. Information about their employment status was shared. Of the seven graduates, six are competitively employed in the Lehigh Valley and the seventh is involved in discovery process with OVR. The program ended with presentations from each intern enrolled in the program this year with information on their first work rotation at GSRN which began in September and their employment goals for the future. It was obvious that the Project SEARCH program produces outcomes of success and celebration for young adults with disabilities.

Nonpublic Services

The Nonpublic Services Department Reading Specialists have been servicing their schools in teams by administering the DIBELS assessment to all students in Kindergarten, First, and Second grades, and some schools continued this assessment in the Third and Fourth grades. These assessments assist in identifying the students who are serviced through the ACT 89 and/or Title I programs. This data is also shared with administration and classroom teachers to help with the development of their reading programs and curriculum. The assessment is done for all students in all of the nonpublic schools three times a year. Providing this service to the schools not only produces important data but also promotes the practices of CLIU #21 Nonpublic Reading Specialist working as teams and opportunities to observe and experience the differences within each school.

The role of a Reading Specialist also includes working together collaboratively with administration, classroom teachers, paraprofessionals, and parents to provide each student the best practical

Signing Santa at the Lehigh Valley Mall

The Deaf/Hard of Hearing classes at Parkway Manor Elementary School visited Signing Santa at the Lehigh Valley Mall in early December. The children got the opportunity to discuss directly with Santa Claus their desires for Christmas. They were then able to make their purchases for their “Secret Santa” selection within the class while at the Mall. Individual and group pictures were donated to the students by the Lehigh Valley Mall.
News from the Classrooms/Programs - continued

- Students in Terri Trotter’s MDS/Functional class at Lehighton Middle School are having fun with the activities for the Unique Learner curriculum. They participated in activities that helped them to get to Know the United States.

- Lenore Barr’s students on Penn Kidder Campus, Jim Thorpe Area School District, have been busy engaging in activities both in school and within the community setting. They enjoyed a CBI trip to Kovatch located in Nesquehoning and were given a tour of the facilities to see how the trucks are made. Students were able to sit in a brand new fire truck and water truck. Students are also working hard in their academic lessons and several have been chosen as Student of the Month.

- Palmerton Alternative ED
  Students in James Kochie’s junior high program have won another Achieve 3000 TeenBiz contest. This contest focused on reading comprehension. Students were able to earn a point for every score above 75%. Jim’s class had the highest score. TeenBiz will be providing them with a party in the coming weeks.

MIRACLE LEAGUE

May 2010 is the opening day for the fifth season of the Miracle League of the Lehigh Valley. The Miracle League provides the opportunity for children ages 4-21 with special needs to play baseball regardless of their diagnosis or abilities. All special needs children are encouraged to participate regardless of their limitations.

Each player will be assigned to a team with 12-14 players. There are no practices, and we do not expect players to make every game. Games are three innings long and each player bats in each inning. Each player has a buddy who will assist them throughout the game. All games last about 45 minutes to an hour and take place at Fowler Field at Jaindl Family Park which is located at 5858 Sell Road in Schnecksville, PA.

For more information on the Miracle League, please contact Melissa Borland, Executive Director, at 484-221-9814. Registration forms will be distributed throughout various CLIU #21 programs beginning in late February.

Don’t Forget

Parents/Guardians please be sure that your child’s teacher and IU#21 bus driver have an up-to-date emergency phone number!
Upcoming Spring Dance

The Spring Dance sponsored by the CLIU#21 Social Workers and CLIU#21 Special Needs Children’s Foundation will be held on Friday, May 14, 2010 at our Main Office, 4210 Independence Drive, Schnecksville, PA 18078 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. The theme will be You Are A Star. Come as your favorite celebrity.

The dance is for students who attend CLIU Multiple Disabilities or Life Skills Programs. Flyers will be sent home. Please speak to your child’s teacher to see if that class attends and to find out what transportation may be available for your child.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Ben Yorgey Foundation

The Ben Yorgey Foundation is pleased to announce the Inaugural Ben Event which has been scheduled for the weekend of July 16-17, 2010 at Macungie Memorial Park. The planned events will serve as the Foundation’s primary fundraising opportunity in 2010.

Ben died on May 7, 2009 at the age of 24 from anoxic brain injury caused by a seizure. This event is designed to honor his legacy and sow the seeds for the Ben Yorgey Foundation which will provide 10 graduation scholarships for special education students. For more information visit www.heyiknowyou.org.

Seventeenth Annual CLSNCF Golf

The 17th CLSNCF Golf Tournament presented by Carbon Lehigh Special Needs Children’s Foundation and the fourteen public school districts of Carbon and Lehigh Counties in cooperation with the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 is scheduled for Tuesday, June 22, 2010, at the Olde Homestead Golf Club, 6598 route 309, New Tripoli. Proceeds from the tournament support special needs children in recreational and educational activities.

If you are interested in more information, please see our website at www.cliu.org, call Tom Mullen, Erik Malmberg, or Barbara Montanari at 800-223-4821 or 610-769-4111, or email us at mullent@cliu.org, malmberge@cliu.org or montanarib@cliu.org. We are particularly interested in potential sponsors and have different levels of sponsorship available to suit any business.
Special Needs Awareness Day

Sponsored by
State Representative
Douglas G. Reichley

March 13, 2010
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Integrated Health Campus
250 Cetronia Road
Allentown, PA 18104

➢ This day is for families and friends who are involved with children or adults with special needs.
➢ Over 50 exhibitors will be present to provide information about resources and services available to families in Pennsylvania.

➢ Admission is FREE.
➢ For directions or more information, please contact Rep. Reichley’s District Office at 610-965-9933.
LOCAL RIGHT TO EDUCATION TASK FORCE
LEHIGH AND CARBON COUNTIES

WORKSHOP TITLE: WHAT'S NEW IN SPECIAL EDUCATION?

PRESENTER: Pam Klipa, Training & Special Education Coordinator for The Arc of Pennsylvania in partnership with PaTTAN (PA Dept. of Education/Bureau of Special Education)

SPEAKING POINTS:
- Changes to PA’s school code & how it impacts your child
- Brand new or substantially revised forms
- Red flags to look for in the IEP
- Definition & intent of LRE (Least Restrictive Environment)
- What federal law says about inclusion
- Successful stories of inclusion

DATE & TIME: March 18, 2010 from 10-1 (Complimentary lunch provided at noon)

LOCATION: Troxell Bldg., Parkland School District 2279 N. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown PA

FURTHER INFO: Free event but you must RSVP. Also open to Northampton County families. Note: Unlike past conferences, this year there is just one topic due to its very extensive nature.

RSVP: Please RSVP to Monica Swallop of IU 21 at either 610-769-4111, ext. 1218 or swallop@cliu.org.

NOTE: If you attended this same training in October 2009 at The Arc, you are welcome to attend again for a refresher.
HOT TOPICS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

TRANSITION & YOUR CHILD’S IEP

WHO: Domenico Cavaiuolo, Ph.D & Angela Murphy, Esquire

WHAT: Family-friendly transition workshop

WHEN: Wednesday evening, March 3 from 6:30-8:30
(Snow date: March 10)

WHERE: The Arc, 2289 Avenue A, Bethlehem PA

WHY: So that transition from high school is as SMOOTH & SUCCESSFUL AS POSSIBLE!

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Overview of transition assessments, evaluations, & services
Importance of early planning
Measurable & appropriate IEP goals
Fostering self-advocacy skills
Student attendance at his or her IEP
Helpful transition checklist for parents

REGISTRATION

- Registration is free & geared for families of those 14 & older.
- Please RSVP to Susan Kluge at 610-849-8076, ext. 22 or skluge@arcofl-n.org. Email response preferred as voice mail fills up fast.
- Seating limited to 20 attendees. Light refreshments provided.
Need Help Paying for Child Care? We Can Help!

Any family who is income eligible, or on the waiting list for a Child Care Works subsidy, and is enrolled or is enrolling in a Lehigh Valley Children’s Centers location, may apply for an LVCC Scholarship. Scholarship aid is available for infants through school-age children. Aid is based on family income, and helps you pay for child care until a Child Care Works subsidy becomes available.

A trusted neighbor since 1970, Lehigh Valley Children’s Centers provides:

- High quality early education & care
- Services for children from 6 weeks - 12 years
- Nurturing, professional teachers
- Full-time and part-time hours
- Nutritious meals and snacks
- Over 20 convenient locations in Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton and surrounding communities

LVCC Scholarship Funds have been provided, in part, by the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley (CACLV), under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

ENROLL TODAY!
610-820-5333
LVCCConline.org