

Community Connection

Autism Connections: a Pathlight program

Newsletter

Autism Waiver Open Request Dates: October 17-31

Important message to Massachusetts families with children

The Autism Division of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) runs an Autism Waiver Program that provides one-to-one interventions to help children with autism who exhibit severe behavior, social and communication challenges. The program provides intensive in-home services and supports. This service occurs in the child's home or other natural settings under the supervision of trained clinical staff.

The waiver also provides related support services such as community

integration activities and respite. At the conclusion of the three years of intensive services, a child may access supplemental services that meet the child's needs and help with the transition out of the intensive Autism Waiver Program until the child's 9th birthday.

This year, the Open Request dates are October 17, 2018 - October 31, 2018. All applications must be postmarked and /or submitted within these dates or they will not be considered.

How to Participate in the Eligibility Process

1. **Get a copy of the Autism Program Request Form**
 - a) Please contact Autism Connections to request the Application Form (forms can also be found online) or for help in completing the form.
 - b) The Autism Division will post all forms on the DDS website: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/dds-autism-waiver-program-open-interest-period>
2. **Complete the Autism Program Application Form**
3. **Submit the Autism Program Eligibility Application Form by mail or email**
 - a) All applications must have a postmark or date stamp between October 17th, 2018 and October 31st, 2018. **ONLY ONE APPLICATION PER CHILD**—The Autism Division will discard multiple forms. Please mail the form to (The Autism Division is not accepting hand delivered forms): **AUTISM DIVISION of DDS, ATTN: Autism Waiver Program Open Request, 500 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02118**
 - b. Emailed applications can be sent to AutismDivision@state.ma.us between October 17th, 2018 – October 31st, 2018. Please read instructions for emailed applications on the website carefully. Applications must be sent directly from the Parent/Guardian only.

This Notice and other waiver eligibility information is available on the DDS website and at the Autism Connections office. Materials are available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Haitian-Creole, Khmer, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Thai, and Vietnamese. For additional information about the Autism Waiver Program, contact Autism Connections or email AutismDivision@state.ma.us. You can also call the Autism Division at DDS at 617-624-7518.

Autism Connections is the Autism Support Center facilitating the waiver process for families in western Massachusetts.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Easthampton Office

¡Hola! Hablamos español
116 Pleasant Street, Suite 366
Easthampton, MA 01027
413.529.2428

Berkshire Office

100 North Street, Suite 322
Pittsfield, MA
413.443.4780

Our Mission: To help families, schools, professionals, agencies, and communities understand autism, promote the well-being of individuals with autism, and foster their inclusion in the community.



NEWS & UPDATES

STAFF DIRECTORY

Karen Serra (x123)
Director

Ben Breton (x121)
Autism Specialist

Lora Cortis (x124)
Autism Specialist

Erica Donovan (413.443.4780 x19)
Berkshire Program Manager

Carla Doyle-Florence (x119)
Autism Support Broker

Katie Drumm (x111)
Easthampton Program Manager

Nancy Farnsworth (x113)
Educational Advocate

Elizabeth Flaherty (413.443.4780)
Autism Specialist

William Liverpool (x112)
Autism Support Broker
Habla español

Joanne Lucey (x116)
Development & Communications Coordinator

Kimberly Marchese (x118)
Behavioral Specialist

Joyce Paige (x110)
Office Coordinator

Danielle Plasse (x115)
Office Coordinator

Gaby Santiago (x125)
Bilingual Autism Specialist
Habla español

Rhonda Setkewich (x117)
Autism Specialist / IFFS Coordinator

Tanya White (413.585.8010 x127)
Autism Specialist

Kim Wyckoff (x127)
Autism Support Broker

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lisa Crouser

Paula Fredericks

Bill Loomis

Pamela Sandler

Michael Wilcox

Jeanne Zobel-Lachiusa

Upcoming events and activities

**NEW, ADDITIONAL
EVENING MEETING
TIME!**

The Autism Collaborative of Berkshire County



Our first meeting of the new season will focus on sharing the resources of those in attendance. Our Spotlight Speaker is Senior Attorney Stefanie Krantz from the Disability Law Center's Northampton Office. Stefanie will discuss basic special education, transition topics and voting rights. The meeting is September 21, 2018 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. at the BCARC Training Room, Berkshire Common, 2 South Street, Suite 370, Pittsfield.

We are proud to present Karen Mowry as the inaugural Spotlight Speaker in our evening meeting series. Karen has been a professional educational advocate for more than 15 years, and is co-owner of Western Mass Educational Advocacy Services located in Ludlow.

Karen advocates for a variety of students 3-22 years old with a diagnosis of autism, ADD/ADHD, executive function disorders, social/emotional or medical disabilities, dyslexia, speech and language disorders and communication impairments. This meeting will be held on September 25, 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. at the same address as the September 21 meeting.

If you are a professional, someone with autism, a family member of someone with autism, or a concerned community member please email the group at emailacbc@gmail.com or visit our website (<http://bit.ly/AutismCollaborative>) or Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ACBCBerkshire/>) to tell us about your ideal wishes for collaboration! Please check our website for any last minute meeting changes and spread the word to come check out this new meeting time!

Little Puppet Studio of the Berkshires: The Minstrel's Journey

On September 8th, The Adult Social Group teamed up with members of College Internship Program (CIP) to put on another production of the Minstrel's Journey.

The Adult Group has worked hard over the past year to write the play, create the puppets, and rehearse to prepare for a community performance. Regina Mason of the Little Puppet Studio was instrumental in supporting the production.

The play originally debuted at the Colonial Theater on April 20, 2018 and was well attended. The performance caught the attention of Kara Demler of the Spectrum Playhouse in Lee, who worked with Regina to bring the event to The Spectrum

Playhouse and support the collaboration of CIP and the Group. The Adult Social Group had the opportunity to rehearse in a new setting and perfect the play, and looks forward to performing at some local schools in the current year.

The Adult Social Group (18+)

meets Thursdays at the Pittsfield Autism Connections office. We have openings, so please email Erica Donovan at Erica.donovan@pathlightgroup.org or call 413-443-4780 X19 for info.



Blog Corner



We started our list of interesting blogs last month, and here are a few more sites and podcasts that share a variety of experiences and information. Just a reminder that terminology is determined by the author of each blog or podcast, usually related to their own sense of identity. If there's a blog or podcast you'd like to share with us, email autismconnections@pathlightgroup.org.

Asperger Experts (aspergerexperts.com)

*"Everything we do at **Asperger Experts** is based on personal, real-world experience living with Asperger's every single day. Unlike the doctors, we don't get to turn it off at the end of the day. So that means finding real solutions that work for our lives, as well as the lives of our customers and clients."*

Asperger Experts is a media company primarily staffed by people with Asperger's. They have created a variety of videos, articles, and courses that explain their experiences and best methods of the support, as well as online support communities. Many of their resources are fee-based, but there are several free articles and videos as well.

ABA Inside Track (abainsidetrack.com) – This regular podcast features ongoing discussions between BCBAs about applied behavioral analysis and current research. Conversations are often humorous and engaging, and can be used for CEUs.

The Autism Blog: Seattle Children's (theautismblog.seattlechildrens.org)

"What sets our blog apart from others is that we are providing information from a provider's perspective. Our primary contributors are physicians, nurses, psychologists, and family resource staff who are knowledgeable about the diagnosis and the latest in treatments and therapies. We know the topic of autism can be a sensitive one and there are many differing opinions surrounding various aspects of this disorder. Given this, we'll strive to provide several different perspectives so you can form your own opinion. We look forward to your comments and ideas for topics you'd like us to explore."

Jacqueline Williams-Hines: NSV Online Radio (nsvonline.com)

"Jacqueline Williams-Hine is a published author, autism awareness advocate and founder of No Small Victories, an autism awareness initiative dedicated to community education of developmental milestones, delays and promotion of early diagnosis and intervention. The mother of a now eighteen year old son diagnosed on the spectrum, she is a strong advocate of social inclusion! Her anthem of empowerment is now her life's work. No Small Victories...Because Every Accomplishment Should Be Celebrated!" Jacqueline lives in the Pioneer Valley. Check out her online radio show on Wednesday evenings at 7pm at <http://w4wn.com/radio-personalities/jacqueline-williams-hines>.

Center News

Autism Connections' Free IEP/Educational Advocacy Clinic

Friday, September 26, 2018, 10:30am – 4:30pm
116 Pleasant St Suite 366, Easthampton, MA

Do you have questions about your child's IEP? There's a lot of information out there, but it can be difficult to know where to begin, or how to best approach a challenge. Let us help! Schedule an appointment for a one-on-one session with our Educational Advocate, Nancy Farnsworth. Sessions are for an hour and will be most effective if parents can come with a specific question in mind. The session will include an IEP review (as time allows) and opportunity to engage in discussion with Nancy and ask questions. This clinic is not intended to replace traditional educational advocacy.

Spaces are limited, and an appointment is required. Unfortunately we will not be able to take walk-ins. To register, please contact Danielle Plasse at 413-529-2428 ext. 115 or danielle.plasse@pathlightgroup.org.

Educational Advocacy
a free clinic

Center News

North Quabbin Autism Task Force



Are you looking for support and to learn more about services available in the North Quabbin area? You are not alone!

The North Quabbin Autism Task Force is a group of parents and professionals dedicated toward expanding and enriching services for people with autism in the Athol/Orange area. This dynamic group is focused on building collaborations and brainstorming ways to foster a supportive, positive community. Visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ASpectrumofDifference/>.

The next meeting will be Thursday, 9/27 at 1pm at United Arc, 361 Main Street in Athol.

Make a Difference

Would you like to make a difference in a child or teenager's life? Autism Connections is looking for qualified professionals who are available as Skills Trainers to help children and teens grow in their daily lives and achieve their goals. To learn more, contact Katie at katie.drumm@pathlightgroup.org.

Congratulations Kimberly!

Autism Connections is very excited to wish our team



member Kimberly LaMothe congratulations on her recent wedding! Formerly Kimberly LaMothe, she is excited about her

new name, Kimberly Marchese!

Upcoming Events

CONFERENCES

Massachusetts Independent Living Conference

Thursday September 27, 2018

Best Western Plaza Hotel, 181 Boston Post Rd
Marlborough. MA

Massachusetts Statewide Independent Living Council Conference is an opportunity to learn about the latest independent living services. Conference participation is free however space is limited. Workshops will cover topics such as supports and services, service animals, housing, legal rights, and more. For registration, contact 508-620-7452 or email Sadie@masilc.org.

Massachusetts' Office of Disability Summit

Friday, October 5, 2018 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

399 Revolution Drive, Somerville, MA
FREE

Free and open to the public. The Massachusetts' Office on Disability's annual summit is an opportunity to hear opinion leaders and agenda setters from the disability community. Speakers will include state officials, agency heads, representatives from major employers in the Commonwealth, elected officials, and members of the disability community and their families. Go to <https://www.mass.gov/event/2018-disability-summit> to register.

Raise the Bar, HIRE 2018 Conference

Wednesday October 10, 2018

Four Points Sheraton, Norwood, MA

More information: www.workwithoutlimits.org

Keynote Speaker Mandy Harvey presents during the exciting day with exhibitors and networking. Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) and Work Without Limits partner to bring this conference to employers seeking to be disability inclusive, employers who are currently inclusive.

CONFERENCES

The 25th Silver Anniversary Shared Living and AFC Conference

Tuesday, October 16, 2018, 8:45 am
Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel
181 Boston Post Rd, Marlborough, MA

This conference will include different workshops and discussions. The Shared Living & AFC Conference is a program of Pathlight's vision is to provide and exchange practical information and innovative ideas that promote community living as model of choice where people can live in a dignified, normative arrangement. Go to <https://pathlightgroup.org/25th-annual-afc-shared-living-conference/> for more information.

Assistive Technology Conference of New England

November 29 and 30, 2018
Crowne Plaza, Warwick, RI

The Assistive Technology Conference of New England is Rhode Island's only conference dedicated to technology, people with disabilities, families and professionals. Pre-Conference workshops will be held on November 29th, and the Conference will be held on November 30th. The Conference will include the Vendor Exhibits. To register go to www.assistivetechnologyconference.com/general-registration/.

WORKSHOPS & TRAININGS

DDS 101, Family Empowerment Workshop Various locations in western MA. FREE

This Family Empowerment workshop was previously held for a full house at Hadley Farms Meeting House. Due to the large interest, Autism Connections will hold more workshops in western MA. A panel of DDS professionals will review the self-direction service model, family support services and autism services. Topics include self-direction, family support, and information about autism services. Please email your interest to [Katie Drumm](mailto:Katie.Drumm@autismconnectionsma.org).

WORKSHOPS & TRAININGS

Abilities Expo Boston FREE

September 21-23, 2018

The Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, Hall A
Boston, MA

Boston's disability community is hosting a "wicked awesome" expo. This is an event for all ages! There will be workshops, exhibitors, and tech products for people with disabilities as well as different fun activities such as face painting, adaptive sports, and dance performances. To register and to check out more information go to <https://www.abilities.com/boston/vregister.html>

The Nuts & Bolts of SSI and SSDI, Public Health Insurance and Other Benefits

September 26-27, 2018 in Shrewsbury, MA
November 6-7, 2018 in Springfield, MA

This training focuses on how earnings from work affects SSI, SSDI, Medicaid, Medicare, and other public benefits. This training is meant for employment professionals, case managers, peer specialists, and rehabilitation counselors. Go to <http://www.workwithoutlimits.org/node/415> to register and for more information.

Master of Arts in Counseling and Applied Behavior Analysis Information Session

Wednesday September 26, 2018, 6pm-7pm
Horace Mann Center Lobby, Westfield State University

Westfield State University will be hosting an information center for those looking to advance their careers. This event will feature students and faculty from both programs. If you choose to apply, Westfield University will waive your \$50 application fee! RSVP at GoBackNow.com. Contact an Outreach Specialist at (413) 572-8020 or wsucge@westfield.ma.edu.

SUN

MON

TUES

WEDS

SEPTEMBER 2018

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DDS 101
Family Empowerment
6pm-8pm

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Autism Connections
Parent Support
Group
Holyoke

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ACBC Meeting with
Karen Mowry
BCArc Training Room
6pm-8pm

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THURS FRI SAT
AUTISM CONNECTIONS
CALENDAR

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**Autism Connections
 Annual Picnic**
 Stanly Park
 3:30-6pm

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**Athol United Arc
 Caregivers' Resource
 Group**
 10:00am-12:00pm or
 6:00-8:00pm
 Athol

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**ACBC Resource Sharing
 and Disability Law
 Center Meeting**
 BCARC Training Room
 10am-12pm

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**Massachusetts
 Independent Living
 Conference**
 Marlborough

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**Autism Connections
 Educational Advocacy
 Free Clinic**
 Easthampton Office
 10:30am- 4:30pm

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Coming Up

October

October 10
 Raise the Bar, HIRE 2018
 Conference

October 17
 Transition Fair
*Family Empowerment
 Hadley Farms Meeting
 House*

October 26
 Autism Connections'
 Annual Halloween Party
 Eastworks Building

November

November 29-30
 Assistive Technology
 Conference

December

December 14
 Autism Connections'
 Family Holiday Party

April 2019

April 23, 2019
 Autism Connections'
 Annual Autism Conference

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

WEBINARS

Aging with Autism: Learning from the Life of Donald Triplett

Wednesday, September 19, 12:00 p.m.

Online at www.arcmass.zoom.us

Free

This webinar will discuss issues related to aging with autism by considering the life of Donald G. Triplett, a man with autism who turns 85 this year. We will look at his life course and quality of life as he ages, as described by journalists John Donvan and Caren Zucker. We will consider how lessons from his life can help us envision aging well in community with and for other autistic adults.

Presented by: Beth Zwick Go to <http://thearcofmass.org/event/aging-with-autism-learning-from-the-life-of-donald-triplett/> to register.

COMMUNITY/FAMILY EVENTS

Let's Dance! 2018

Saturday, November 17, 2018, 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel



A night of dancing and celebration to support enrichment programs for people with intellectual disabilities! Your ticket guarantees an evening of joyous entertainment, delicious appetizers, and a cash bar. More info [HERE](#).

Buddy's Sunshine Golf Tournament

Thank you to all who participated in the tournament which was held at Bas Ridge Golf Course on September 15. If you were unable to attend and still wish to support Berkshire families, click [here](#) to donate to that event to support families, or visit the Autism Connections website. Thank you Joe and Jennie Clark for all of their long hours to prepare this yearly community event.

Thank you

WORKSHOPS & TRAININGS

Transition Resource Fair

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

Hadley Farms Meeting House

41 Russell Street, Hadley, MA

5:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. Panel Discussion

6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. Exhibitor Fair



The Transition Fair (similar to a college fair) addresses the needs of students with a broad range of abilities and learning differences, aged 14-22+. The Fair highlights options and supports for all students with learning differences who want to explore post secondary education and employment possibilities. This is a free community event.

The Panel Discussion will highlight college and career opportunities for students who have graduated from high school with a diploma and are looking for full time jobs and careers. **Please RSVP to for this presentation. We want you to get a seat since the room fills up fast!**

Exhibitors will be available to discuss topics related to the transition process for students 14-22+. Exhibitors include programs for college and post-secondary education options, job training, career investigation, day and recreation activities, living options, and special needs financial planning.

For more information about attending or exhibiting, call Donna or Michelle at 585.8010. The Transition Resource Fair is co-sponsored by Family Empowerment and the Franklin/Hampshire area DDS office.

PATHLIGHT PARTNER CLASSES

Whole Children: Programs for school age children and teens (ages 3-16). Visit www.wholechildren.org/ for more information.

Milestones: Enrichment classes for older teens and adults. Visit <https://www.wholechildren.org/milestones-classes/> for more information.

Highlights of the classes for young adults below:

Yoga Dance (Ages 18+)

Beginning October 1

Mondays, 5:15pm—6:15pm

Milestones, 41 Russell Street, Hadley, MA

Move to the sounds of fabulous music at your own pace to improve flexibility, strength, and balance.

Experience a reduction in stress in a warm and welcoming environment. There is a \$50 cost for this class.

Boundaries & Relationships (Ages 18+)

Beginning October 1

Wednesdays, 5:45pm—7:00pm

Milestones, 41 Russell Street, Hadley, MA

This class is for adults who need help navigating the world of relationships. Part of having a healthy relationship is learning how to respect boundaries of other people in your life. There will be a \$50 fee for this class. Please call 413-585-8010 to register. Online registration is not available.

Potluck Cooking (Ages 18+)

Beginning October 1

Wednesdays, 5:45pm—7:00pm

Fridays, 41 Russell Street, Hadley, MA

This class will focus on preparing practical, inexpensive and delicious dishes to serve at the Potluck social following each class. The free potluck social will run from 6:30pm-8:00pm. There is a \$50 fee for this class plus \$20 for materials.

YOUNG ADULT

AANE Pizza and Game Night

September 5 in East Longmeadow

September 6 in Amherst

September 27 in Holyoke

6:00pm-8:00 p.m.

Have dinner, socialize, and play games (feel free to bring your favorite games). This event is \$12. AANE reserves the right to cancel this event if the minimum number of registrants is not met by the deadline.

Please go to aane.org/events/2018-09/ to register at your preferred location, and call 617-393-3824 for more information.

SENSORY-FRIENDLY

Sensory Friendly Day at Connecticut Science Center

September 23 and October 3, 2018

10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Connecticut Science Center, 250 Columbus Blvd. Hartford, CT

Tickets are \$14 online, in advance, or \$16.95 at the door (1:1 aides are free)

CT Science Center will be lowering the volume and dimming the lights for those with sensory disabilities. All are welcome! There will be plenty of activities, arts and crafts, and live Gallery Science Demonstrations with out the usual lights and sounds.

For more information, contact Brit Montmeat at bmontmeat@ctsciencecenter.org or (860) 520-2112.

Sensory-Sensitive Sundays at Chuck E. Cheese

First Sunday of the month, 9am-11am,

Chuck E. Cheese

1716 Boston Road, Springfield

Chuck E. Cheese in Springfield now offers a sensory-sensitive experience on the first Sunday of every month.



SUPPORT GROUPS

GROUP NAME	GROUP DESCRIPTION	MEETING DETAILS	CONTACT/MORE INFO
AMHERST			
Clinical & Support Options (CSO) Parent Support Group	For parents of children/youth with high functioning autism (Asperger's). Come share your experience, learn about resources, and hear from experts in the field. Childcare available. This is a parent led support group.	Saturdays 10:00am-11:30am Bridge Family Resource Center 101 University Dr, Suite A3 Amherst, MA	Group meets on Saturdays. Childcare available, refreshments served. Please call 413.549.0297 with questions.
ATHOL			
Autism Support Group	This is a monthly support group for parents, caregivers, grandparents and siblings of autistic children. RSVP is required.	4th Sunday of the month 6:00pm-7:00pm Athol Memorial Hospital, The Hillis Conference Room, 2033 Main St., Athol	The first meeting will be held on August 26th. Please contact Amanda Gallant at Amanda.gallant@heywood.org with questions or to RSVP.
The United ARC, Caregivers' Resource Group	Socialize with other caregivers and help support each other through all of the ins and outs of being a caregiver or parent to a person with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Join us to discuss ideas and gain valuable resources.	3rd Thursday of the month 10:00am-12:00pm 6:00pm-8:00pm 361 Main Street, Athol, MA	Refreshments will be provided. RSVP is not required, but is helpful for planning purposes. Call Karen Parker at 978-249-4052, x 1047.
CHICOPEE			
HOPE Autism Support Group	This group is designed for parents and caregivers of family members on the autism spectrum to meet and talk with others that are on the same journey in a positive and confidential environment.	Group will meet on the 2nd Friday of each month.	For more information or to RSVP, please contact Cathy at camorgado@verizon.net .
EASTHAMPTON			
Asperger's Social Night for Adults	Autism Connections is happy to provide this social night twice a month for folks 18+ who identify as having Asperger's.	Autism Connections 116 Pleasant Street, Suite 366 Easthampton, MA	This group will resume in the near future. Please contact Kimberly LaMothe at 413.529.2428 x118 with questions.
GREAT BARRINGTON			
Adult Discussion Group	This group is being offered by the Asperger/Autism Network (AANE). There is an attendance fee of \$5.	Mason Library 231 Main Street, Great Barrington	For more information please contact stephanie.birkdale@aane.org .
HOLYOKE			
Autism Connections Western MA Support Group	This support group is open to all family members of children and young adults with autism. The group is designed for parents and other caregivers to come together for support and to share information.	2nd Wednesday of the month 5:30pm-7:30pm MCS 260 Westfield Road Holyoke, MA	Email Linda Wynne at wynne92@aol.com for RSVP and more info. Childcare is offered and requires a reservation one week in advance. Call our office at 413.529.2428.
Mom's Night Out	Moms of people with different abilities are invited to bring their problems, triumphs and their need to laugh. Jericho will supply drinks and refreshments. Bring something to share!	Jericho 537 Northampton Street Holyoke, MA	For meeting times and to RSVP contact Linda LaPointe at lindal@jerichobeca.org or calling 413.538.7450
Parent/Professional Advocacy League	Moving Forward: Our Journey. A group for empowering families through transition planning.	Please contact PPAL for locations and times.	For more information visit www.ppal.net or email eszela@ppal.net .
Rainbow Support Group of Western Mass.	This group provides support and info to individuals with intellectual challenges who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or those who are questioning.	Western Mass Training Consortium 187 High Street, Suite 202 Holyoke	For questions or to find out meeting times contact Tammy Nothe-Hebert at 413.536.2401 x3036
NORTHAMPTON			
Growing Strong Skills Training	The group is for children and their caregivers and will use the Attachment Regulation and Competency Framework to help children learn different skills.	Tuesdays 4:45-6:15pm CSO Outpatient Clinic 8 Atwood Dr, Suite 201, Northampton	For more information and to register please contact Dave at 413.582.0471 ext. 5080 or Kim ext. 5032
Valley ADHD Parent Support Group	This group is for parents and caregivers to receive ADHD information and support. It is a place where you can be heard and not be judged	1st Monday of the month, 6:30-8:00pm Northampton Area Pediatrics 193 Locust St., Northampton	For more information contact ValleyADHDFamilies@gmail.com .

GROUP NAME	GROUP DESCRIPTION	MEETING DETAILS	CONTACT/MORE INFO
NORTHAMPTON			
Florence Women's Support Group	Support group for women with Autism, ages 18+. This free group is being offered by the Asperger/Autism Network (AANE).	Third Thursday of the month, Lilly Library, 19 Meadow Street, Florence	For more information or to join this group, contact Stephanie Birkdale at stephanie.birkdale@aane.org .
Wire Monkey Mama's Coffee Club	A bi-weekly meetup and solidarity circle for all mamas like grand, step, foster, and any mama who cares for a child.	Every other Monday evening 6:00pm-7:00pm 1 Market Street, Northampton	At The Roost in Northampton. For more information, text Yoshi at 413-347-2517
PITTSFIELD			
Asperger's Support Group of the Berkshires	This group is for individuals with Asperger's syndrome to come together and offer friendship, fellowship and support.	Wednesdays, 5:00pm-6:30pm Group will meet in various locations.	Please contact Elizabeth Flaherty at 443.4780 x16 or Elizabeth.Flaherty@pathlightgroup.org to RSVP.
Berkshire Teen Group	This group is for teens and young adults who live in Berkshire County and are on the autism spectrum. The group meets regularly for conversation and community based activities.	Will meet regularly, every other Friday evening, throughout the community.	Please contact Ben Breton at benjamin.breton@pathlightgroup.org or 413.529.2428 x121 for monthly group schedule and outing details.
SPRINGFIELD			
Impact Center Support Group	A monthly support group for parents and caregivers of youths' with social/emotional/behavioral challenges. El Support Network en colaboración con Gandara ofrece un grupo de apoyo mensual para padres y cuidadores de jóvenes con problemas sociales / emocionales y de	English Group: 1st Friday of the month 12pm-1:30pm Grupo Español-Y el tercer Viernes de 10am-11:30am 41 Taylor Street, Springfield	For information and to RSVP, please contact Cynthia Santiago at csantiago@wmtcinfo.org or 413-218-5055 Información de RSVP: Cynthia Santiago at csantiago@wmtcinfo.org or 413-218-5055
SOUTH HADLEY			
LGBTQ and the Autism Spectrum	This group is being offered by the Asperger/Autism Network (AANE). There is an attendance fee of \$5.	S. Hadley Public Library Conference Room 2 Canal Street South Hadley, MA	For information or to join, please contact Stephanie Birkdale at stephanie.birkdale@aane.org .
WESTFIELD			
Westfield Support Group for Adults with Asperger's Syndrome	This group is an opportunity for support and discussion among adults on the autism spectrum. We provide a "safe space" and as such are not recommended for friends and family members except in a support role.	Building Autistic Community, Inc 507 Southampton Road #1 Westfield, MA	For more information, contact the group at info@bacautism.org or call BAC at 413.359.0222.
WILLIAMSBURG			
Families of Spirited Children (It Takes a Village)	This is a group for parents, grandparents and caregivers of children with special needs, autism, ADHD or physical, sensory, or medical challenges. Free childcare and refreshments provided.	Tuesdays, 10:00am-11:30am Anna T. Dunphy School 1 Petticoat Hill Road, Williamsburg	For more information, contact It Takes a Village at 413-650-3640 or Kat at info@hilltownvillage.org or www.facebook.com/hilltownvillage

ONLINE SUPPORT GROUPS

NEW

GROUP NAME	GROUP DESCRIPTION	DATES/TIMES
<p>Before formal registration for the below groups, a 1-1 informational meeting with the facilitator is required. The purposes of the informational meetings are for you, the participant, and facilitator to get to know one another, to discuss the format of the group, and gain a sense of the needs and interests of the participants. This meeting can take place virtually via Skype, FaceTime or Zoom. Email events@aane.org. for call 617-393-3824 x 32 for more information and to schedule a meeting with the facilitator.</p>		
Weekly Support Group for Adults	Join other adults on the spectrum in an environment of support and understanding. This group will provide a forum for increasing self awareness and connection.	September 25, 11am –12:30pm. \$80 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13
Weekly Support Group for Young Women (18-22)	This group provides an opportunity to meet other young women in an environment of support and understanding. Group limit is 12 and a strong internet connection as well as a computer with a camera and a microphone are required.	September 28, 11am –12:30pm. \$80 9/28, 10/5, 10/9, 10/12, 10/19, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16



Autism Connections
A Program of Pathlight, Inc.
116 Pleasant Street, Suite 366
Easthampton, MA 01027

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2018 September Edition

Community Connection Newsletter

Autism Connections: a Pathlight program

Open call for information from providers

We are compiling a database of autism related service providers and resources for our community. Hundreds of families, professionals, and individuals will have access to our database, which will be posted on our webpage soon. **Please fill out this information ONLY if you work with people with autism.** If we are not familiar with your services we may call to confirm the information to make sure we are including it in the right category. Thank you for collaborating with us to provide resources to families!



Click here for the link to provide us with your information: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FY18ResourceDirectory>

Relationships and Boundaries class coming to the Berkshires in October!

SAVE THE DATE for an info session on October 4. This class is for adults who need help navigating the world of relationships. Part of having a healthy relationship is learning how to respect boundaries of other people in your life. Please call 413-443-4780 for more information. This class will be limited to young adults who are already connected to our Berkshire Autism Center.