

**Ann Arbor Parent Advisory Committee on Special Education  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Tappan Media Center, 7-9 pm December 5, 2016**

**Attendance:**

AAPAC Board: Barb Byers, Mary Duerksen

PAC Building representatives and Parents

Washtenaw National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) representatives: Alison Paine, Bob Nassauer, Judy Gardner, Paloma Sanchez

Washtenaw Association for Community Advocacy (WACA) representatives: Kathy Homan

**Next meeting:**

Monday, 1/9/2017, 7-9 pm, Tappan Middle School Media Center

Topics: Successfully Transitioning from Self-Contained to Inclusion in AAPS

Pre-meeting: 6:15-7:00 pm, Dr. Brown and SISS staff will be available for private conversations with parents/guardians

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1. Welcome and Introductions

- Mary Duerksen led introductions of the 2016-17 Executive Team and 2016-17 Building Representatives
- Melissa introduced guests

2. Washtenaw NAMI presentation. The attached presentation “Parents and teachers as Allies” was discussed. Key discussion points included:

- The difficulty of diagnosis
- The prevalence of mental illness in youth aged 13 – 18 (21%)
- The warning signs of mental illness
- What parents can do (BLT: Breathe, listen, think)
- What schools can do
- Ideas for helping struggling students

3. Washtenaw Association for Community Advocacy (ACA) presentation. Kathy Homan presented the attached presentation. Key discussion points included:

- ACA services (4 full time and 3 part-time staff)
  - Family Support Subsidy (FSS) (for low income families with high needs)
  - Work Incentive Planning and Assistance
  - Education Advocacy
  - Trust administration
  - General Advocacy
- Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF) – a state wide resource to connect families of children with disabilities to resources to help improve education. Separate service but works closely with ACA

- How the ACA process works.
- How the MAF process works
- Discussion of trends ACA staff are seeing among clients:
  - Increased use of self-contained classrooms
  - Decreased school day
  - Refusing to provide and AT assessment
  - Not implementing the behavioral plan
  - Noncompliance of IEP
  - Increase of children with trauma
  - Increase of grandparents raising grandchildren
  - Lack of cooperation of other systems
- MAF is hosting a transition-to-adulthood workshop on 1/30/2017