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

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:
  o Increased use of self-contained classrooms
  o Decreased school day
  o Refusing to provide and AT assessment
  o Not implementing the behavioral plan
  o Noncompliance of IEP
  o Increase of children with trauma
  o Increase of grandparents raising grandchildren
  o Lack of cooperation of other systems
• MAF is hosting a transition-to-adulthood workshop on 1/30/2017