I. Welcome and Sign-In: Co-chair Mary Duerksen introduced Scott, and invited AAPS families to the Nov 16th Assistive Technology Fair at WCC. Lee Ann Dickinson-Kelley shared that Scott had also trained AAPS bus drivers on November 3rd.

II. Speaker

Michigan Autism Safety Training (MAST): Family, School & Community: Sgt. Scott Schuelke (Ret. Lansing Police Department) Autism Safety Specialist, Autism Alliance of Michigan (AAOM) presented info on autism/autistic behaviors, safety risks to individuals with special needs in the home, school, and community settings, information and resources to develop safety plans, and community outreach strategies to increase autism awareness and safety.

- Handouts: Free materials provided to attendees included these which are also available from the AAOM website. (Slides were not provided to prevent duplication):
  - [AAoM Student Emergency and Behavior Response Plan](#)
  - [Vehicle Safety Card](#)
  - [Student Contact Form](#)
  - [Communication Board Part 1](#)
  - [Communication Board Part 2](#)
  - [Family Emergency Planning Form](#)

Additional Notes from Scott Schuelke’s Presentation:

- History: The MAST training has been provided to over 12,000 people in Michigan, primarily local law enforcement and emergency responders (including Ann Arbor PD, and campus security for UM & EMU), but also educators, families, bus drivers, and the Detroit zoo paid & volunteer staff.

- Statistics:
  - MI residents with a diagnosis of Autism have grown from 1500 in 1991 to 18,000 in 2014.
  - Half with diagnosis are non-verbal. Many cannot communicate name, phone number, or address info.
Bolting/Wandering/Eloping: Studies show 48% of ASD children have eloped. 26% from a school.
Research shows that people with developmental disabilities have seven times more contact with local law enforcement.

- **Safety Planning:**
  - **In Home:** install door alarms, high deadbolt, put stop sign pictures next to doors, install window locks to limit how far windows can open, locking up knives, medications, vitamins, mouthwash, cleaning products. Window clings on entry doors letting first responders know an individual with autism is inside.
  - **In Neighborhood:** share diagnosis info will all neighbors so they know to be alert late at night and early in the am to wandering child.
  - **In School:** ensuring staff know surrounding area including any bodies of water that may attract child and what places child is most likely to be attracted to. Having all staff including noon hour, custodians, secretaries knowledgeable of student’s safety needs. Having staff do drills for missing persons inside vs outside of building.
  - **Emergency Forms:** copies for home, car school, local PD, and 911 center.
  - **Identification:** Take photo of child every day to have record of outfit worn; medical ID bracelets, shoe tags, temporary tattoos, phone # on arm with sharpie.
  - **GPS:** Great for outdoor tracking, doesn’t work well in buildings. AAOM has been giving away devices (currently a waitlist). If child carries phone/tablet, can enable “find your iphone” or similar to track location.
  - **Water Safety:** 91% of deaths in ASD children under 14 are caused by drowning. Urges parents to prioritize swimming lessons.
  - **Communication is Key:** share info about behaviors between home and school, make sure to include bus drivers in info sharing as they have insights too.
  - **Public Restrooms:** have a trusted male adult teach our male children how to be safe and follow the unwritten rules of men’s urinal behavior.
  - **In Cars:** bumper stickers for autism orgs; emergency card with contact info but also special interests (e.g. ipads, coloring) that a first responder could use to occupy an upset child.

- **AAPS Safety Updates from Lee Ann Dickinson-Kelley & Dr. Brown:**
  - **Training:** Lee Ann noted they plan to have Scott return to train more staff including noon hour supervisors, and building administrators.
  - **Swimming:** Middle school pools being reopened this year may also open up opportunities to provide more swim classes.
  - **Emergency Drills:** Special education rooms practice fire drills, lockdown, etc.
  - **School Safety Plans:** All schools have plans that assign staff to roles during emergencies that would include a missing student scenario. Parents can ask their principals to see the school safety plan.
  - **IEP Team:** Dr. Brown encouraged parents to discuss individualized needs for safety plans with their IEP teams.
  - **QR Codes:** AAPS is exploring bus/clothing tag for students with emergency info.

- **Have Questions/ Need Help?**
  - **Contact Scott at:** 517-927-2298, scott.schuelke@aaomi.org
  - **Contact the MI Navigator:** Specialists provide info for “diagnosis, treatment, support, education, and health care for individuals with autism and their families” navigator@aaomi.org or (877) 463-AAOM