Bay Area Autism News July 2015

Autism Society San Francisco Bay Area
Tue, Jun 30, 2015 at 3:56 PM
Reply-To: Autism Society San Francisco Bay Area
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October 23 Adult Autism Summit:
Bombardment of Reality and Hope

President's Message

We are pleased to announce our second annual conference, "Let a Thousand Flowers Bloom: The Bay Area Adult Autism/DD Programs and Housing Summit," Friday, October 23 at Santa Clara University. With more than 50 speakers and 400 attendees it will be an all-star extravaganza that lies somewhere between inspirational fun and pure torture. The tentative schedule is below. But first let me address a few FAQ's:

- Registration ($25) will open the week of July 6 at sfautismsociety.org.
- It will sell out, so don't procrastinate too much.
- We will try to videotape most of the presentations and place them on our Vimeo channel. (You can watch last year's conference videos there, too.)
- We are packing three days' worth of info into one day, but autism/DD parents are super busy so we're trying to be uber-efficient with your precious time. Additional information will be available on our conference website.
- The day is primarily focused on regional center clients with autism and related disorders but much of the content is relevant to all DD's and to higher functioning folks, too. We are considering hosting a conference focused on the "almost-independent"

California Budget Ignores Core Dev Disability Services

Years of underfunding and cutbacks are pushing autism and DD service providers out of business, even as huge numbers of young adults with autism age out of school and onto waitlists or no appropriate services at all. Now, our new state budget offers no relief to stabilize the collapsing system. "We have a final budget that's a crime," said Sen. Jim Beall (D-San Jose) in criticizing the failure to boost funding for faltering DD services.

Governor Brown ordered special legislative sessions in the next two months to address ways of finding new tax dollars to fund programs including developmental disabilities, but is it unclear how long this process will take or what the end result will be. Meanwhile our services further deteriorate.

In spite of the gravity of the situation facing adults with autism and DD, whose lifelines to basic services and the community are being cut in front of their eyes, there has been scant media attention on this crisis. Here's a bit, though: LA Daily News California Healthline.

Learn more at the Arc of California. SFASA will
segment of the spectrum in the spring, so stay tuned.
• Lunch will feature more than a dozen breakout discussion groups hosted by various agencies and organizations.
• Registration includes coffee, snacks, and lunch.
• To defray our formidable costs, we are seeking sponsors at $500, $1,000, and $2,500. Please see details here.
• This is an all-volunteer, labor-of-love effort. To join our team of amazing volunteers, just email us at info@sfautismsociety.org.

Tentative Schedule (subject to change)

8am  Coffee and registration

8:30am  “Love and Panic: How Will We Care for and House 100,000 Dependent Adults with Autism in California?” Jill Escher, president, Autism Society San Francisco Bay Area

8:40am  “Aging Out: A Story that Needs to Be Told” Craig Young and Melissa Collins-Porter, producers of “Aging Out” documentary

8:55am  “The Individual Program Plan (IPP) Under Fire: Three Things Every Parent and Conservator Must Know” Barbara Maizie, executive director, Arc of Contra Costa County


Regional Center directors and service providers discuss the crisis in funding, staffing, program development, caseloads and waitlists, and more. Includes Q&A.

10-10:15am  Break

10:15-11:15am  Showcase 1: “A Sampler of Autism-Serving Day Programs”
[Moderator Kym Luqman, Harambee Kinship Center] Harambee • Hope Services • Friends of Children with Special Needs • Abilities United • Community Gatepath • Morgan Autism Center • Paradigm • ARC SF

11:15am-12:15pm  Showcase 2: “Creativity in update you soon with more information about the special sessions and how you can help advocate.

Autism Community Calendar
All Events • Support Groups • Autism Nonprofits

Sat, July 4: Independence Day Jazz Jam for Autism Families
Time: 6-9pm  FREE
Place: St. Cyprian’s Church, 2097 Turk @ Lyon, SF

Fourth of July extravaganza complete with videos of fireworks, live jazz upstairs featuring some of the greatest bay area musicians around, food potluck soft drinks and beer and wine. Just for our ASD community - all behaviors welcome. Brought to you by Autism Fun Bay Area.

RSVPs are required: info.autismfunbayarea@gmail.com. After you RSVP the team will help coordinate with you what to bring for the potluck.

Saturday, July 11: "Parent-Directed Supported Living Services for Adults with Developmental Disabilities"
Time: 10am - 3pm
Place: PHP, San Jose
Cost: $65 per parent or couple (up to two people at that rate)
Register: http://php.com/node/39841/view

Led by Trudy Grable, this is a "hands on and how to" workshop is for parents and professionals considering supported living as an option for adults who are regional center clients.

Sunday, July 12: AFBA Hiking Club Evening in Rancho San Antonio, Los Altos, 4-8pm
What: A long (5-6 miles), slow evening stroll that tackles some of the preserve’s most scenic trails.
Employment for Adults with Autism

You are free to join us for the first mile or two, and then take a shorter alternative, or we may opt for shorter route together. Details

Thursday, July 16: 7th Annual Disability Awareness Night at San Jose Giants

Time: Game starts at 7pm
Place: San Jose Municipal Stadium
MassMutual Silicon Valley's "Special Care and Disability Awareness Night," an opportunity for persons with disabilities, their families, care providers, and the community at large to enjoy a free baseball game.
For free tickets, visit http://disabilityawarenessnight2015.eventbrite.com

Friday, July 17: Autism Social Connection Hang Out

Autism Social Connection’s Hang Out at Community Gatepath are social gatherings for young adults ages 13-2 with ASD/HFA. This night features indoor camping: pitch a tent and have your flashlight handy!
Place: 350 Twin Dolphin Drive, Suite 123, Redwood City
Time: 6-9pm
RSVP: $20 with online registration at http://www.gatepath.org/hangouts. $25 at the door.
More info: http://www.gatepath.org/Autism-Social-Connection

Saturday, July 18: East Bay Regional Networking Group

The East Bay regional adult autism/DD group will meet at 10am in Union City. The group usually meets on the morning of the third Saturday. For more info, and location, please contact ilnjplan@inbox.com
4:30pm                  Closing remarks and action items
4:30-5pm               Meet and greet

Again, registration opens the week of July 6 at sfautismsociety.org. It will be a dizzying but fantastic day. We hope to see you there!

Jill Escher
jill.escher@gmail.com

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New at SFASA: SF Bay Area Autism/DD Adult Day Program List

We list the regional center vendorized day programs serving adults with autism and other developmental disabilities. This is a part of SFASA’s effort to make the adult programs sector more transparent and accessible to autism and DD families. Check it out.

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Autism Parent "Speed Dating" a Purposeful Schmoozefest

SFASA has a tradition of holding many educational and informational events, but we switched gears June 25 and hosted our first pure networking event for parents and professionals. Romance alas was not in the air, as the purpose of this "speed dating" event in Cupertino was to provide 5-minute mini-meetings among all participants to compare notes and look for help and synergies relating to adult autism services and housing. And it worked. If you would like to arrange speed dating in your area, just email us at info@sfautismsociety.org.

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Saturday, July 18:
AFBA/Autism Hiking Club Santa Cruz Harbor Trek and Beach Outing
10:30am-2pm
What: A fun mix of walking and beaching, with a brief boat interlude. Or just join us at the Harbor beach (in front of the Crow's Nest, by the jetty) at 11:30am. Details

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Saturday, July 18: Sibling Recreational Group in SF
Time: 10am - 1pm
Support for Families, 1663 Mission St 7th Floor, SF
For 8 - 13 year old brothers and sisters of kids with disabilities or special health care needs. Based on the Sibshop model, this sibling group will include crafts, games, and other fun activities. Lunch included! Join us to: meet other brothers and sisters of children with disabilities or special health care needs; talk with others who “g it,” and have fun. Call 415-920-5040 or email info@supportforfamilies.org to register.

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Wednesday, July 22:
Webinar--How to Create a Tax-Wise Investment Portfolio with a Special Needs Trust
Guest Speaker: Bradley Frigon, BJF Law Firm.
Brought to you by the Dale Law Firm.
Time: 6pm-7:30pm
Through Case Study illustrations, we will discuss investment and tax strategies when funding special needs trusts. FREE.
Registration: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3832282175169929729

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Saturday, July 25:
Autism Speaks Safety Fair

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Autism Society San Francisco Bay Area
PO Box 249
San Mateo, CA 94401
info@sfautismsociety.org
1.650-637-7772

Autism Society San Francisco Bay Area is an all-volunteer, grass-roots organization of parents, family members, friends and professionals concerned about the well-being of local autism families, with an emphasis on expanding the limited lifespan care options for the dramatically increasing numbers of adults with autism.

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Place: PHP, San Jose
Time: 10am-1pm
PHP and Autism Speaks partner to provide individuals with autism and their families an opportunity to meet and interact with local first responders and obtain safety resources and information in a safe, fun and family-friendly environment.
RSVP: Events.AutismSpeaks.org/SafetyFairSanJose
or email MSullivan@AutismSpeaks.org

Sunday, July 26:
"Autism in Love"
Screening in Palo Alto

Place: Palo Alto Cinearts
Time: 2:10pm
Presented by the San Francisco Jewish Film Festiv
this film follows the lives of four adults on the autism spectrum as they search for and manage romantic relationships.
www.sfjff.org

See all event details

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