



consumer

A free monthly publication written by
members of The Children's Center
Consumer Council.

CURRENT

Wayne County Fatherhood Initiative's 5th Annual Fatherhood Forum

John Miles, PSP & Fatherhood Coordinator

The 5th Annual Fatherhood Forum, hosted by the Wayne County Fatherhood Initiative, was held on June 23 at Greater Grace Temple in Detroit, MI. This year's event titled "Diverse Dads: Creating a Culture of Acceptance", was designed to highlight the importance of celebrating the diversity of fatherhood. The forum drew representatives from over 30 organizations across Wayne County, Genesee County and Washtenaw County.

The Children's Center's own Chief Operations Officer, George Winn, kicked-started the event by delivering an inspirational welcoming address to approximately 120. Keynote speaker, Michael Williams, followed Mr. Winn by challenging the audience to "advocate for fathers and other male caregivers" in their community.

Topics discussed during the workshops included the importance of father-daughter relationships, facilitated by Cole Williams, creating entrepreneurship opportunities for fathers, by Paul Riser Jr., fathers engaging in prenatal bonding by Carolyn Joy Dayton, co-parenting by David & Naomi Jones, and how to teach our young males to positively interact with law enforcement, by Dr. Shaun Cooper

Diversity was strongly reflected in the forum's speaker demographics. John McDowell, of the Children's Center, presented on understanding the challenges faced by LGBTQ youth. Washington D.C. native, Frank Love, discussed how "establishing and maintaining an environment where children can be and wish to be, close to their fathers is a powerful pillar of effective and loving fatherhood."

Other facts and figures to note regarding this year's forum:

- ✓ 65% of attendees were Social workers
- ✓ 1 in 10 of attendees attended the event as a parent
- ✓ 20% of the attendees were male

The forum also featured a forum discussion, aimed at bringing attention to men's health by United Health

Care, one of the two sponsors in support of this year's event. (The other sponsor was Molina Health Care). The panel provided vital and relevant information encouraging fathers to be not only active, but proactive. The Wayne County Fatherhood Initiative Committee and John Miles, the committee coordinator, is seeking to ensure that next year's 6th Annual Fatherhood forum will be bigger and better as we look to increase attendance and grow the diverse range of speakers and topics relating to fathers.

DPSCD Board of Education
Curriculum/Academics Committee Presents

A Special Education & Special Needs Town Hall Meeting

Featuring
DPSCD Superintendent
Nikolia Vitti, Ed.D

Monday, August 21, 2017
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Hartford Memorial Baptist Church
18700 James Couzens Hwy
Detroit MI 48235

Guest Speaker
Rachel Vitti
Social Justice and Special Education Advocate

Sponsors:
DPSCD Board of Education
Curriculum/Academics Committee,
Honorable Deborah Hunter-Harvill, Ed.D.
Honorable George Lemmons
Honorable Misha Stallworth



Youth Summit

August 17, 2017 10:30 am-3:30 pm
Lansing conference center

Youth Spotlight Awards

September 22, 2017 6pm – 9pm
Burton Manor, Livonia MI

Youth M.O.V.E -Detroit

Youth MOVE Detroit is Youth United's youth advisory council. Youth ages 14-25 to join us and impact the System of Care as well as your community. Youth hold leadership roles, share concerns, and help find solutions, utilizing their community and lived experiences. Meetings are every third Tuesday of each month from 5:00pm-6:30pm at The Children's Center. For further information contact Tyanna McClain at 313-324-8580 or at tmccclain@thechildrenscenter.com.

PARENT SPOTLIGHT: Arlyssa Heard



Arlyssa is the mother of two boys. She graduated from Northwood University with a degree in Accounting and a BA in Business Administration. Arlyssa is an active community leader and resident within Hope Village, a Focus Hope initiative. She is a Parent leader, Education Organizer, and Legislative Lead for 482Forward, the grassroots education advocacy organization. Arlyssa began her work in Research and Evaluation at Michigan State

University's dept. of psychiatry, assessing local family intervention programs. Soon after, she started educating families and advocating for children at the Detroit Health Department. As a mother of a child with Sickle Cell Anemia, Arlyssa was a statewide voice for parents while serving as a board member for Children's Special Health Care Services.

She has successfully managed several job training and education programs; such as Partnership for Adult Learning, Welfare to Work, WorkFirst, JET, and a Carpentry Skills training program for individuals with felonies.

As a leader within the Focus: Hope community, Arlyssa continues to engage residents, plan/coordinate community based projects, and facilitate monthly education roundtable sessions for parents, youth and residents. As a Parent Leader and Organizer, she continues to work with parents helping them to build their power and establish parent and community voice within the education system. Arlyssa is passionate about education and continues to uplift her organization's declaration that every child deserves a quality education in their neighborhood, regardless of race, socio-economic status, or zip code. Having a child diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) who is currently enrolled in a Detroit school, Arlyssa has made it her mission to push for equitable, effective, and accountable special education services throughout the education landscape in Detroit.

In 2014, Arlyssa made a public run for Detroit Public School Board. Although it was her first time running for any public office, she secured 25,000+ votes. In December 2014, she was selected to serve on the board for the Coalition for the Future of Detroit School Children (CFDS) and currently serves with CFDS (2.0) 2017. Arlyssa is a board member for Focus: Hope Village steering committee, an active "Mamavist" and board member for grassroots organization Mothering Justice, and serves on the parent advisory council of The Children's Center (Detroit). She has also served on several parent advisory councils for Detroit Public Schools and grassroots neighborhood community councils.



PARENT-TO-PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

WHAT
The Children's Center Consumer Council is hosting a free parent-to-parent support group for parents and care givers of children, adolescents & young adults. The Support Group is an open, welcoming group providing dialogue and peer support.

- Light refreshments provided
- Child care and interpreter services available upon request

WHEN
Every fourth Thursday from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

WHERE
The Children's Center
79 West Alexandrine
Detroit, Michigan 48201



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Pamela Kelly at
313.262.1227 or
pkelly@thechildrenscenter.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Charles Gaines

Coordinator Quality Improvement

313-262-1179; internal ext. 2170

Recapping The Third Annual Town Hall meeting from a PARENT'S PROSPECTIVE

Submitted by: Tomeka Bryant, Parent Support Partner

- “Finally, I get to openly share my thoughts and concerns about services provided to my child..... The Children’s Center welcomes parents to engage this platform. No other CMH’s offered me that.” – Anonymous
- “I don’t think they get it. Perhaps they don’t have children of their own with mental illness so they don’t really understand.”-anonymous
- “Parents opened up with genuine questions about their families.”- anonymous
- “As a CMH parent, not attending The Children Center, I believe that there is a cluster of services, support services, parent trainings, and programs offered to the families at TCC that other agencies don’t provide. Self-advocacy and awareness is key throughout the various systems to properly receive care for anyone in service. Parents are the head of their families and service providers are there to assist them....What are we doing to change it?” –a PSP with a purpose!

2017 Town Hall Q & A

Q: Is it possible to use the lobby televisions to communicate TCC information, events, and services offered?

A: Yes, we are actively pursuing this and you can expect to see it happen in the near future. Information regarding events, services, and general TCC information is also located on our website.

Q: Can you help me understand CAFAS scoring, and how it relates to my child receiving services? My child fell below 50 and was discharged from BHS, he still receives medical services but needs to continue receiving behavioral services.

A: CAFAS is an assessment that is used by specific insurers to determine eligibility criteria. We will need to evaluate what type of insurance your child has and then panel with that insurance. TCC is currently impaneled with many, but not with all Wayne County Medicaid Health Plans and Commercial insurers.

Q: Is TCC looking to hire more male therapists?

A: Yes. TCC would love to hire more males! Unfortunately, applications from male therapists are

rare. Our Human Resources Department is in the community recruiting, and it is a goal of ours to bring more male therapists on staff.

Q: Is TCC pursuing integrated care for mental and physical health?

A: Yes. TCC had a pediatrician on campus; however, it was determined that parents preferred to go to their own pediatrician, so we discontinued that service. Dental Services are provided at TCC. We also increased nursing and medical services with the addition of a Medical Assistant and Nursing Care Manager who provide blood draws and screenings. Case Managers and Support Coordinators work with families to support their physical health needs and ensure integration.

Q: Will TCC staff provide support within my child’s school and advocate for my child’s education?

A: Yes. It is important for families to be aware of, and communicate their needs to Clinicians, Case Managers and Supports Coordinators so they can provide for the client needs (i.e. mental health, physical health and education). These needs should be communicated in the treatment plan, which is also used to establish goals. Our goal is to support parents so that they can advocate for their children. We also have staff and Parent Support Partners, who are trained to provide parents with peer support and educate parents on education related issues.

Q: If I am not participating in Parent Management Training or Parent Child Interactive Treatment why would I, as a parent, need to attend every session for my child to come to therapy?

A: You should discuss this with your Clinician and Doctor to determine if your participation is necessary. It depends on the age of the client. However, remember that parents play a critical role in ensuring children meet their milestones. It often helps improve the parent to child relationship, and the parents’ understanding of their child’s behavior when they attend.

Q: How do we find out about the services offered at TCC?

A: Ask your child’s Clinician, Case Manager and Supports Coordinator. Read the Consumer Current (quarterly newsletter on TCC Website). Go to TCC Website, click on Events Calendar, and download flyers and information. The TCC website works well on smart phones. Also, look at signage on the white boards, located in all Building Lobbies in addition to the events calendar on elevator doors on building 90 lower level.

Town Hall Q & A continued

Q: What programs are offered to single working parents with children in therapy? Are there services/programs offered to new parents?

All TCC programs are available to children and youth based on need. Parents are provided support in order to best support their children. Some of our parent focused services are Parenting Thru Change, Parent Child Interaction Therapy, Infant Mental Health, Parent Management Training, ADHD Group, and Parent Support Partners. The Consumer Council also hosts a Parent Support Group the 4th Thursday of every month at 6pm.

Enrichment Activities

AUGUST

August 2nd	Homework Help	4 to 6 PM	Center for Discovery Bldg. 90
August 7th	Homework Help	4 to 6 PM	Center for Discovery Bldg. 90
August 8th	Art Adventure	4:30 to 6:30 PM	Activity Room, Bldg. 90
August 9th	Homework Help	4 to 6 PM	Center for Discovery Bldg. 90
August 16th	Homework Help	4 to 6 PM	Center for Discovery Bldg. 90
August 17th	Birthday Party	4:30 to 6:30 PM	Activity Room, Bldg. 90
August 21st	Homework Help	4 to 6 PM	Center for Discovery Bldg. 90
August 22nd	Art Adventure	4:30 to 6:30 PM	Activity Room, Bldg. 90
August 23rd	Homework Help	4 to 6 PM	Center for Discovery Bldg. 90
August 28th	Homework Help	4 to 6 PM	Center for Discovery Bldg. 90
August 30th	Homework Help	4 to 6 PM	Center for Discovery Bldg. 90

SEPTEMBER

September 6th	Homework Help	4 to 6 PM	Center for Discovery Bldg. 90
September 11th	Homework Help	4 to 6 PM	Center for Discovery Bldg. 90
September 12th	Art Adventure	4:30 to 6:30 PM	Activity Room, Bldg. 90
September 13th	Homework Help	4 to 6 PM	Center for Discovery Bldg. 90
September 18th	Homework Help	4 to 6 PM	Center for Discovery Bldg. 90
September 20th	Homework Help	4 to 6 PM	Center for Discovery Bldg. 90
September 21st	Birthday Party	4 to 6 PM	Activity Room, Bldg. 90
September 25th	Homework Help	4 to 6 PM	Center for Discovery Bldg. 90
September 26th	Art Adventure	4:30 to 6:30PM	Center for Discovery Bldg. 90
September 27th	Homework Help	4 to 6 PM	Center for Discovery Bldg. 90

OCTOBER

October 2nd	Homework Help	4 to 6 PM	Center for Discovery Bldg. 90
October 4th	Homework Help	4 to 6 PM	Center for Discovery Bldg. 90
October 5th	Game Night	4 to 6 PM	Activity Room, Bldg. 90
October 9th	Homework Help	4 to 6 PM	Center for Discovery Bldg. 9
October 10th	Art Adventure	4:30 to 6:30PM	Center for Discovery Bldg. 90
October 11th	Homework Help	4 to 6 PM	Center for Discovery Bldg. 90
October 16th	Homework Help	4 to 6 PM	Center for Discovery Bldg. 90
October 18th	Homework Help	4 to 6 PM	Center for Discovery Bldg. 90
October 19th	Birthday Party	4:30 to 6:30PM	Activity Room, Bldg. 90
October 23rd	Homework Help	4 to 6 PM	Center for Discovery Bldg. 90
October 24th	Art Adventure	4:30 to 6:30P	Activity Room, Bldg. 90
October 25th	Homework Help	4 to 6 PM	Center for Discovery Bldg. 90
October 27th	Trunk or Treat	4 to 6 PM	Building 90 Parking Lot



The Children's Center (TCC) specifically disclaim all responsibility for any liability, loss or risk, personal or otherwise, which is incurred as a consequence, directly or indirectly, of the use and application of any of the information or resources provided in this newsletter. The Consumer Current is intended to provide general information and to help consumers more easily access information about services and supports available at TCC.