

COMMUNITY GROUPS/WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS

Every Thursday—NAMI Connections. Starting at 7 PM at Memorial Methodist Church, located at 4668 Old Murphy Rd, Franklin. This meeting is hosted by NAMI Appalachian South and is for individuals with mental illness and family members with a loved one with mental illness. The group focuses on support, education, resources, and advocacy. For more information contact Donita at dcwithnami@yahoo.com or 828-526-9510.

First Tuesday of each month—Family Support Group meeting. Starting at 7 PM at Memorial Methodist Church, located at 4668 Old Murphy Rd, Franklin. This meeting is hosted by NAMI Appalachian South and is for family members of loved ones with mental illness. This group focuses on support, education, resources, and advocacy. They share their experiences to help each other gain insight in supporting an individual with mental illness. For more information contact Donita at dcwithnami@yahoo.com or 828-507-8789.

First Thursday of each month—Caregiver Group Meeting. Starting at 6 PM at Region A Partnership for Children's Murphy far west office located at 141 Peachtree St, Suite 5, Professional Building, Murphy. This group focuses on families raising a child with a special need. Caregivers share their experiences to help strengthen other caregivers. For more information contact Jody at jody@regionakids.org or 828-506-6111.

Second Tuesday of each month—Caregiver Group Meeting. Starting at 6 PM at Swain East Elementary cafeteria located at 4747 Ela Rd Bryson City. This group focuses on families raising a child with a special need. Caregivers share their experiences to help strengthen other caregivers. For more information contact Jody at jody@regionakids.org or 828-506-6111.

Second Wednesday of each month—Caregiver Group Meeting. Starting at 6 PM at the Children's Developmental Services Agency Sylva office. This group focuses on families raising a child with a special need. Caregivers share their experiences to help strengthen other caregivers. For more information contact Jody at jody@regionakids.org or 828-506-6111.

Second Saturday of each month—Caregiver Group Meeting. Starting at 2 PM at Haywood Public Library located at 678 S Haywood St Waynesville. This group focuses on families raising a child with a special need. Caregivers share their experiences to help strengthen other caregivers. For more information contact Jody at jody@regionakids.org or 828-506-6111.

Third Thursday of each month—Caregiver Group Meeting. Starting at 6 PM at Macon Public Library located at 149 Siler Farm Rd, Franklin. This group focuses on families raising a child with a special need. Caregivers share their experiences to help strengthen other caregivers. For more information contact Jody at jody@regionakids.org or 828-506-6111.

Smart Start (SS) / Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) Team Meetings—Cherokee County meets the 1st Wednesday of each month starting @ 1:00 PM; Clay County meets the 1st Thursday of each month starting @ 1:30 PM; Graham County meets the 2nd Thursday of each month starting @ 9:30 AM; Haywood County meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month starting @ 10:30 AM; Jackson County meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month starting @ 12 noon; Macon County meets the 4th Thursday of the month starting @ 12 noon; and, Swain County meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month starting @ 1:30 PM. For more details visit: <http://regionakids.org/sslicc>

August 4, 2016—Writing Effective IEPs—Exceptional Children's Assistance Center in collaboration with Family Support Network™ of Region A presents Writing Effective IEPs (Individual Education Plans) August 4, 2016: A free workshop for parents, professionals, or anyone interested in learning more about the IEP process. This workshop will include: components of the IEP; how to actively participate in the development of the IEP; writing measurable goals and objectives; and, strategies and tips for successful meetings. Details on attached flyer. For more information about Family Support Network™, of Region A, call "Jody Miller, Region A Partnership for Children Community Engagement Coordinator" at 828-631-3900 x126; or email:

jody@regionakids.org. The Family Support Network program office is located at the Children's Developmental Services Agency, located at 87 Bonnie Lane, Sylva, NC.

August 4 2016—Celebrating Scuba Gym—12 to 2:30 @ Konehete Park Pavilion 1: Celebrate Scuba Gym Campers and their families and learn how Scuba Diving helps individuals with special needs. Free event, open to the community. See attached for information. For more information or to RSVP call "Jody Miller, Region A Partnership for Children Community Engagement Coordinator" at 828-631-3900 x126; or email: jody@regionakids.org.

August 9, 2016—Understanding the IEP Process--A free workshop for caregivers of children with disabilities and special needs presented by Kathy Dolbee, Autism Resource Specialist with the Autism Society of NC. This workshop will explain the components of the IEP – Individualized Education Plan; explain how you can participate in development of your child's plan; and, provide some tips for successful meetings. Workshop is being held at 67 Bryson Avenue, Bryson City starting at 6 PM. For more information or to RSVP call "Jody Miller, Region A Partnership for Children Community Engagement Coordinator" at 828-631-3900 x126; or email: jody@regionakids.org.

August 9, 2016—Autism 101. This is the perfect workshop for anyone who wants to develop a basic understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This workshop explores the four core areas affected by ASD: communication, social interaction, sensory issues, and how an individual may think and learn. Basic strategies for interacting with individuals with ASD are discussed. Workshop in Asheville from 10 AM to 11:30 AM. For more information or to register visit www.autismsociety-nc.org/workshops.

August 9, 2016—Smoothing the Transition Back to School webinar—Transitions are difficult for families who have a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Changes can bring on anxieties and lead to resistance. With a few simple steps, the impact of transitions can be softened. This webinar was created to provide helpful tips. For more information visit www.autismsociety-nc.org/workshops.

August 11, 2016—Understanding the IEP Process— A free workshop for caregivers of children with disabilities and special needs presented by Julie Davis-McClure, Family Partner with Smoky Mountain LME/MCO. This workshop will explain the components of the IEP – Individualized Education Plan; explain how you can participate in development of your child's plan; and, provide some tips for successful meetings. Workshop is being held at the Children's Developmental Services Agency located at 87 Bonnie Lane Sylva (use Webster for GPS) starting at 6 PM. For more information or to RSVP call "Jody Miller, Region A Partnership for Children Community Engagement Coordinator" at 828-631-3900 x126; or email: jody@regionakids.org.

August 13, 2016—Understanding the IEP Process— A free workshop for caregivers of children with disabilities and special needs presented by Julie Davis-McClure, Family Partner with Smoky Mountain LME/MCO. This workshop will explain the components of the IEP – Individualized Education Plan; explain how you can participate in development of your child's plan; and, provide some tips for successful meetings. Workshop is being held at Child Care Resource and Referral training room located at 1078 N Main St Waynesville starting at 2 PM. For more information or to RSVP call "Jody Miller, Region A Partnership for Children Community Engagement Coordinator" at 828-631-3900 x126; or email: jody@regionakids.org.

August 16, 2016—After the Diagnosis: Get Answers, Get Help, Get Going! Please join ASNC Autism Resource Specialist Juliette Heim for this FREE informal workshop for parents and grandparents of children 8 years or younger recently diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Workshop in Asheville from 10 AM to 11:30 AM. For more information visit www.autismsociety-nc.org/workshops.

August 18, 2016—IEP Basics: Frequently Asked Questions webinar—This workshop covers the most basic questions asked about the IEP process (Individualized Education Program). It was designed for a short time frame but provides very helpful information for parents. For more information visit www.autismsociety-nc.org/workshops.

August 18, 2016—Water and Sun Safety Event—Jackson County Smart Start / Local Interagency Coordinating Council Team along with Jackson County Park and Recreation and Jackson County Safe Kids is hosting a free swimming event at Poteet Park and the Sylva Pool for families who have children with special needs. Learn about water, heat, and sun safety along with swimming and demonstrations at the Sylva Pool. Preregistration is required. For more information or to receive your registration form call “Jody Miller, Region A Partnership for Children Community Engagement Coordinator” at 828-631-3900 x126; or email: jody@regionakids.org.

August 25, 2016—Understanding the IEP Process— A free workshop for caregivers of children with disabilities and special needs presented by Julie Davis-McClure, Family Partner with Smoky Mountain LME/MCO. This workshop will explain the components of the IEP – Individualized Education Plan; explain how you can participate in development of your child’s plan; and, provide some tips for successful meetings. Workshop is being held at the Macon Public Library located at 149 Siler Farm Rd Franklin starting at 6 PM. For more information or to RSVP call “Jody Miller, Region A Partnership for Children Community Engagement Coordinator” at 828-631-3900 x126; or email: jody@regionakids.org.