

DAWN AWAKENINGS

Awaken to Independence

DAWN AWAKENINGS

SPRING/SUMMER 2018

Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) accounts are here!

On June 18th, Carole Johnson, Human Services Commissioner for the State of NJ, announced what people with disabilities have been waiting to hear for a long time! People with disabilities can now open an Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) account, a tax-free savings account where the beneficiary can save up to \$15,000 a year, \$100,000 over a lifetime. If you are receiving SSI and/or SSDI and considered disabled before the age of 26, you are eligible. However, there is growing concern that without a dramatic infusion to the number of potential account holders, the program may not be sustainable. Therefore, advocates are calling on Congress to pass a proposal known as the ABLE Age Adjustment Act (S-817/HR-1874) that would increase the cutoff age to 46, dramatically expanding the number of potential account holders. Establishing an ABLE account allows eligible persons and their families to save private funds for disability related expenses not covered under regular benefits. Such expenses may include, housing, transportation, assistive technology, personal care assistance, etc. For more information or to sign up online, visit savewithable.com.

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SAVE THE DATE

NJ Disability Pride Parade

Friday, October 5, 2018

9AM

Trenton, NJ

NJ State House Annex

Know someone who deserves to be the parade marshal?

Send an email to

NJDisabilityPride@adacil.org

with a paragraph as to why they deserve to be the marshal along with their contact info and a picture.

Nominees will be posted on social media.

Nominees must be received by August 20th.

SUSSEX COUNTY TO HOLD TRANSPORTATION HEARING

The Sussex County Department of Human Services will be holding their hearing on transportation. This meeting allows an opportunity for people with disabilities to share their thoughts regarding gaps in services and learn how these programs are executed. Take this opportunity to provide input.

Sussex County – The Sussex County Community Transportation Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) will hold its Annual Public Hearing at 12:00 pm on Tuesday, September 18th, at Sussex County Community College, 1 College Hill Rd. Newton, NJ, in the Atrium of the Performing Arts Center. Transportation to the hearing is available by calling Sussex County Skyland Rides at 973-579-0480.

Note from the Executive Director

As you receive this newsletter we will be in the final month of summer and hopefully these last few weeks will bring us some beautiful weather.

Within this newsletter, we have shared some information about an opportunity to start an ABLÉ account. This program will hopefully allow for individuals to be able to set aside funds that will not be included when reviewing resources for benefits eligibility. I strongly encourage you to explore this program and speak with a professional who can provide information that will ensure your account is set up accurately in order to benefit from the program.

Also, this newsletter provides you with an update on the new employees that have joined the DAWN team recently. There continues to be growth in many of our programs as the need for services continues to rise in the disability community. Specifically, our DDD Support Coordination program is growing by leaps and bounds. We are proud of the work we are doing in this arena and pride ourselves in providing individuals and families with current information regarding the ever changing policies and procedures implemented by the Division of Developmental Disabilities. In addition, because we are only serving communities that our staff are familiar with, we believe we bring to the table the expertise needed to share with families so they can make informed choices. Identifying programs and services in our local community is where DAWN shines, so if you or someone you know is looking for a Support Coordination agency, consider using DAWN. We welcome the opportunity to share our expertise with you.

As always, we are here to assist you with maneuvering the complicated system of disability services that exists in NJ.

Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Best Regards,

Carmela

“NEXT CHAPTER BOOK CLUB”

Unlike any other book club, the Next Chapter Book Club (NCBC) provides individuals with disabilities the opportunity to read and/or learn to read while socializing with peers in a social setting. Members of the NCBC met recently at Panera Bread, 25 Centre St., Sparta. The club, which meets every Thursday of the month from September through June, is open to persons with disabilities, ages 16 and older, regardless of their reading ability. Each week, club members read short stories and then answer multiple-choice and essay questions to enhance their reading comprehension. There are currently 17 members. Volunteers include Kristen Taylor, Jennifer Buyer, Thad Craig, Georganne Diehl, and Charlene Cardinale. Thanks were expressed to the staff at Panera Bread not only for their longtime support of the book club, but for the patient and respectful manner they show its members. Anyone interested in learning more about the Next Chapter Book Club of Sparta or are interested in facilitating a Morris County Chapter call DAWNcil at 973-625-1940 or email to info@dawncil.org



“Is it Depression or Just Loneliness?”

Everyone feels lonely now and then, but how do you really know the difference? Based on an article “What’s the Difference between Loneliness and Depression?” by Pragati Chauhan, people with severe depression may not feel comfortable in a social setting, since they feel unworthy and often afraid of what others might say or think. People with loneliness may often think they suffer from depression, but actually they are just feeling, well lonely.

According to Chauhan, loneliness can be best described as when a person stays home all day waiting for that phone to ring, or for that knock on the door from a friend or family member. Chauhan also says that a person who is severely depressed would most likely turn off their phone, and avoid any form of personal interaction with others. On the contrary, it could be that a person with loneliness might jump at the chance to interact with others. Whereas, a person with depression may isolate himself to his room or just keep to himself, where he feels most comfortable.

For some, keeping active is a way of coping with depression and/or loneliness. Having been diagnosed with depression, though not as severe, I do understand how remaining active can assist in managing ones well being. That is the reason why I find our recreation program to be a great resource, and a wonderful benefit to our organization. Please join us at the many events we have planned for the next few months.



August

- 17 - Bowling Fundraiser at Rockaway Lanes 7-10 pm \$20
- 23 - Dinner at Mama’s Café Baci in Hackettstown 6:30-8:30 pm

September

- 9 - Baseball Game at Somerset Patriots Stadium in Bridgewater 1 pm game \$28
- 11 - Game Night & Pizza at DAWNcil 6-9 pm FREE
- 16 - Annual Picnic at Hedden Park in Randolph 12-4 pm \$15 – dues paid members
\$25 – non-dues paid
- 27 - Dinner at Thai Nam Phet in Newton 6:30-8:30 pm

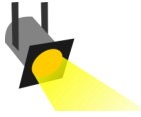


October

- 6 - Mini Golf at Castle Cove in Lake Hopatcong 1-4 pm \$9
- 9 - Game Night & Pizza at DAWNcil 6-9 pm FREE
- 19 - Halloween Dance at St. Mary’s Prep School in Denville 7-10 pm \$10
- 25 - Dinner at Casa Bellisima in Newton 6:30-8:30 pm



If interested in attending any event, or have questions about transportation, contact Marc Moldé at 973-625-1940 ext. 211.



Program Staff Updates:

Throughout this past year, we've been informing you of the various programs and services that DAWNcil offers, and the staff that delivers that service. A lot can change in a year. DAWNcil has grown, and continues to grow. Thus, the need to add more staff. Below is an update on the staff members that have started within the last year:

DDD Support Coordination -



Pictured L to R: Brianna Lyons, Artemis Lambrianou, Maria Cafferata, Tamika Jackson, Charity Lucas and Nicole Bassi

Independent Living -



Pictured L to R: Erika Moreno - Morris County Care Manager, Michelle Cap - Employment Specialist, Heather Church - Pre-ETS Site Coordinator, Jessica Maas - IL Specialist

Early Intervention Services Morris County Unit -



Michelle Breaud, Service Coordinator Tiffany Giacchino, Service Coordinator Dennaë Palacios-Ortiz Service Coordinator

Sussex County Unit -

Samantha Solano-Stanton,
Service Coordinator



Warren County Care Management -



Cindy Whelan,
ADRC Care Manager, has been with
DAWNcil for over 4 years.

DAWNcil in the Community



“Game of Life” in Sussex County

Students at Sussex County Vocational School were sent to visit the table of various non-profit organizations. Once at the table, students picked from a list of different types of real life scenarios which arise that the agency could help with.

The purpose of the exercise was to educate the students on what resources are available within their community that they could look to for assistance.

Navigating Your Future: The Road Through Transition: the Planning Begins

The 14th annual transition fair was co-hosted by DAWNcil and the Morris County Partnership for Transition and Employment Services (MCPTES) at Morristown High School. Families and students had the opportunity to ask questions and address their concerns related to transition.



Advocacy in Action Conference & Resource Fair

The conference which was held at The College of St. Elizabeth focused on Accessing Effective Services for Students with Disabilities. Over 275 were in attendance. Information was provided on DAWNcil’s five core services, and specifically on DDD, Transition, Employment Services and Early Intervention.

DAWNcil in the Community cont.



NY Metro Area “Abilities Expo”

Held annually during the first weekend in May, The Abilities Expo allows the disability community to come together to learn of the latest and greatest in resources, products and technology. Some DAWN staff members joined the NJSILC table, representing all Centers for Independent Living throughout NJ.

Warren County Disability Resource Fair

DAWNcil co-sponsored the fourth annual Warren County Disability Resource Fair on May 10, 2018, at Abilities of Northwest Jersey. This event titled “Building Connections, Enhancing Access” brought together resources and providers in vocational and job training opportunities, higher education, disability benefits, adult services, housing, recreation and assisted technology. A guest speaker from Certified Financial Services presented on “Understanding and Navigating Estate and Financial Planning”.


Building Connections ...Enhancing Access

When:
May 10, 2018
2:00 to 6:00 pm

Where:
Abilities of NWJ
264 Route 31 N.
Washington, NJ


Contact:
908-689-1118 or
info@abilitiesnw.com

Transportation Available Upon Request - Please Contact Easton Coach.



WARREN COUNTY DISABILITY RESOURCE FAIR

Hosted by The Warren County Advisory Council on Disabilities

SPONSORED BY: 

Families, Students, Educators, Caregivers Welcome!!
Attendees will learn about the resources in the area including vocational and job training opportunities, disability benefits and estate planning, adult services, housing, recreation, higher education opportunities and much more!!

GUEST SPEAKER: 5:00 - 6:00 pm
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC.
“Understanding and Navigating Estate and Financial Planning”
Refreshments provided by United Way of Northern New Jersey Corporate Offices
RSVP Requested by May 6th
Contact Robin Essie at 908-990-0110 x 252 or robin.essie@unitedwaynj.org



Carmela Slivinski, Executive Director of DAWNcil receives “Exemplary Not-for-Profit Leaders” award from the Morris County Chamber of Commerce.

On April 18th, Carmela was recognized for having exemplified leadership that has resulted in improved services for DAWN consumers, while also having a meaningful impact in the community.



Steven Kryspin: A Heavyweight in Lifting We're proud of you Steven!



Morris County resident Steven Kryspin was selected to participate in the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games in Seattle, Washington, from 7/1 to 7/6. Steven participated in all Powerlifting events including the squat, bench press and deadlift. Currently Steven holds the unofficial record for lifting the most weight in all three categories for Special Olympics New Jersey, and has broken his own personal records over the past 8 years of competing. Recently, at the 2018 Special Olympic Summer Games held in Ewing, Steven deadlifted 525 pounds, a personal best! **“Congratulations Steven on being selected to represent New Jersey at the national games!”**



LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

Every citizen has the right to vote. Voting gives you a voice in how our federal, state and local governments are run. It also allows you to voice your opinion on many governing issues. Not to mention, a feeling of self-worth.

Registering to vote is simple. Listed below are four ways to register;

- ⇒ Download a registration form at www.state.nj.us/state/elections/voting-information.html
- ⇒ Visit our office at 66 Ford Rd. Suite 121 in Denville, and we'd be happy to assist you with completing the voter registration form.
- ⇒ You may also call us at 973-625-1940, and we will mail you a voter registration form and a voters rights handbook.
- ⇒ Visit your local post office and ask for a voter registration form.

SAVE THE DATE



Franki's Fund Gala
Sunday, November 4, 2018



Twelve-thirty
to
four-thirty PM




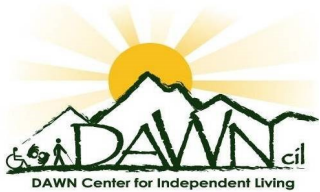
Zeris Inn
372 Route 46
Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046



The mission of Franki's Fund is to offer young adults with special needs ages 14 – 25 an opportunity to explore artistic and vocational pursuits.



66 Ford Road
 Suite 121
 Denville NJ 07834

DAWNcil Mission Statement:

“Providing support to persons with disabilities throughout their lifespan so they can achieve their highest level of independence in their community.”

DAWNcil Vision Statement:

“People with disabilities will have equal opportunities to fully participate in all aspects of community life, to live independently and to achieve economic self-sufficiency.”

Phone: 973-625-1940
 Fax: 973-625-1942
 TTY: 973-625-1932

DAWNcil provides the following services:

- Information and Referral
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Nursing Home Transition
- Early Intervention Services
- Pre-Employment Transition Services
- DAWN Employment Network Services
- Aging and Disability Resource Connection
- Personal Assistance Services Program
- Next Chapter Book Club
- Franki’s Fund
- Aktion Club (Young Adults)
- Advocacy
- DDD Support Coordination
- Care Management
- It’s All About Work
- Living Well with a Disability
- Working Well with a Disability
- Traumatic Brain Injury Program
- Skills for Independent Living (SkIL)
- Peer Support
- Recreation

We are on the web!
www.dawncil.org