

EXCEPTIONAL CONNECTIONS

Pitt County Schools Exceptional Children's Advisory Board Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 1

Nov 2010

ADVISORY BOARD ADMINISTRATION

Chair

Jill Scercy
jbscercy@yahoo.com

Committee Chairs

Membership-Aimee Zavala

Appreciation-Jocelyn Nelson

Public Awareness- Tammy
Buck & Greg Rubel

OUR PURPOSE

To enhance the quality of
education for all exceptional
learners by partnering with Pitt
County Schools.

Contact us

pcsecac@yahoo.com

School Meetings 2010-2011

September 29	Wahl-Coates Elementary	11:30-1:30
October 27	Farmville Central High School	11:30-1:30
December 8	South Greenville Elementary	11:30-1:30
January 26	Hope Middle School	11:30-1:30
February 23	Wellcome Middle School	11:30-1:30
March 30	Wintergreen Intermediate	3:00-4:30
April 27	Sam Bundy Elementary	11:30-1:30
May 25	South Central High School	11:30-1:30

PCSECAC Visits Wahl-Coates

The council visited Elmhurst on September 29th. It was a miserably rainy day but we were welcomed by Principal Will Sanderson and his staff. Mr. Sanderson shared excitement about the new curriculum 3-D learning Program, funded through the State Department of Instruction. It is a computerized program that tracks data and provides feedback to teachers about the effectiveness of the curriculum and what interventions students need for success. He praised his teachers' abilities to serve a vast continuum of exceptional children attending Wahl-Coates.

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To learn more about Pitt County Schools Exceptional Childrens'
Division go to <http://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/>
And click on Exceptional Children.

Advisory Council Appreciation for 2009-2010 Year

On June 10 the following were recognized by parents and members of the council for going above and beyond in their work with exceptional children.

Keisha Atkinson	Speech Therapist	C. M. Eppes
Angie Bennet	Speech Therapist	Wintergreen Primary
Shirley Cooper	EC/AU Assistant	C. M. Eppes
Pearl Frizzell	Administrative Assistant	D. H. Conley HS
Annette Glass	Student Services, Counselor	Ayden-Grifton HS
Heather Halsall	EC Teacher	D. H. Conley HS
David Liebfreund	EC/AU Teacher	Wahl-Coates Elem
Barbara Memory	Music Therapist	ECU School of Music
Kimberly Pollard	EC Teacher	Ayden-Grifton HS
Robin Talley	EC Teacher	D. H. Conley HS
Beth Ulfers	Music Teacher	Wintergreen Primary
Heather Wainwright	Occupational Therapist	Wintergreen Primary

PCSEC News

A Message from our Director of Programs for Exceptional Children, Cathy Keeter

As you receive this newsletter, students will have completed 25% of the 2010-2011 school year. I must confess that this has been a year full of change, most particularly in the middle and high schools in the district. Last fall, the NC Department of Public Instruction received results of an audit under Title II of No Child Left Behind which would significantly alter service delivery options for students with disabilities. Special Education Teachers were informed that they are no longer eligible to be the "teacher of record" for English, Math, Science and Social Studies unless they also meet the licensure requirements for each of these subject areas. The most significant impact is felt in the Occupational Course of Study where EC Teachers deliver content material as well as learning strategies for students with disabilities. While a few of our teachers were able to add these licensure areas through college courses and additional tests, most have not yet met this standard, nor do they have to.....thus the problem OR is it really an opportunity? What would happen if you combine the expertise of TWO qualified teachers, one a content specialist and one who specializes in learning strategies for students with disabilities? Thankfully, a few teachers in each of our high schools were willing to tackle the challenge of co-teaching OCS Math and OCS English I this school year. These brave pioneers will pave the way for their colleagues and help us refine the process, skill sets, and support systems for successful implementation in all OCS classrooms. They have tackled a problem and are striving hard to turn it into a successful opportunity for our students to grow and stretch academically, Yes, along the way we will have some false starts, growing pains, and adjustments to make, but ultimately our students will benefit from this "problebtunity."

Local Resources

East Carolina Behavioral Health

ECBH is the local management entity (LME) that manages state-funded services for mental health, developmental disability, and substance abuse in 9 surrounding counties including Pitt. You may call their Access to Care Line with questions about services toll free 24 hrs a day 1-877-685-2415. ♦

Consumer & Family Advisory Committee

ECBH accepts input concerning direction for services offered through CFAC. CFAC is the representative voice for consumers and families who use mental health, developmental disability, or substance abuse (MH/DD/SA) services. Consumers and family members may become participants in this process by completing a membership application. Visit www.ecbhme.org or email our Pitt County CFAC leader, Millie Hagler mhagler@suddenlink.net or leave a message at 252355-6133 ♦

The Eastern NC Center for Independent Living, Inc (ENC-CIL)

The Eastern NC Center for Independent Living, Inc. is a non-profit, non-residential agency created and operated by people with and without disabilities. The Center is community-based and consumer-directed.

They provide an array of services to support independent living for people with disabilities and their families. The people they serve have a wide range of physical, mental, and emotional disabilities. Contact for more information:

252-355-6215
1-888-541-7227

The Eastern NC Center for Independent Living will host a Fundraiser, ***"SHAGGING FOR A CAUSE"*** on **Wednesday, November 10, 2010 at Rock Springs Center starting at 7:00** featuring ***"The Band Of Oz"***. The donations will be used for financial assistance for persons with disabilities in emergency situations as well as promote ENC-CILs activities within the community.

Web Links

Wrightslaw Website

Parents, educators, advocates, and attorneys come to Wrightslaw for accurate, reliable information about special education law, education law, and advocacy for children with disabilities. Begin your search in the -

Advocacy Libraries and Law Libraries. You will find thousands of articles, cases, and resources about dozens of topics: The Special Ed Advocate is a free online newsletter about special education legal and advocacy topics. www.wrightslaw.com ♦

Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC)

This is a very informative service for families in North Carolina. Many resources are available at no charge. www.ecac-parentcenter.org

Get Involved

ESTABLISHED DISABILITIES ADVOCACY TRAINING PROGRAM SEEKS PARTICIPANTS

A statewide program that develops leadership skills and trains advocates for people with disabilities to voice their views and influence policymakers is set to begin early in 2011. Partners in Policymaking is designed to better enable individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the parents of young children with such disabilities to present their views on policies that affect them.

For further information, contact:

Deborah Whitfield, Partners in Policymaking, 704-372-7961

SherieWallace, The Wallace Group, 877-832-4548 or sherie@wallacegroup.com

Advisory Council to the State Board

This council meets quarterly to discuss current issues and make recommendations to the state board of education on policies that directly impact exceptional children.

The next Meeting is December 16, 2010: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm at the Department of Correction, 2020 Yonkers Rd., Raleigh, NC. Meetings are open to the public.

Parents as Collaborative Leaders

ECAC (Exceptional Children's Assistance Center) is offering this training

Date: Saturday, November 6, 2010

Start Time: 9:00 am **End Time:** 4:00 pm

Location: [Rep Express](#)

Category: ECAC Health Information Project

Description

Full day conference for parents to discover what type of leader they are, learn advocacy skills for their child, obtain information on how to serve effectively on boards and committees, discover leadership opportunities on a local, state and national level, and learn how to impact health care policy.

Registration is FREE and includes all materials, breakfast, lunch and snack!

A certificate of completion will be provided for each participant. Please be prepared to stay for the entire workshop.

Seating is limited - register early! You don't want to miss this opportunity!

For more information please contact:

Contact: Wendy Ward

Email: wward@ecacmail.org

Phone: 800-960-6817 ext. 35

Location Details

Rep Express
805 Red Banks Road
Greenville NC 27858

Forum on Transition Opportunities

The Arc of Pitt County is hosting an evening that will offer participants opportunities to explore Transition Opportunities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities. The Compensatory Education program of Pitt Community College, Pitt County Schools Transition Specialist, Literacy, Vocational Rehabilitation, and other community options will be presented and discussed with Forum attendees.

When: Tuesday, Nov 9th, 2010

Where: Community Schools Building
4561 County Home Road
Greenville, NC 27858

Time: 6:30 – 8:30PM

RSVP: (252) 756-1056 or email
arcpitt@embargmail.com

Items of interest

If you have items of interest to be included in future newsletters please send them for consideration to jbscery@yahoo.com.

You can HELP Exceptional KIDS in Pitt County Schools SUCCEED!

JOIN THE PITT COUNTY SCHOOLS EXCEPTIONAL CHILDRENS ADVISORY COUNCIL PCSECAC



Qualifications:

- **Love Kids**
- **Want to get involved to improve outcomes for kids who are often left out**
- **Can spend minimal time in one meeting per month**
- **Want to make a difference in our community**

**Contact Jill Scercy,
PCSECAC Chair
jbscercy@yahoo.com
830-3300 ext. 224**