



Wayne County Parent Advisory Committee

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Eileen Brandt, Chairperson Kara Clarke, Vice-Chairperson
Jennifer Padgett & Samara Wolf, Secretary Lori Huntington, Treasurer

MEETING MINUTES
December 12, 2019

I. Call to Order

Eileen Brandt called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum of members was present.

Members Present:

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Joann Goree Detroit | Jennifer Seal Garden City | Angela Edwards Huron | Crystal Upshaw Lincoln Park |
| Eileen Brandt Livonia | Michelle DeJesus Melvindale | Maria Warmuth Northville | Barb Wilson Plymouth/Canton |
| Khalilah Montgomery Redford Union | Carol Matthews Riverview | Jacqueline Dalzell Romulus | Philip Czernik Trenton |
| Lori Huntington Westwood | Victoria Martinez Wyandotte | Sarah Groeneveld Achieve Charter | Jim Michalik Canton Charter Acad. |
| Samara Wolf Quest Charter Acad. | | | |

Members on Phone: Celestine Tarver

Members Excused: Jennifer Padgett, Iesha Brassell ,Heather Stefan, Maha Jaber, Kara Clarke

Guests Present:

Andrea Izant – Grand Valley, Dina Vehraind – Westside, Prisalla Albano – Woodhaven, Linda Junod – Gibraltar, Theresa Beard – Romulus, Jennifer Overend – Romulus, Christin Roth – Wayne/Westland

RESA Representatives: Larry Stemple Regina Baker

| <i>Dates to Remember</i> | |
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| <i>Dates to Remember</i> | |
| <i>Next Meeting Thursday January 9, 2020</i> | |
| <i>Feb 24th, 2020 Alternative to guardianship session – Michigan Alliance</i> | |
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II. Approval of Agenda - A copy of the meeting agenda was emailed and posted to the website to members in advance and made available at the meeting. A motion was made by Michelle DeJesus and seconded by Carol Matthews to accept the agenda. Motion was supported by majority of members present. No objections were made.

III. **Approval of Minutes**

A copy of the November 14, 2019 minutes was emailed and posted to the website to members in advance and made available at the meeting. A motion was made by Jim Michalik and seconded by Michelle DeJesus to accept the minutes as noted. Motion supported by majority present. No objections were made.

- IV. **Presentation-** Paul Landry (Director of Employment Programs- Benefits Counselor/CWIC) from UCPDetroit – Understanding Social Security Disability Benefits while working. Their website is www.ucpdetroit.org

A disability is the inability to work, cannot do the work you did before There are 2 forms of Disability : SSI and SSDI

Some individual's may receive benefits from both programs at the same time.

1) Social Security Disability Income (SSDI – also called RSDI)

- Insurance program based on the individual's work history or on a parent's work history
- No resource limits
- Comes with Medicare after 24 months (Parts A,B,C,D)
- Must apply for Medicaid through Michigan's Dept. Health & Human Services

SSDI Work Incentives (Triggers)

Phase 1 – Trial Work Period (TWP)

\$910.00 Gross Wages or MORE = 1 month for 2020

9 months = Trial Work Period (does not have to be in a row but is within 5 years)

Used within a "rolling window" () 60-month period

Extended Medicare (at least 93 months) after completing the Trial Work Period

Phase 2 – Extended period of eligibility (EPE) 36 months after TWP

SGA (\$1,260.00) for 2020 year SGA (\$2,040.00 for people w/blindness)

2) Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

- Needs based program
- Federal Benefit Rate 2020
 - \$783.00 for Individual
 - \$1,175.00 for Couple
- Asset Resource limits
 - \$2,000 individuals and \$3,000 Couple
- Report monthly on income received during the month (unearned & earned

income)

Social Security Administration (SSA), uses the value of the One-Third Reduction rule, which lowers the individual's Federal Benefit Rate (FBR) by one-third (\$525.00 of SSI). If the individual is living with their parents and not paying for their share of the rent. However, if the individual begins to pay rent, then SSA can make them eligible in receiving the full benefit rate

of \$783.00. NOTE: (If you are charging your kid(s) rent you have to claim this on your taxes as income however talk to your accountant about expenses you can claim to offset this income.)

SSI & Medicaid –

1619b – not receiving SSI payment due to earned income and earnings under \$36,552 for 2019 Freedom to Work (BEM 174) – Earning above or have assets greater than \$2,000 ind./\$3,000/Couple

Working & Receiving SSI

Basic formula when working:

$(\text{Gross Wages} - \$85.00) / 2 = \text{Countable earned income}$

$\$783.00 - \text{Countable earned income} = \text{adjusted SSI payment}$

Based on Gross Wages Received within a Calendar Month

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) & Using work incentives

- Impairment related work expense (IRWE)
- Blind Work Expense (BWE)
- Plan for achieving self sufficiency (PASS)
- Plan for essential self-support (PESS) – Self employed
- Student earned income exclusion (SEIE) – Under 22 yrs old
Make up to \$1,900.00/ Month - \$7,670.00 / year (after this it counts against you)

SSI calculation while working

$(\text{Gross wages} - \$85.00) / 2 = \text{Countable earned income}$

$\$783.00 - \text{Countable earned income} = \text{Adjusted SSI payment}$

Ex: \$866.00 Gross wages in November (20hrs/wk * \$10/hr * 4.33wks/month) - \$85.00

$\$781.00 / 2 = \$392.50 = \text{Countable earned income}$

$\$783.00 - \$390.50 = \$393.00$ SSI check in January -Not taking any work incentives into account

Work in September – Report pay stubs in October – SSI check received in November

What if the individual receives both SSDI - \$500.00 and SSI - \$291.00

Wages/income are looked at in both ways:

SSDI – Trial work period or extended period eligibility (SGA)

AND

SSI – Calculation

Unearned income (SSDI) - \$20.00 = Countable unearned income

Gross wages - \$65.00 / 2 = countable earned income

$\$783.00 - \text{Total countable income} = \text{Adjusted SSI payment}$

SSDI and SSI

Expedited reinstatement of benefits (EXR)

-If SSA closes the SSDI or SSI case, due to earned income and the individual stops working or reduces countable earned income to less than SGA (\$1,260.00) and it is within 60 months after the case closed.

1) They can request reinstatement of benefits w/o filing a new disability application.

2) They will be given temporary benefits for up to 6 months while SS conducts a review.

3) If it is decided that they are no longer medically disabled by SS rules, they will not have to pay the temporary benefits back, unless they knew that they did not qualify for reinstatement.

NOTES – A) Social Security does not recognize power of attorney. B) If any adults are receiving benefits and have a child to receive benefits there is a family benefit amount, which also means if another child in the same household (which makes 1 adult and 2 children) the 1st child's benefit may be reduced to allow for 2nd child's benefit amount. C) In the area where they discuss offsets (which are expenses to equal out income) you can claim items such as: Dog Expenses (if a service dog – like vet bill, grooming, training), Uber rides, Wheel Chair maintenance, Insurance on a lift (no matter who owns the vehicle – but can not count vehicle insurance just the lift), Prescription (RX) copays, Physical Therapy, Gas. (For all mentioned items you MUST have and provide copies of receipts/bills). D) Individuals can have an ABLE account and still receive benefits – An ABLE account is a savings account for use later in life for things such as rent – see website www.miable.org. E) With the Freedom to work Act (which pays into Medicaid) you are allowed \$75,000 in the bank and an unlimited amount in an IRA. If you exceed any of the amounts allowed you may not continue to get SSI but you can still keep Medicaid/Medicare.

WIPA – a national program – Mission is to promote employment and enhance financial stability. To see who they are, what they offer and if you or your child can benefit from this program go to www.yourgoodwill.org or contact Paul Landry (presenter)

You should contact Paul Landry at plandry@ucpdetroit.org or 248-557-5070 ext. 113 if you have any questions regarding this presentation or would like to have an analysis done (by Paul), which can be revised at any time due to changes such as hours, wage, job change.

Beneficial resources:

www.ssa.gov
www.ssa.gov/work
www.miable.org
www.yourtickettowork.com
www.ucpdetroit.org

V. **Chairperson Report –**

HB4675 re: Strict Discipline Academy. For more info go to: <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/> and type in “HB 4675”

SB 600 & SB 601 – MDE seems to be against this bill saying it will remove personal curriculum (PC). It would remove the *separate* legislation of personal curriculum (which is completely underutilized) and embed the concepts of Personal Curriculum within the legislation, which may cause PC's to actually be utilized to help students.

VI. **Vice Chairperson Report-** Kara was not present – nothing to report

VII. **Secretary Report-**

If you need business cards either because you are new or need more please see Samara Wolf or Jennifer Padgett to fill out the form needed.

Please remember to sign in each and every meeting not only for the minutes but also for year end mileage reimbursement for WCPAC Members.

VIII. Treasurer Report

The balance remains at \$2,699.12

IX. Membership/Public Relations Subcommittee

X. Subcommittee Reports

Special Recognition – An opportunity to nominate a person, group or organization that represent someone with disability and make a positive impact on such persons. It's not really a nomination it's a guarantee as long as you get it in by the deadline (TBA soon). Happening 3rd Wednesday in April. They receive a framed certificate and a plaque in the RESA hallway along with your written nomination.

XI. RESA Reports – Larry wanted to remind everyone about conferences via list-serv email – if you are interested, please send Larry or Eileen email. If you know of other conferences or are interested in going to another one let Larry or Eileen know. In order to attend a conference your attendance at PAC meetings play a key role, they must be in Michigan, and the content are all items taken into account on whether your request will be approved or not. These are supposed to be beneficial to many not just yourself (sharing is key!!!!).

XII. Member Reports

Joanne Goree would like a presentation on guardianship/alternatives to guardianship. Note from Samara- FYI there is a facebook page that Eileen handles called Michigan Parent Advisory Committees- I just learned about it so sharing.

XIII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Maria Warmuth and seconded by Angela Edwards to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. Motion passed by majority present. No objections were made.

The next WCPAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 6:30pm at Wayne RESA in the Arthur's Auditorium.