



**Wayne County Parent Advisory Committee**

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**Kara Clarke**, Chairperson **Jennifer Seal**, Vice-Chairperson  
**Samara Wolf & Michelle Muse-Worthy**, Secretary **Linda MacClinton**, Treasurer

**MEETING MINUTES**

December 9, 2021 REVISED (1-10-22)

**Call to Order**

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

**Members Present:**

Maha Jaber Crestwood	Karima Alwish Dearborn	Elia Syed Dearborn	Iesha Brassell Dearborn Heights #7
Joann Goree Detroit	Sharene Nathan Detroit	Tiffany Edmonds-Jasso Ecorse	Jennifer Seal Garden City
Helena Stephenson Harper Woods	Crystle Upshaw Lincoln Park	Eileen Brandt Livonia	Kara Clarke Livonia
Clare Brick Northville	Linda MacClinton Redford Union	Monique Draw River Rouge	Tracee Winston South Redford
Michelle Muse-Worthy Southgate	Celestine Tarver Taylor	Phil Czernik Trenton	Steve Berjarano Wayne Westland
Kristin Berjarano Wayne Westland	Priscilla Grossenheider- Albano Woodhaven Brownstown	Victoria Martinez Wyandotte	Jessica Owulette Plymouth Scholars
Samara Wolf Quest			

**Members Excused:** Jim Michalik, Michelle DeJesus

**Guests Present:** Priyanka Kaushik, Fatima Davis, Gail Strickland, Lacy Dawson, Beth Kohler, Cindy Lobb, Verna Brocks, D. Robinson, Dietta McKinney, Charley Hallman

**RESA Representatives:** Regina Baker, Vita Lusk, Kayrl Reynoso, Karen Howey

<b><i>Dates to Remember</i></b>	
Next Meeting on January 13, 2022	

**I. Approval of Agenda**

A copy of the meeting agenda was emailed to members in advance, and posted to the website. A motion was made by Samara Wolf and seconded by Michelle Muse-Worthy to accept the agenda. Motion was supported by majority of members present. No objections were made.

Objections: \_\_\_\_\_

## II. Approval of Minutes

A copy of the November 11, 2021 minutes were emailed to members in advance, and posted to the website. A motion was made by Celeste Tarver and seconded by Steve Bejarno to accept the minutes as noted. Motion supported by majority present. No objections were made.

Objections: \_\_\_\_\_

### Presentation:

#### **Special Presentation Part 1- Conversation with Kayrl Reynoso, Wayne RESA**

-National Association of School Psychologist- Tips for Parents and Teachers talking to children about violence. [Click here for the website.](#)

- **SEL( Social Emotional Learning)**: School districts have been focused on this topic for the last two years. For examples: Southgate - *Suite 360 Curriculum*, Allen Park - *Choose Love Curriculum*, PSCD has a program called *Calm Classrooms*.

#### **Special Presentation Part 2- Community Adventures- Multiple Organizations**

1) Katie Mann- **Open Spot Theatre** - held in school, libraries, churches, etc. Activities such as singing, dancing, and acting with the students. The students write the story and most classes are 6 to 8 weeks long. For more information see: <https://openspottheatre.com/detroit/programs> or flyer on p 5.

2) Joanna Lofton, Community Resource Specialist, **Autism Alliance of Michigan Navigator** - connects families with a team of specialists such as OT, SP, Nurse Practitioner, etc.

#### Assist families with:

- *Education* – assists with education as a whole such a consultant or finding out the need,
- *Employment* - work with employers to support hiring individuals with Autism, also work with all disabilities.
- *Support* with interviews, soft skills, and supporting their job such as Watch me grow.
- *Life Course*: helping students map out their vision for Student Life Trajectory.

Email: [Navigator@aaomi.org](mailto:Navigator@aaomi.org) Phone: (877) 463-AAOM <https://autismallianceofmichigan.org>  
<https://autismallianceofmichigan.org/minavigator-newsletters/>

3) Jessica Doletzky – **North Star Reach** - for families and children with significant medical needs. They let the kids be kids and provide experiences by offering year-round programs, at in-person camp and/or remote camps. Serves students ages 7-17 and is free of charge. Camp is located in Pinckney, MI. They work with partnering hospitals to help families in any area. <https://www.northstarreach.org>  
[jessica@northstarreach.org](mailto:jessica@northstarreach.org)

4) Leah Ketcheson - **P.L.A.N.E- Physical Literacy and Nutrition Education** - Adapted physical activities and nutrition resources and supports. Free for Children with Intellectual Disabilities and will start in person in January of 2022. Ages 2 -18  
For more information: Email [lightup@wayne.edu](mailto:lightup@wayne.edu) Website: <https://soarwithplane.org> or see flyer on p 6.

5) Steven Roy- Coach - **Special Olympics** in Dearborn starting at age 8 to participate in many different sports such as swimming. They will provide transportation, uniforms, and more. Social events such as Detroit Tigers and Light Festivals to help enrich childrens lives as well. This program is free of charge. For more information: <https://www.somi.org> [Family Handbook](#)

6) **Autism on the Seas** - Caters to ALL special needs guests regardless of age; Children Traveling with Family, Teenagers Traveling with Family, and Adults Traveling with Family or Group Home. AotS staff are said to be highly qualified and cruise with guests to provide and coordinate private activities and respite services. Respite times throughout the cruise range from 1 to 3 hours at a time. Private sessions assisted by staff at most of the ship's venues. Reserved seating for shows so guests do not need to arrive early. Private Muster Drill, expedited boarding and disembarkation. Reserved seating for all meals, and MORE...[Click here for more information](#)

7) **Living Learning Enrichment Center**- Located in Northville, they offer a variety of programs including social skills, job skills, performing arts, support groups, and camps. LLEC has an IT Academy and Mod Market. <https://www.livingandlearningcenter.org/>

8) **ACEing Autism**- 3 locations in MI (Ann Arbor, Northville, Novi) Special needs tennis program. They have buddies for all of the players to learn tennis skills. Advertised as for autism but they work with students with all disabilities. <https://aceingautism.org/>

9) **The Miracle League** - Adaptive baseball league.  
Plymouth: <https://www.miracleleagueofplymouth.com/> Southfield: <https://www.michiganmiracle.org>

10) **Gigi's Playhouse Detroit** in Southfield. Programs include Teentastic teen group, adult meets, art, GigiFit exercise, tutoring in math and reading, and now speech. All Free!  
<https://gigisplayhouse.org/detroit>

11) **A Kid Again** for kids and families - Helping children with medical needs and special needs.  
Location: 12 Mile Road & Evergreen Road <https://akidagain.org/chapter/michigan>

12) If you need **Special Education Mediation Service (SEMS)** assistance, please reach out to <https://www.mikids1st.org> or 1-833-KIDS-1st.

13) **Epilepsy Foundation** - offer many programs such as *Progress Towards Wellness* which is a free program that gives adults with epilepsy the chance to work with a personal Health Coach on goals related to managing their epilepsy and overall health, Learn & Share Conference Calls, Community Education and so much more. <https://epilepsymichigan.org/>

### III. Chairperson Report –

Please see #6-13 for additional resources for special needs or medical needs for children.

### IV. Vice Chairperson Report-

Nothing to report at this time.

V. **Secretary Report**- If you need business cards, please contact Samara Wolf. Please be sure to sign in at each meeting for meeting minute purposes and for year-end mileage reimbursement (only applies to in-person meetings). If the meeting is virtual, please make sure a member of the board knows you are in attendance so you can be accounted for.

VI. **Treasurer Report** - The account balance is \$2,251.30.

VII. **Subcommittee Reports** - Nothing to report this month.

VIII. **RESA Reports** –

## **Response to Oxford Crisis**

1. Since the tragic event at Oxford High School on November 30, 2021, and throughout the week, Dr. Colbert remained in close contact with Wayne County superintendents and WRESA staff to provide support, resources, and check-ins. Departments have reached out to colleagues in Oakland County to provide any support needed. Dr. Colbert was in contact with the Wayne County Sheriff's office, Michigan State Police and the Governor's office to ensure a safe learning environment within our schools. "Wayne RESA Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Resource Guide" developed by the Safe and Healthy Schools team was also shared with superintendents.
2. Wayne RESAs written statement is posted on the WRESA website, along with resources.

### ***Helping Children and Adolescents Cope with Disasters and Other Traumatic Events:***

- What Parents, Rescue Workers, and the Community Can Do:  
<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/helping-children-and-adolescents-cope-with-disasters-and-other-traumatic-events>

### ***Talking to Children about Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers***

- <https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-safety-and-crisis/school-violence-resources/talking-to-children-about-violence-tips-for-parents-and-teachers#:~:text=Reassure%20children%20that%20they%20are,in%20expressing%20the%20feelings%20appropriately>

### **Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS):**

- 24/7 Michigan Crisis and Access Line: 844-446-4225

## **Critical Shortage of Special Education Staff**

- Wayne RESA is in continued collaboration with regional partners and across state in order to attract prepare and retain teaching staff.

## **IX. Member Reports**

- A. Verna Broschks- Discussion about Gun Violence and the Wayne County PAC especially special needs parents for their children.
- B. Samara Wolf- Regina Baker will be missed in her position and wishes her the best on her retirement.

## **X. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Samara Wolf and seconded by Celestine Tarver to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m. Motion passed by majority present. No objections were made.

**The next WCPAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 6:30pm (virtual). (When in-person meetings are held at Wayne RESA in Boyd's Auditorium.)**



# THEATRE FOR ALL

## ABOUT OPENSLOT THEATRE

### WHO ARE WE?

We're a mobile theatre company, founded in 2011, for people with disabilities.

### ALL AGES

We offer classes from pre-schoolers to geriatrics.  
Our most popular age range is 10-30 years old.

### CUSTOMIZABLE CLASSES

From virtual to face-to-face, and one hour to eight weeks: we customize our class time, and curriculum, to meet your needs.

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### WHAT DO WE DO?

We go to a location or host a virtual classroom to teach singing, acting and dancing. At the end of the session we put on a performance that the students themselves wrote!

Students learn:

- Empowerment
- Social skills
- Teamwork
- And more!



### LEARN MORE



### OUR WEBSITE

[openspottheatre.com](https://openspottheatre.com)

### FACEBOOK

[facebook.com/openspottheatre](https://facebook.com/openspottheatre)

### INSTAGRAM

[instagram.com/openspottheatre](https://instagram.com/openspottheatre)



# Physical Literacy and Nutrition Education

Promoting positive trajectories of health for children on the autism spectrum

**PLANE, a program where children with Autism and their families can soar! The Center for Health and Community Impact (CHCI) at Wayne State University (WSU) provides an opportunity for families to take off together in a year round trip promoting health and well-being. Come and ascend with PLANE!**

PLANE offers year round health promotion programming for children with Autism and their families



We fill a significant void for afterschool health promotion programming for families



**100% of our families want more programs like PLANE in Detroit**

## PLANE is improving families health status



37% INCREASE IN CHILD PHYSICAL ACTIVITY



41% INCREASE IN TIME SPENT PLAYING OUTDOORS



70% OF FAMILIES ACHIEVE THEIR ACTIVITY GOALS EACH WEEK



“For me it means my child gets to join in an activity with children who are like her, with people who understand her unique needs. It is allowing her to be active in a way I'm not able to facilitate on my own. I'm so thankful for the program and my child loves it!”

### Next Step?

**PLANE 2.0  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE –  
LISTENING SESSIONS**



LEARN MORE! CONTACT US FOR ENROLLMENT INFORMATION [LIGHTUP@WAYNE.EDU](mailto:LIGHTUP@WAYNE.EDU)