

## **Parent Network of WNY Workshops**

### ***Special Education***

- Overview of Special Education - You know your child needs help but you don't know where to start! Learn the steps to the special education process. Understand your child's special education rights. Know what to expect at a Committee on Special Education (CSE) meeting.
- Overview of Special Education (Spanish) – Same as above, delivered in Spanish.
- Development of a Meaningful IEP - What is an IEP? Where do I begin? Is it really individualized and about my child? Learn the tools to be more involved in the planning of your child's education.
- Transition: From School To Adulthood - What happens after school? When do I start planning and what are my rights? Create a plan to be sure your child/young adult is ready to Live, Learn, Work and Play.

### ***Services***

- Roles of the Service Coordinator – Learn more about what the role of a service coordinator is in helping your child receive the services they need.
- Overview of Office of Mental Health (OMH) - My child is having trouble in school, at home, in the community. I think we need help. Where can I turn? What can I do? An introduction to the mental health system, where to start and how to work within the system.
- Overview of Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) - Learn about the services available for individuals with developmental disabilities and how to access them. Understand the role of a service coordinator and how to develop an Individual Service Plan (ISP).
- Home Modifications – If you are the parent of a child with physical disabilities, come learn about what may be available to make your home more accessible.

### ***Disability Specific***

- Autism – Learn more about autism spectrum disorders – how and why it is diagnosed and by whom. Discuss learning styles, recent research and ways to promote success at home, school and in the community.
- Down syndrome: An Overview - Understand more about Down syndrome - causes, characteristics, and associated conditions. Learn to look beyond the myths.
- Nonverbal Learning Disabilities – Learn what areas of the brain are affected by NLD. Understand how to break tasks into a series of small parts that are user friendly and lead to improved outcomes for individuals with NLD.
- Sensory Integration Dysfunction - Does your child have coordination and balance difficulties? Have they ever shown sensitivity to sounds, textures, or touch? Has there been any difficulty with speaking or learning basic sounds? You may want to learn more about sensory integration and what services to ask for to help your child.

### ***Helpful for Everyone***

- Assistive Technology - Gain an understanding of Assistive Technology (AT) and the services involved. Learn more about available AT devices and how they can allow students to successfully learn and complete tasks.
- Benefits/Financial Planning – Learn about Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and the laws and regulations that may affect your planning.
- Guardianship/Wills/Trusts – Learn more about the types of guardianship and the guardianship process. Understand who needs a guardian and why.
- Binder Building Workshop - Having well-organized papers at your fingertips gives you the upper hand when advocating for your child with special needs. Learn what papers to keep, why, and how this can help you receive necessary services for your student.
- Can I Make It? – Young adults planning to attend college will learn what is necessary to be successful after high school, including self advocacy skills.
- Inclusion: Know Your Choices – What is the least restrictive/most appropriate environment? What does inclusion look like? Learn your child/young adult's rights and walk away with some ideas on how to work with the school staff.
- Making It Work: Effective Communication - Learn how to improve your skills to effectively work with parents and family members to promote collaborative relationships with the final outcome of improved student achievement or services.
- Person Centered Planning – This workshop will help young adults to think about their future in the areas of live, learn, work and play. Participants will walk away with the beginning steps to a plan for their future.
- Homework Help - This interactive workshop will help parents learn specific ways to analyze how their child learns best and how to apply this information for helpful homework strategies.
- Keys to Empowerment - This full day workshop is designed to help students with special learning needs better understand themselves as learners and introduce them to the language of self advocacy.