



2016 Jan Minutes

Date/Time: Thursday Jan 14th, 7:00 PM - 9:00 Place: CGS Auditorium

Speaker: Exceptional Lives

Meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Lauren Miller, President. She introduced VP - Carolyn Wilkinson & Treasurer, Kristen Bisio. All gave updates about upcoming XBOX night Jan 22nd and plans for April Rec & Resource Fair. 5th year and trying to keep it fresh. Advised people to check out the FB page and encouraged all to like page. Up to 300 likes! Announced that SEPAC events qualify as community service for High School. First student at our craft fair this past Nov. Lauren then introduced Jay W O'Brien, Executive Dir & Hillary Dolinsky, LMSW & Dir of Community Programs of Exceptional Lives. They provide Individualized How-to Guides to assist families navigate the spec needs process.

Jay explained that they have brought together in guides all of the important information needed and made them free online. Guides available are on Guardianship, IEPs, MassHealth & SSI. The guide walks you through the topic step by step and helps you apply if needed. Upcoming guides will be on Transition and Education beyond High School. The guides are based on Mass regs but other states have used them as a guideline. Goal is to have guides available specific to every state. The guides available at their site: www.exceptionallives.org. You can also sign up for a free account and keep your guides there. Surveys are designed to improve the site and guides. The pathway you're given is based on your answers as you navigate through the guide. Jay then showed a guide and went through it. Hillary offered an opportunity for all present to review guides and give feedback. Emails were requested and given on a voluntary basis.

Public Q & A followed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.