

About the Conference

Understanding Special Education services and collaborating with school districts is critical for the success of students with special needs. This conference will present basic knowledge of the special education system, services that can be provided and afford participants an opportunity to strengthen the cooperation between the child serving systems and the Berks County school districts.

Who Should Attend?

Youth, parents, and family members are always encouraged to attend as well as professionals who work with youth and families in the fields of social work, mental health, mental retardation, child welfare, juvenile justice, education, drug and alcohol, faith-based organizations, health care, and community agencies.

Accommodations

Persons in need of special accommodations are asked to contact Sheila Bressler at 610-478-3271 x 6584

Hotel Reservations

Hotel reservations can be made by calling the Crowne Plaza at 610-376-3811

Conference Sponsors

This conference is presented by the Berks County Mental Health/Mental Retardation/HealthChoices Programs, Children and Youth Services, Juvenile Probation Office, Youth Center and The Council on Chemical Abuse

CASSP Coordinator
Berks County MH/MR
633 Court Street, 15th Floor
Reading, PA 19601

Special Education

What you need to know



Berks County CASSP Conference

June 21, 2010

8:30AM—4:00PM

Crowne Plaza
(formerly the Sheraton)
1741 Paper Mill Road
Wyomissing, PA

Conference Agenda

8:30 Registration
Continental breakfast

9:00 Opening remarks

9:15 Keynote speaker
"Why Can't We All Just Get Along: Educators and Social Services Agencies Playing Nice Together for Children" - Andrew E. Faust, Esquire

10:15 Break

10:30 Morning workshops

12:00 Lunch (provided)

1:00 Afternoon Presentation
"The Office of Dispute Resolution—Overview of Services and Activities" - Dixie Rider, Dispute Resolution Coordinator

2:15 Break

2:30 Afternoon workshops

4:00 Evaluations and certificates

About the keynote speaker:

Andrew E. Faust, Esquire—is a partner in the law firm of Sweet, Stevens, Katz & Williams LLP in New Britain, PA. Attorney Faust has spent the last 22 years representing public school entities in special education and civil rights matters at all levels of the PA and Federal administrative and judicial systems. He has been an advocate and advisor for Pennsylvania public schools and has provided numerous presentations to educators, parents and attorneys on changes in law, regulation and policy affecting special education.

Workshops

1. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
This workshop will provide a basic overview of the federal law that regulates Special Education services. It will cover how a child can become eligible for Special Education services and what the requirements are under the law.

2. The Individualized Education Program (IEP) Explained— Professionals who work in the child serving systems are often invited to be part of the child's IEP team. Knowing what an IEP is and understanding the different parts of this document is crucial to collaborating with school districts and family.

3. Coordination, Collaboration, Cooperation— Working together to ensure that students needs are being met both in and outside the classroom is what this workshop is all about. Get answers to questions about special education services for students who are in out of home placements or in the custody of Children and Youth Services.

4. Education Advocates—What is an education advocate? When should they get involved? What is their role? This workshop, presented by local advocates and special education directors, will focus on how advocates and schools can work together for the best interest of the child.

5. Parent's Rights & Responsibilities—Parents need to be active partners with the education system to ensure the best services for their children. The focus of this workshop will be on how parents can be effective partners with school personnel in supporting their child's special learning and behavioral needs.

6. IEP's for Transition Age Youth—IEP's for students age 16 and older need to contain appropriate, measurable, post-secondary goals. Transition coordinators within the 18 Berks County school districts are available to help students develop and reach those goals. This workshop will address some of those activities and programs and discuss the role that child serving systems play.

Registration Form

Please circle one AM workshop and one PM workshop

	Workshop 1	AM	PM
	Workshop 2	AM	PM
	Workshop 3	AM	PM
	Workshop 4	AM	PM
	Workshop 5	AM	PM
	Workshop 6	AM	PM

Name _____

Family member/Agency/Organization _____

Address _____

Phone and Email _____

Cost: \$15.00 per person

Checks can be made payable to the Berks County MH/MR Program

***Scholarships available for family members**

(Contact Sheila Bressler 610-478-3271 x 6584)

Mail

Mail your registration and payment by June 11, 2010 to:
Berks County CASSP Coordinator
Berks County MH/MR
633 Court Street, 15th Floor
Reading, PA 19601

Berks County Commissioners

Mark C. Scott, Chair
Christian Y. Leinbach
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