

# *Community Connect Midcoast Area Group*

## *May 2, 2017 - 4:30 to 6 pm in Brunswick*

JOIN US !



SAVE THE DATE

The **Community Connect Midcoast Area Group** will be meeting at Independence Association in Brunswick on Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 4:30 to 6 pm.

For those who were unable to attend any of the recent Adult Developmental Services Section 21 Forums, we will review what was discussed at these events as well as the status of current legislative initiatives in Augusta.

The Office of Aging and Disability Services (OADS) held a number of forums over the last month to obtain feedback on **Section 21 Home and Community Based Waiver Services**. These forums provided individuals, families, guardians, case managers and providers with the opportunity to ask questions and bring any concerns they might have to the attention of state personnel--and offer suggestions regarding services.

On May 2<sup>nd</sup> we will devote our **Community Connect** meeting to what was discussed at these forums, as well as legislation currently being considered regarding raising DSP (Direct Services Personnel) pay, expanding Section 29 services to 40 hours a week, and eliminating the waitlist for services for individuals with intellectual disabilities or autism.

**If you were unable to attend one of these forums, please note:**

The next Maine Coalition for Housing and Quality Services meeting is **Monday, May 8, 2017, 12-2pm**, in the **Burton Fisher Community Meeting Room**, located on the **First Floor of One City Center, Portland**, and at **at least ten remote sites (including Brunswick)**. Featured speakers will be **Jennifer Fales**, Initiatives & Clinical Review Program Manager, OADS-DHHS, and **Karen Mason**, Associate Director, OADS-DHHS. **The meeting topic will be: OADS Section 21 Forums Presentations.**

**The new Director for OADS-DHHS, Daniel Sylvester, is also expected to attend.**

This will be another chance to provide feedback to OADS personnel, learn about changes in the system, and share stories about current challenges you and your family

**Please consider joining us on Facebook.** **Community Connect Maine** is a closed group page and is a convenient way for family members and those that may be in a supportive role to connect online. This new format is a great resource and education tool that allows anyone who is in this group to weigh in about topics of importance in an open and supportive dialog without leaving their home to attend a meeting.

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/1138916499562998/?ref=aymt\\_homepage\\_panel](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1138916499562998/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel)

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**NOTE:** *Independence Association in Brunswick (87 Baribeau Drive) is now a remote site for the monthly **Maine Coalition for Housing and Quality Services** meetings that are held in Portland at noon on the second Tuesday of each month. All are welcome to come by Independence Association and attend the Coalition without having to drive to Portland!*

The **Maine Coalition for Housing and Quality Services** began in May 2006, formed by a group of parents of children with special needs. Ultimately, the goal of the Coalition is to create a system of quality housing and personal supports that is person- and family-centered, with choice, dignity, and efficiency being at the forefront of efforts.

There are some 4000 parents and other advocates involved. If you've never checked out the Coalition website, go to <http://www.maineparentcoalition.org/>. You'll find a wealth of information easily accessed by topic.

**Community Connect** is a family driven statewide group that holds meetings in the Lewiston/Auburn, Bangor/Orono and Bath/Brunswick regions. Its purpose is to promote education, information sharing, and networking, with the goal of improving the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities—and be a resource for those that support and care for them.

**Community Connect** provides an opportunity for family, individuals, and community members who are involved with supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities and/or autism to meet and discuss what matters most to them. **All are welcome!**

**Community Connect** usually meets monthly, alternating between Bath and Brunswick locations. In Bath we meet at Elmhurst, Inc. (400 Centre Street, Bath), and in Brunswick our meetings are held at Independence Association (87 Baribeau Drive).