

Rep. Dan Miller's 5th Annual Disability Summit

March 22 - 23, 2018
Beth El Congregation

Special Presentations

March 22nd



Teresa Miller
Secretary of
Human Services

March 23rd



Pedro Rivera
Secretary of
Education

March 23rd



Mike Doyle
Congressman
14th District

March 23rd



Legislative Panel

Summit at a Glance

Thursday, March 22nd

Support Services Resource Fair, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

9 a.m. - 10 a.m.	Keynote Speaker: Secretary Teresa Miller - Department of Human Services Update <i>Main Sanctuary</i>			
10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	Music Therapy & the Benefits of Parent-Child Interaction Therapy <i>Sufrin Chapel</i>	An Overview of the ADA & Current Challenges Facing People with Disabilities <i>Main Sanctuary</i>		Executive Functioning: Tools for Success <i>Community Room</i>
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Transitions from Early Intervention to School <i>Sufrin Chapel</i>	Evidence-Based Practices for School & Home <i>Community Room</i>	Autism and Legal Issues: A Growing Concern <i>Main Sanctuary</i>	Special Screening: The Rain Man Effect <i>Balk Chapel</i>
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK			
1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Ten Things You Need to Know about Special Education <i>Main Sanctuary</i>	Extended School Year (ESY) What? Why? Who? Where? <i>Sufrin Chapel</i>		Improving Outcomes: New Treatments to Support Verbal Adolescents & Adults <i>Community Room</i>
3 p.m. - 4 p.m.	From Parent to Advocate in 5 Easy Steps (A program by Allegheny Family Network) <i>Main Sanctuary</i>	Promoting Healthy Sleep for Children & Teens with a Developmental Disability <i>Community Room</i>		A Home of My Own <i>Sufrin Chapel</i>
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Need IEP help? Free attorney consultations on site to answer your questions			
4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.	Opening New Opportunities with Assistive Technology <i>Main Sanctuary</i>	A Family's Guide to Understanding Evaluation & Reevaluation Reports <i>Community Room</i>		Financial Planning <i>Sufrin Chapel</i>
6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Transition to Adulthood (A program by 21 & Able, an initiative of the United Way of Southwest PA and The PEAL Center) <i>Community Room</i>			

Friday, March 23rd

Employment & Transition Resource Fair, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Influence to Action: Advocacy, Leadership & Transition (A program by Pittsburgh Youth Leadership Taskforce, a part of the PA Youth Initiative) <i>Community Room</i>			
9 a.m. - 10 a.m.	Keynote Speaker: Secretary Pedro Rivera Department of Education Update <i>Main Sanctuary</i>			
10 a.m. - 11 a.m.	The Autism Caucus and Federal Disability Policy with Congressman Mike Doyle <i>Main Sanctuary</i>			
11 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Federal Legislation Update from the Office of Senator Casey <i>Main Sanctuary</i>			
12 p.m. - 1 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK			
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	Legislative Panel: State Policies on Disabilities <i>Main Sanctuary</i>			

Special thanks to our program partners for this year's Summit!



SESSIONS

Thursday, March 22nd

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Keynote

1. Keynote: Department of Human Services (DHS) Update

Main Sanctuary

Secretary Teresa Miller, PA Dept. Human Services

No matter your diagnosis, no state agency is as important to the lives and futures of the many Pennsylvanians who have disabilities as DHS. In an increasingly challenging financial climate, guiding DHS and accomplishing its mission is no easy task. Secretary Teresa Miller will give us an update on her efforts to provide needed services efficiently in order to increase independence and maximize taxpayer resources under the direction of Governor Tom Wolf.

Thursday 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

2. Music Therapy and the Benefits of Parent-Child Interaction Therapy

Sufrin Chapel

Katie Harrill, Wesley Family Services

Arianna Bendlin, Wesley Family Services

Megan Hoffman, Wesley Family Services

Over the past two decades, music therapy and parent-child interaction therapy (PCIT) have emerged as cutting edge therapeutic interventions for children with autism and other developmental and behavioral disorders. Music therapy is an evidence-based therapy which uses music interventions to accomplish individualized goals that address the child's physical, emotional, cognitive, communication and social needs. PCIT is another evidence-based practice for children with behavioral disorders that emphasizes improving the parent-child relationship and changing parent-child interaction patterns by coaching caregivers in real time to help manage their child's disruptive behaviors. The presenters will describe the treatments and discuss how the programs complement each other and work to attain similar goals for clients.

3. An Overview of the ADA and Current Challenges Facing People with Disabilities

Main Sanctuary

Carol Horowitz, Esq., Disability Rights Network

The Americans with Disabilities Act was enacted 27 years ago. This session will discuss what the law looks like today, what the current challenges are and what the impact of proposed federal legislation might be.

4. Executive Functioning: Tools for Success

Community Room

Ralph Wilps, Jr., PhD, Clinical Psychologist

Ms. Rebecca Hahn, MA, CRC, LPC, Counseling For PROGRESS, LLC

Executive function refers to a set of mental skills that help a person get things done. Difficulties in executive functioning can be associated with ADHD, autism, concussions or other diagnoses and can lead to problems in school, relationships and employment. In this session, professionals and parents will learn how to address executive functioning difficulties (including those that impact organization, time management, mental flexibility and self-control) using therapeutic interventions and assistive technology.

Thursday 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

5. Transitions from Early Intervention to School

Sufrin Chapel

Lissa Geiger Shulman, *Trying Together*

Emily Neff, *Trying Together*

Vonna May-Miller, *The Alliance for Infants and Toddlers*

Elizabeth Strickland, *Pittsburgh Public Schools Early Intervention Program*

The transition from early intervention to elementary school is a critical period in the learning and development of a child. This session will focus on what families should expect and will provide information to guide a smooth transition of services. Resources will include a timeline, as well as information on the roles and responsibilities of EI programs, the school district, and parents. We will share questions to ask and discuss available options for families.

6. Evidence-Based Practices for School & Home

Community Room

Lori Sutton, *Bethel Park School District*

Tina Tolkacevic, *Mt. Lebanon School District*

Evidence-based practices are shown to improve student outcomes when utilized for teaching and learning in school classrooms. This session will define what these practices are related to various disability categories. A focus on strategies to support students with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) will be presented. Resources will be shared on practices to implement at school and home.

Important Information about Lunch

The Lunch Buffet is for individuals who have pre-ordered lunch. There are no sales during the event. Individuals will receive a lunch ticket for each day they have pre-paid.

12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Thu., March 22nd — blue ticket

12:00 - 1:00 p.m., Fri., March 23rd — yellow ticket

NO OUTSIDE food is permitted inside the synagogue. If you did not pre-order lunch, there are several local restaurant options nearby. We ask that you finish your lunch before returning to the Summit out of respect for our hosts. Thank you for your cooperation.

7. Autism and Legal Issues: A Growing Concern

Main Sanctuary

Shawn McGill, *MSW, LSW*

There is growing concern about those with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) who engage in behaviors that are or could be considered illegal. This session will explain what has changed over the years and will explore what we can do to provide better education, support and services to divert people from the criminal justice system. This session is for professionals or those who love or support those with ASD or other cognitive disabilities.

8. Special Screening: “The Rain Man Effect”

Balk Chapel

Staff and participants of YAP's Allegheny County Adult Autism program, under the direction of Brian Kluchurosky, Program Director

“The Rain Man Effect” is a documentary that explores a disorder that was largely given a first impression through the spectacle of film. What resulted was an unrealistic and inaccurate understanding of the disorder, and it branded autism through stigmas, generalizations and stereotypes. The impact has burdened those diagnosed with autism in many ways, perhaps most significantly in the realm of employment. The movie was fiction, but the effect is real...the time to advocate is now.

Thursday 1:45 – 2:45 p.m.

9. Ten Things You Need to Know about Special Education

Main Sanctuary

Jeff Ruder, Esq., *Ruder Law*

IEPs and 504 plans can be confusing. With so many pages and so much data, it's easy for parents and self-advocates to get lost in the process. Ruder Law, which specializes in representing parents of students with disabilities in school matters, will share the keys to being a strong advocate. Attorneys from the firm will also offer free, private consultations to go more in-depth as to your child's specific issues.

10. Extended School Year (ESY) – What? Why?

Who? Where?

Sufrin Chapel

Brian Welles, *Allegheny Intermediate Unit*

Holly McElhinny, *Allegheny Intermediate Unit*

Extended School Year (ESY) is a critical part of providing a free and appropriate public education to certain students with disabilities. Join us for this informative session as we address some of the most common questions about ESY, including who qualifies, how that determination is made, what kinds of programs qualify, and so much more.

Free IEP/504 Clinic

Private, 15 minute appointments are available with Ruder Law to answer your questions. Appointments are still available for Thursday. Look for the Clinic sign in the registration area to check in.

11. Improving Outcomes: New Treatments to Support Verbal Adolescents and Adults

Community Room

Carla A. Mazefsky, PhD, *Center for Excellence in Autism Research, Department of Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine*

Adolescence and adulthood present unique challenges for individuals with ASD as they attempt to navigate complex social dynamics in school and in the workplace. Recognizing the great need for treatments to support the transition to adulthood and improve adult outcomes in ASD, the *Emotion Awareness and Skills Enhancement (EASE)* and *Perspectives Programs* at the University of Pittsburgh were developed. Attendees will be introduced to these new research-based psychosocial interventions that help verbal adolescents and adults with ASD develop the emotional, cognitive, and social abilities needed to succeed in adolescence and adulthood.

Thursday 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.



12. From Parent to Advocate in 5 Easy Steps

Main Sanctuary

Maria Silva, *Allegheny Family Network*

Most people would agree that parents fill many roles in the lives of their children, including teaching, encouraging, supporting and setting limits. Parents of children with disabilities have another important role to play – the role of advocate. Advocating for your child in school, in medical settings and in other areas is a critical piece in ensuring that their needs are met as effectively as possible. Join us as we talk about five steps in the journey from parent to advocate and learn more about how to become a successful advocate for your child.

13. Promoting Healthy Sleep for Children & Teens with a Developmental Disability

Community Room

Ryan Anderson, PhD, *Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC*

Sleep is something we all do—whether we do it well or not. Yet many of us understand very little about sleep: what it is, why it is important, and how it can be improved. People with a developmental disability such as autism, intellectual disability, or a genetic condition that affects development seem to be especially prone to sleep problems. What can be done? Dr. Anderson will provide an overview of the most common sleep problems, how they are assessed in a behavioral health clinic, and how they can be treated using behavioral techniques.

14. A Home of My Own

Sufrin Chapel

Michelle Stockunas, *Manager of ACHIEVA's "A Home of My Own"*

"A Home of My Own" is an innovative way for people with disabilities to move out of their family home and into homes of their own. Key elements of "A Home of My Own" will be discussed: true person-centered thinking and practice, the importance of support brokerage, people choosing where and with whom they wish to live, interviewing and choosing Life Coaches, and customized, individualized supports. The process will be explained from the initial phone call for information to "move in" day and the resources (home and community based waivers and other government benefits) that enable people to achieve their dreams of having a place of their own.

Thursday 4:15 – 5:15 p.m.

15. Opening New Opportunities with Assistive Technology

Main Sanctuary

Susan Tachau, *PA Assistive Technology Foundation*

Assistive technology provides creative solutions that enable individuals with disabilities to be more independent and productive. This session will discuss what types of assistive technology are available, how they can enhance quality of life and how to find resources to pay for them.



16. A Family's Guide to Understanding Evaluation and Reevaluation Reports

Community Room

Cindy Duch, *The PEAL Center*

Learn and understand each step of the evaluation/reevaluation process to be an active and informed decision maker in your child's education. This session will explore what occurs from when an initial evaluation is first requested to generation of the report itself. We will talk about the information, observations and recommendations provided by parents or guardians and school personnel, including all of the fine print that parents or guardians need to know. We will also walk through the summary of findings and how to review the evaluation and follow up, as well as covering what happens if there is a disagreement. You will walk away from this session feeling fully equipped to understand evaluation and reevaluation reports.

17. Financial Planning

Sufrin Chapel

Rich Howard, *River Communities Fiduciary Services, Inc.*,
Eric O'Connor, *River Communities Fiduciary Services, Inc.*,
Nora Gieg Chatha, Esq., *Tucker Arensberg*
Brittany R. Holzer, Esq., *Tucker Arensberg*

Throughout their lives, individuals living with disabilities will face unique situations with which they will need knowledgeable, professional help and support. By attending

this session, you will learn how and when to get started on a financial plan as well as how to use tools such as supplemental needs trusts, powers of attorney, and guardianships to benefit the plan.

Thursday 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.



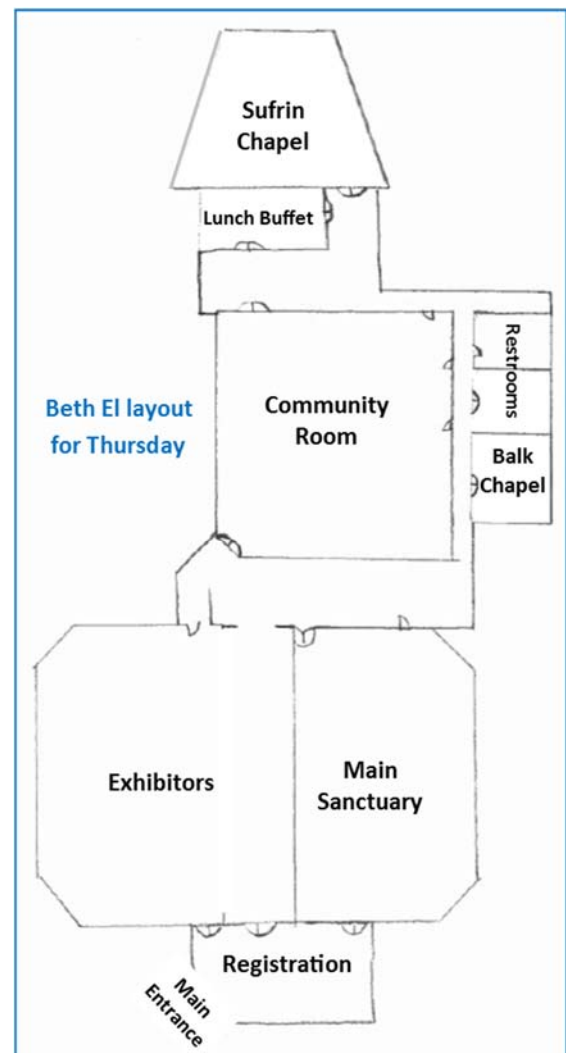
18. Transition to Adulthood

Community Room

A 21 and Able Program, an initiative of United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania, in partnership with PEAL
Jeanine Schultz, *The PEAL Center*

Katie Smith, *The PEAL Center*

One of the best ways to ensure a better bridge to adulthood for you or your child is to actively participate in the transition process. In this session, you will learn how to effectively engage with your school and community to get the most out of the transition process. We will address school, community, employment, housing, waivers and more. You will also learn more about resources and support services for transition to adulthood. At this session, your individual questions will be answered and connections will be made to those who can help.



Friday, March 23rd
9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Keynote

19. Keynote: Pennsylvania Department of Education Update *Main Sanctuary*

Secretary Pedro Rivera, *PA Dept. of Education*
Over the last 20 years, Pennsylvania schools have forged a path toward more inclusive practices for students with disabilities. Pennsylvania’s special education data reveal that there has been a steady increase in the number of students with disabilities who are accessing general education curriculum and standards, graduating with their peers, participating in extracurricular activities, and achieving post-school outcomes. While those accomplishments have brought about success, there are unique challenges in today’s world that lead us to continue to push boundaries and ensure all students graduate college, career, and community ready. While underscoring the impact of equity and transparency, Secretary Rivera will provide an update on the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s vision to help advance strong educational outcomes for all students. Highlights will include how teachers, parents, and students must work together to create a robust educational system that draws upon the science of learning, promising practices, and resources to support students with disabilities, including those with complex needs. **Note: with Special Guest Ann Hinkson-Hermann, Director for the Bureau of Special Education**

Friday 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

20. The Autism Caucus & Federal Disability Policy with Congressman Mike Doyle *Main Sanctuary*

Congressman Mike Doyle, *U.S. House of Representatives*
Congressman Doyle is a co-founder and co-chair of the *Coalition for Autism Research and Education (CARE)*, commonly referred to as the Autism Caucus. He will provide a history of the caucus, as well as current efforts and legislative priorities, especially in the House of Representatives, that impact the disability community.

Friday 11:00 am – 12:00 p.m.

21. Federal Legislation Update from the Office of Senator Bob Casey *Main Sanctuary*

Dr. Michael Gamel-McCormick, *Disability Policy Director for Senator Bob Casey*
Dr. Michael Gamel-McCormick, Disability Policy Director for Senator Bob Casey, will give us an overview of the major federal legislation and activity that have occurred thus far in the 115th Congress. Along with a broad overview of what’s been happening, special attention will be given to issues that impact children and adults with disabilities in education, health care and employment.

Friday 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

22. Legislative Panel *Main Sanctuary*

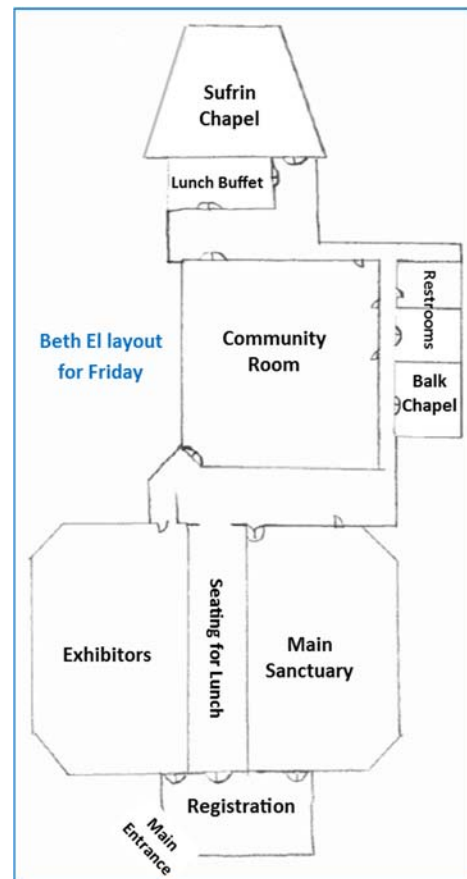
Moderated by State Representative Dan Miller
Representatives, Senators, and elected leaders from across the area will get together for a panel discussion to talk about state policies and legislative initiatives that need to advance in order to increase independence and opportunity for everyone.

Friday 9:00 – 1:30 p.m. (For Students Only)

P Influence to Action: Advocacy, Leadership and Transition *Community Room*

A Pittsburgh Youth Leadership Taskforce program, part of the Pennsylvania Youth Initiative

This session is for transition-age students only. Keynote Speaker David Loshelder, Distinguished Mental Health Professional, Martial Arts Instructor and Author, will open the session with tips on how to address bullying. Students will then learn skills for how to become a leader of tomorrow, how to navigate disability support services through self-advocacy, how to interact with elected officials, and how to network with potential employers at the Employment and Transition Resource Fair. This program will culminate with the Legislative Panel.





Continuing Education Credits

You must obtain forms in the Registration Area – look for the Continuing Education sign.

CEU Credits for Social Workers

This program is offered for up to 13.5 hours of social work (minimum of 2.0 hours) continuing education through co-sponsorship of the University of Pittsburgh's School of Social Work, a Council on Social Work Education-accredited school and, therefore, a PA pre-approved provider of social work continuing education. These credit hours satisfy requirements for LSW/LCSW, LPC, and LMFT biennial license renewal. You must provide a check in the amount of \$10 payable to the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, along with your completed forms prior to leaving the Summit.

Act 48 Credits for Educators

Up to 13.5 Act 48 hours are offered for this event. To ensure that your Act 48 hours are correctly reported to PDE, please provide your seven-digit Professional Personnel Identification (PPID) number when completing your registration. There is no cost to obtain these credits and no additional paperwork to submit.

CLE Credit for Lawyers

This program is offered for up to 8 hours of substantive CLE credit. Individuals will receive forms for each session they attend and are responsible for completing and mailing all forms, along with the appropriate fee (payable to PACLE) to the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board. The certification fee is \$1.50/credit hour or partial credit hour. All sessions on the form are available for legal credit.

Thank You!

Thank you to all the members of our planning committee. They worked for months to develop sessions, secure continuing education credits and ensure that we offer programs well-tailored to the issues of today. I would also like to thank our major programming partners – The Peal Center, 21 & Able, Allegheny Family Network and PYLT – who have brought their expertise to the table to help us create the preeminent event in Western PA. Many thanks also to Joe Polk from Thirteen Ball who volunteered his time to update and manage our website and to St. Clair Hospital, who for the 4th consecutive year, has covered our costs so that we can keep the event free for everyone. Of course, there would be no event without the fantastic support of Beth El Congregation. Our hosts open their doors to us and spend months helping to make this event special. There can be no doubt that all of these people and organizations helped my office to help others, and I am truly grateful for everyone's efforts.

Dan Miller
State Representative, 42nd Legislative District



**BETH EL CONGREGATION
OF THE SOUTH HILLS**





STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Dan Miller

42ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE

650 Washington Road, Suite 102
Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228
(412) 343-3870

Capitol OFFICE

116 East Wing
P.O. Box 202042
Harrisburg PA 17120
(717) 783-1850



@RepDanMiller



RepMiller@pahouse.net



www.pahouse.com/Miller