**Special Education Advisory Committee, (SEAC)**

**December 14, 2017  
Notes**

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| **Topics** | **Discussion** | **Follow-Up** |
| Welcome Agenda Introductions | * Philip A. Lynch, director, Department of Special Education Services, opened the meeting with introductions and reviewed the agenda. * Kevin E. Lowndes, Associate Superintendent * SEAC Co-chairs introduced themselves |  |
| age1image2306616416  Public Testimony  age1image2306617280 | Public comments:  Informal parent comments were shared and the group discussed staffing for specials such as art, PE, and music |  |
| age1image2306629072Special Needs Round Table Trust | Eric Jorgensen – Parent, Special Needs Planner moderated the round table meeting  A special thank you to:   * Matthew Bogin – Special Needs Attorney, Bogin Law shared information about trus * Barbara Mulitz – Vice President Trusts, Sandy Spring Bank * Yolanda Mazyck – Executive Director, Shared Horizons * Sandra (Sandy) Miller – Vice President, The Family Heritage Trust Co. * Randy Thompson – Chief Operating Officer, The Family Heritage Trust Co.   The Pathfinders for Autism website has a parent friendly breakdown by age of what parents need to do for their child by age: <http://pathfindersforautism.org>  **ABLE account-** Achieving a Better Life Experience:  Parents can contribute $15,000 per year maximum. The account cannot hold more than $100,000 before impacting SSI limits. You can start the ABLE account at any age as long as participant was diagnosed prior to age 26. It is unlike a first party trust that has no treshold. Withdraws are tax free for qualified expenses.  **Shared Horizons** is a non-profit that offers pulled trust accounts. The accounts are combined for investing power. Folks that have modest means but have too much for SSI can benefit from this. They also manage accounts that are not pulled. They focus on staying up to date with SSI, Medicaid, and housing. They work on quality of life plan- budget that is reviewed annually. They will work with any co-trustees. <https://www.shared-horizons.org/>  **Sandy Spring Bank:** A professional trustee takes the issues and becomes part of the team- they worry about taxes, liability, etc. They meet with families at least annually. It is good to establish relationships early, and get to know the people working on your child’s trust.  **Family Heritage:** They take on small accounts | If you would like to request the commonly asked questions and answers that were discussed, e-mail Jennifer R. Strouble, instructional Specialist, Department of Special Education Services at Jennifer\_R\_Strouble@mcpsmd.org |