

## **Community Engagement Report**

**January - 2024**

**Visits – 160**

**Volunteer Hours – 11**

In January, the Community Learning Center had 172 independent visits where people participated in classes, activities, or chose to hang out with friends. The Center had 6 volunteers who provided 11 hours of volunteer time by helping to assist with tasks around the Center such as helping with newsletters, sanitizing the sensory room, organizing art supplies and teaching Exercise Your Mind. The Center was closed seven days in January due to snow. The Parent-to-Parent Group and People First did not meet during the month because of weather.

During January, the CLC continued to offer its regularly scheduled activities with the addition of Exercise Your Mind. Students from Dr. Cox's class at TSU have returned this semester to offer this class that focuses on techniques used in Cognitive Stimulation Therapy that they students are learning to become certified. Melissa scheduled a class to teach individuals who have graduated from Project STIR the skills they would need to be peer-teacher. The class was canceled due to the people who were originally interested not being able to attend due to personal reasons. The class will be rescheduled in the future when these people are available again.

During the month Melissa participated in the monthly MOAAIDD Board meeting. The Board has been preparing for their annual conference on March 21<sup>st</sup> in Columbia. She also participated in the monthly Transition to Adulthood Coalition meeting, Interagency meeting, and SB40 Board meeting. She also facilitated two Conference Committee meetings to work on details for the Community Engagement Conference on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Additionally, Melissa met with Crystal and Lacey Partin from Preferred Family Healthcare to schedule a Mental Health First Aid training for SB40 staff on Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. At the end of the month, Melissa met with Jennifer Walston and the lady's group from Countryside Christian Church. The group is working on preparing an Easter egg hunt for children under the age of 12 in SB40 services and their families.

Melissa also continued to work closely with Katy on details for the conference. Katy worked to obtain sponsorships, exhibitors, and a few door prizes. Melissa continued to work on the conference website and promoting the conference.

Throughout January, Angela led the activities at the Center and worked with Jim, the volunteer who teaches our science class, to offer fun hands-on activities including beginning to work on creating solar powered cars. Angela also compiled the monthly community activities list, assisted volunteers with newsletters and tasks around the Center.