**Transitioning to Adulthood**

*What to consider as your child approaches the age of majority (18)*

\_\_\_\_**Financial Security**

Your child may be ineligible for services or programs if they have assets or income above a certain amount. Money in a “Special Needs Trust” is protected. The ARC of Oakland County or a financial advisor who specializes in the financial matters of children and adults with disabilities can assist you in creating a financially secure future for your child before the age of 18.

\_\_\_\_**Michigan Personal Identification Cards**

Michigan ID cards are available to any Michigan resident regardless of age at any Secretary of State office. If your child is under the age of 18, you must present one form of identification with their full name and date of birth (ex. an original birth certificate). If your child is over 18, you must present 3 forms of ID with full name and birth date. Your child must be present and will be photographed. A parent or guardian’s signature is required. There is a $10 fee which is waived if you present documented proof of your child’s disability.

\_\_\_\_**Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN)**

Agencies contracting with OCHN assist by connecting people with community living supports, respite providers and programs, behavioral counseling, housing supports and post graduation programming. Macomb Oakland Regional Center (MORC) and Community Living Services (CLS) are the two agencies in Oakland County that provide services to people with developmental disabilities. In order for your child to obtain these services they must first have Medicaid and go through an eligibility screening. Call 248-464-6363 to schedule an eligibility screening for services.

\_\_\_\_**Guardianship**

When your child turns 18, they are legally an adult and become their own guardian unless you seek some form of guardianship or durable power of attorney. You will not be legally permitted to make major decisions for your child including those related to medical treatment, finances, housing, education and more. There are multiple forms of guardianship that allow for varying levels of independence. The Oakland County ARC at 248.816.1900 can offer information about guardianship options.

**\_\_\_\_Applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**

Your child may be eligible for SSI. Even if there was a past denial based on family income level, your child may become eligible once they turn 18. Once a person turns 18, SSI eligibility is based on disability and individual income. Make an appointment at 1.800.722.1213 to apply and make sure your son/daughter attends the appointment since they are the adult applying. If your child is 18 or over, the SSI office will only talk to your child unless guardianship has been established.

\_\_\_\_**Applying for Medicaid**

If your child is approved for SSI, Medicaid is automatic. You can apply separately for Medicaid at the Michigan Department of Human Services. Your child must have Medicaid before applying for adult services through Community Mental Health (MORC or CLS).

**\_\_\_\_School completion planning**

Children receiving Special Education services and programs are eligible for these services until the age of 26 (Michigan only). It is recommended that you and your child are connected to MORC or CLS, and/or Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) prior to the end of school. The agency you choose will work with you to find post school opportunities that meet your child’s needs. The district’s transition consultant can assist you and your child in connecting with applicable agencies/resources prior to school completion.