

MINUTES of 12.14.2024

MDC Circle of Friends

mattscircle.org

yikesbev.com

[YIKES! Instagram](#)

[Amazon Wish List](#)

[Zoom link here](#)

2025 Microboard Meeting Dates

January 25, 2025

Liz will send out a Doodle poll to select the rest of the 2025 meeting dates

ATTENDANCE VIA ZOOM: Jan, Liz, Flip, Barb, Cami, Courtney and Allister and John

Quality of Life Updates: Liz

Gwen, Nataiya's mother-in-law, continues to have a great relationship with Matt. When she comes, they go to Trader Joes, and for walks in the forest preserve. When needed, using Matt's car for transportation when they are together

James continues to be an anchor for Matt.

John reported that "Matt is as happy as I have seen him."

Liz shared that the vibe at the group home where Matt was going on Fridays for to make personal pizzas and play Uno card games has changed for various reasons—new staff, etc. she feels this activity may have run its course, but will try to pick it back up as BBQ at the beach next summer, including some other folks that Matt knows.

HOLIDAY PARTY

No holiday party this year. Maybe a Valentine's Day Party.

Flip and Gabrielle will be in town December 19th or 20th. They will help Matt put up the tree and make cookies and, maybe, sloppy joes.

FOURTH QUARTER 2024 NEWSLETTER...Gratitude, Christmas, Happy New Year

Courtney and Liz have put together a most wonderful newsletter which was shared online on 12/15/24. A suggestion to donate to MDC for Matt along with a donation link could be added to the newsletter.

10th anniversary of YIKES! In 2025.

Jan volunteered to work with Courtney and Liz to put together a newsletter for the 10th anniversary of YIKES

Jan agreed to look into some kind of press release celebrating YIKES! Could be put in *Make it Better* magazine, and the suburban on-line newsletter *Patch*, she reported back at the December 14th, 2024 meeting.

Could Total Link also share some kind of press release? (not sure who or how this might happen).

YIKES! Update : Liz

[Treasurer's Report](#) -John

Apartment Repairs - Lee

No update at this meeting since Lee wasn't present.

Residential and Day Support Update: Liz

The saga of which agency is paying for daytime staffing at Matt's home continues.

But, Good news...Liz shared that a new agency, IAG (Individual Advocacy Group) who is managing several group homes on the north shore, might be interested in taking Matt on as a client. Michelle from the agency) came and visited Matt and it went well. Liz is waiting to hear back from them..They also seemed interested in hiring James (one of Matt's day persons) and maybe Gwen. Liz feels that this Agency understands how to clinically support someone with autism.

Recently Liz & Lee were on a Zoom call with IAG and they would do everything on Matt's behalf including handling the lease, painting the apartment, and maintain things around the apartment.

Liz is hopeful. Cami asked if there was anything the microbard could do and to let her/all of us know.

AIG is especially interested that Matt is self-employed with his vending business YIKES! And would be supportive of Matt being able to continue making vending deliveries. You can follow them on [Instagram](#) STAY TUNED!

Staff Appreciation

End of 2024/Holiday-Barb

-Barb will get gift cards for James and Gwen and Nataiya and Nicole/

-John and Liz will figure out giving cash gifts for the rest of Matt's staff.