

The Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange is a program of Judson Center and is funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

To learn about foster care adoption and view photolistings and videos of waiting children, visit our website at [www.mare.org](http://www.mare.org).



# MARE makes Meet & Greets virtual

## Here's what your families and youth need to know

Virtual Meet & Greets are MARE's new events for families who are approved for adoption and youth who are photolisted on MARE. These events are still a great way for youth and families to meet and interact with one another!

Prior to the pandemic, we were able to host these events in person. However, since then we've started hosting these events virtually via Zoom. We plan to host

these events once a month; however due to the virtual platform we will be hosting them in smaller groups.

As a worker it is still important to help prepare your youth for these events ahead of time:

- Talk with your youth about some of the fears and anxieties that they may be feeling prior to the event, especially if they have never attended before.

- Help to normalize those feelings for them.
- Explain to them that this is just a fun opportunity to meet some nice people who are there to meet them.
- If a youth is on the event waitlist, it's best for the youth to not be prepped for the event by either you or the residential staff unless they get approved to attend and

See [Meet & Greets](#) on page 4





## **MARE Social Work Staff**

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### ***MARE registration questions, "Let's Talk" forms, "other" holds***

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### ***Inquiry and worker documentation and dashboard support, trainings***

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### ***Child specific recruitment activities, Youth Advisory Board, Child Specific Recruitment Plans***

Jennifer Brooks, Permanency Specialist  
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### ***Hold registrations, hold reports, discharging cases from MARE, misc. data reports***

Jerry Balazovich, Data Analyst  
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### ***Heart Gallery, Prayer and Recruitment Cards, Events, Meet & Greets***

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### ***MARE videos***

Corinne Toussaint, Communications Specialist  
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### ***Photolisting narratives, social media, publications, MARE website updates***

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### ***Out-of-state family inquiries, ordering MARE materials***

Karen Gowan, Support Staff  
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**Continued on Page 3**

## **Adoption Navigator Program**

***Navigators provide support and assistance to families throughout the adoption process***

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## **Match Support Program**

***Match Support specialists offer personalized family support***

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Shelby Denham, Match Support Specialist  
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\*NOTE: MARE is currently filling the Match Support Staff position

# MARE implements security updates

There are multiple changes that have occurred on the MARE website. These updates are part of new requirements set forth by the State of Michigan and the Federal Department of Homeland Security for any information systems that house government-owned data. The following is a list of website updates and a brief explanation of what these updates mean.

## **New password requirements:**

- Must be at least 15 characters in length
- Must contain at least 3 special character types (upper case letter, lower case letter, number, or non-alphanumeric character)
- Cannot be a repetition of any of the last 24 passwords that you have used
- Must be updated every 60 days

## **Account lock-out after 195 days of inactivity:**

If you go 195 days without logging into your MARE account, your account will be locked and you will be unable to log into the website. If this happens, your account can only be unlocked by contacting the MARE Data Analyst or Program Manager/Supervisors.

## **Multi-factor authentication:**

Since July 1, you are required to set up a dual-authentication for your account. You must provide either an email address or a phone number that can receive text messages. Every time you log



into the MARE website, you will be sent an email or a text message containing a code. In order to access your account, you will need to enter this code on the website within 20 minutes of receiving it, in addition to entering your current log-in credentials.

## **Automatic log-out after 15 minutes of inactivity:**

After 15 minutes of inactivity, you will automatically be logged out of the MARE website.

*If you have any questions about these updates, please contact Jeremiah Balazovich, MARE Data Analyst, at [jeremiah\\_balazovich@judsoncenter.org](mailto:jeremiah_balazovich@judsoncenter.org).*

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## **Meet & Greets, continued from page 1**

moved off the waitlist. This will avoid the youth being disappointed if they are not able to participate.

- It would be very beneficial to have a conversation with the residential staff person who may be with the youth during the event about how to prepare the youth.
- Please notify the residential/placement as soon as you receive the confirmation email with the virtual event information. This will enable them to prepare the youth in enough time and have the youth sign onto the event on time.

Due to these virtual Meet & Greets being a shorter time frame than normal, if youth sign on more than

15 minutes after the event has already started, they unfortunately will be unable to participate. Please help ensure that they are able to sign on at the start of the event!

For youth, it's important for them to remember to have fun and be themselves! These virtual Meet & Greets are just an opportunity to get to know new people and share about things that they like to do during the different planned games and activities.

We are really excited to still be able to bring youth and families together during this time. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Thompson at [Jessica\\_thompson@judsoncenter.org](mailto:Jessica_thompson@judsoncenter.org).