Handicrap™

Handicrap™ in simplest terms any attitude that keeps a person with a disability or a person without a disability from moving beyond their boundaries and doing what they need to do to succeed.

"An education isn't how much you have committed to memory, or even how much you know. It's being able to differentiate between what you know and what you don't."  Anatole France

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Flathead Valley PLUK presents:
Rob Quist and the Great Northern Band with Jack Gladstone in concert, present their newest collaboration May 20th at 7pm at the Kalispell Christian Center. Quist and Gladstone, two of the West's most celebrated entertainers and songwriters, have united in an unforgettable new show, Odyssey West, commemorating Lewis and Clark's epic journey into the western frontier.
Jack Gladstone and Rob Quist bring the West to life with the rich historical content of their original songs and narratives, presented with dramatic live footage, as well as haunting photographic and artistic images of the Old and New West.
Celebrate Our Heritage while supporting local children and adults with disabilities. Proceeds also benefit Special Friends Advocacy. Ticket purchases call 406 756-6159.
http://www.robquist.com/promopage.htm

Training Update: May 19 teleconference on Financial Issues has been postponed
For additional information, visit the PLUK home page at http://www.pluk.org

Impact of Childhood Disability: Understanding the Parents' Journey from Grief to Growth, June 10-11, Billings
In a long-awaited conference opportunity, parents and caregivers are invited to join national presenter and author, psychologist Ken Moses, PhD, for a two-day conference exploring childhood disability and its impact on families and caregivers. The conference—sponsored by St. Vincent's Healthcare (and in cooperation with Billings Public Schools, STEP, and ECI)—will be held at the Mansfield Health Education Center. CEUs are available and free childcare will be offered during the Saturday session. Space is limited please register early. Call Health Access, St. Vincent Healthcare, at 406-657-8792 to register.
Cost: $50-$100. A limited number of scholarships, courtesy of the Children's Clinic, are available to parents of children with special needs. Financially strapped, need to attend, and can't swing full registration? Call Health Access, St. Vincent Healthcare, at 406-657-8792 and ask about the “$10 dollar option.”

Report notes problems, potential in state's rural schools
HELENA - Montana's rural schools are doing better than those in other states, but some still need help overcoming student poverty, inadequate funding and lagging test scores, a national report released Wednesday concludes.
The Rural School and Community Trust, a West Virginia nonprofit group that studies rural issues, called Montana a "golden egg" in rural education. Its 80 percent rural graduation rate is one of the highest in the country, and students generally benefit from the state's small classrooms and low student-teacher ratios, the report states.
But Montana's test scores are average compared to other states and increasing pressure to close or consolidate schools threatens to thwart progress there and in bordering Great Plains states, lead study author Jerry Johnson said.
Read the article at: http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?id=1&display=rednews/2005/05/12/build/state/70-schools.inc
State seeks more NCLB flexibility

HELENA - Citing Montana's sparse population and small schools, state Superintendent of Public Instruction Linda McCulloch said Monday she's asked the federal government for more flexibility in measuring student progress under the No Child Left Behind Act.

McCulloch, an outspoken critic of the 2002 education reforms, wants the U.S. Department of Education to let Montana use more data in determining whether its schools are meeting the law's yearly progress requirements.

Read the article at: http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?id=1&display=rednews/2005/05/10/build/state/20-nclb.inc

Billings Gazette—Medicaid Proposals Worry State Officials: Program Helps 84,000 Poor Montanans

(Courtesy of the Billings Gazette)

Medicaid proposals worry state officials: Program helps 84,000 poor Montanans

By ALLISON FARRELL

Gazette State Bureau

May 11, 2005

HELENA - Talk in Washington, D.C., of cutting $10 billion to $14.7 billion out of Medicaid spending over the next five years has some Montana public health officials worried over the fate of the program.

Some of President Bush's proposed changes could cripple Montana's mom and pop pharmacies and limit the access Medicaid clients have to prescription drugs, as well as drive up state costs for the joint federal-state program that covers 84,000 poor Montanans, officials said.

"It all makes me a little bit nervous," said John Chappuis, Montana's Medicaid director. "Who knows what they'll choose to do."

President Bush recommended that Congress axe $60 billion from the $300 billion annual program over the next decade, a number Congress has scaled back to between $10 billion and $14.7 billion over the next five years.

Congress is still debating ways to rein in the increasing expenses of Medicaid, but some worry that one of the most discussed spending reductions could hurt Montana's small, independent pharmacies and their clients.

Joy Wilson, health policy director for the nonpartisan National Conference of State Legislatures in Washington, D.C., said the proposed change for prescription-drug benefits would essentially let the government pay pharmacies less for drugs under Medicaid.

This change would save the state and federal governments money but could force pharmacies to turn Medicaid clients away.

Read the rest of this Billings Gazette article online at http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?ts=1&display=rednews/2005/05/11/build/state/30-medicaid-proposal.inc.

Missoulian—Opportunity Resources Celebrates 50 Years of Service

(Courtesy of the Missoulian)

Opportunity Resources thrives in middle age

By MICHAEL MOORE of the Missoulian

When Jack Chambers took the helm of Opportunity Resources in 1985, the program had 60 clients, 26 staff workers and an annual budget of $600,000.

Twenty years later, on the 50th anniversary of the nonprofit organization that helps people with disabilities, there are 350 clients, 250 staff workers and a budget of $9 million.

"There's just been such a recognition of the ways that people with disabilities can really be part of the community," said Chambers. "The world has changed in a lot of ways for the good for our clients, and that's something we all feel very good about."

Chambers had been involved with similar organizations in Oregon and Wyoming before coming to Montana, at a time when disability programs were starting to step out of the shadows.

"What happened is sort of what happened in schools, as we started to mainstream some students instead of just sticking them in classes by themselves," Chambers said. "For us, that meant moving beyond solely providing sheltered work."

Opportunity still provides sheltered work - where people with disabilities work together under close supervision - but the organization has made significant progress in putting its clients to work all around the community.

Read the entire article at http://www.missoulian.com/articles/2005/05/08/news/local/news05.txt.
Updated Forms on OPI Web Site

Forms marked "NEW July 1, 2005" reflect changes to IDEA and are not to be used prior to July 1, 2005. Training in IDEA 2004 and form changes will be provided in the fall of 2005.

Visit http://www.opi.state.mt.us/speced/

U.S. Flexibility for States Raising Achievement for Students With Disabilities

(Courtesy of the U.S. Dept. of Education)

Secretary Spellings held a press conference May 10 to announce policy guidelines following her April 7, 2005, announcement for a new, commonsense approach to implementing the NCLB, “Raising Achievement: A New Path for NCLB.”

No Child Left Behind

President George W. Bush and Secretary Margaret Spellings believe that no child should be left behind in our efforts to ensure that our nation's elementary and secondary schoolchildren receive an education that fully prepares them for college and the workforce. The Department of Education will extend flexibility to those States that are raising achievement and are continuing to implement the requirements that are the cornerstone of the No Child Left Behind Act: that all students, including students with disabilities, be held to challenging content and achievement standards; that their progress be measured annually by high-quality assessments aligned with those high standards; and that schools and school districts be held accountable for achieving results.

A New Path: Commonsense Approach to Raising Achievement

In addition to students with the most significant cognitive disabilities (the 1% already covered under Title I), research indicates that there is another group of students with disabilities, approximately 2 percent of the school-aged population, in need of modified standards and assessments who can make progress toward but also may not reach grade-level achievement standards in the same time frame as other students. Secretary Spellings and the U.S. Department of Education will work with States in both the short term and the long term to ensure they will have the flexibility needed to raise achievement for ALL students.


Learn more about the state eligibility requirements for adjusted AYP, including short-term options, and proposed rulemaking for long-term modified achievement standards and assemesments, online at the ED website http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/raising/disab-factsheet.html.


Educators ask U.S. for break on No Child

By Stephanie Banchero, Tribune staff reporter. Tribune reporters Darnell Little contributed to this report Published May 16, 2005

Education officials in three dozen states, including Illinois, are proposing substantial changes to their No Child Left Behind requirements—alterations that would relax standards and make it easier for schools to show improvement under the tough federal law.

Read the complete article at: http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-0505160168may16,1,605879.story?coll=chi-newsnationworld-hed&ctrack=1&cset=true

NFB, NASA Partner for “Excellence through Challenging Exploration and Leadership (EXCEL)” Internship

(From National Federation of the Blind)

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) Jernigan Institute's National Youth Center for Blind Youth in Science and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) bring you a new internship program for the blind. The Excellence through Challenging Exploration and Leadership (EXCEL) program will provide an employment experience like no other, combining NASA's ambitious mission of exploration with the successful mentoring and empowerment model demonstrated by the NFB.

The EXCEL program not only provides blind youth with early employment experience but also provides support and mentoring from successful blind adults. If you are a blind youth interested in a science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) career, then this program is for you!

Six EXCEL interns will be chosen from a nationwide search, with two additional students chosen as alternates. Two interns will be placed at each of three NASA centers—Goddard (Maryland), Johnson (Texas), and the Jet Propulsion Lab (California)—for an intensive six-week program that will begin at the NFB National Convention. During the Convention, EXCEL interns will serve as NASA ambassadors as well as attend seminars and meetings to learn more about how to
succeed in the workplace as a blind adult. From there, the interns will travel to their work sites for five weeks of work experience under NASA supervisors. The interns will stay with carefully selected host families who can assist the youth in preparing to live independently.

Applicants must:
- Be legally blind
- Be at least 18 years old
- Be going into their first or second year of college
- Have an interest in pursuing STEM careers
- Have at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale

Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity!!! To learn more about the program or to apply, read the EXCEL Cover Page and fill out the Application at http://nfb.org/nfbrti/excel-app.doc. Questions? Contact Mark A. Riccobono, Manager, Education Programs, Jernigan Institute at (410) 659-9314, ext. 2368, mriccobono@nfb.org.

CNN Presents Oscar-Nominated Film “Autism Is A World, ” May 22, 8PM ET
(From State of the Art, Inc.)

The documentary looks at autism through the words of Sue, a young woman who was diagnosed and treated as mentally retarded until the age of 13 when she began to communicate using a keyboard. When you meet her, she does not make eye contact. She obsessively attacks your buttons, endlessly stands at the faucet and watches water pour over her hand. You would not approach this person. But the documentary takes the viewer on a journey into her mind, into her world and her obsessions. “Autism Is A World“ explores Sue's world, her writings, and the remarkable friendships she has created while in college.

Filmed in and around Whittier, CA where Sue makes her home, “Autism Is A World” was produced by State of the Art, Inc. and Producer/Director Gerardine Wurzburg, Co-Producer Douglas Biklen, Associate Producer Elissa Ewalt, Supervising Producer Jennifer Hyde, Executive Director Jody Gottlieb, Managing Editor Kathy Slobogin and Executive Producer Sid Bedingfield.

Special Thanks to the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation.
http://www.stateart.com/productions/disabilities/autismisaworld/

Documentary “Song of Our Children” Available on DVD, VHS
(From Landlocked Films)
How do schools successfully include children with disabilities in classrooms with non-disabled peers? In SONG OF OUR CHILDREN, we meet teachers, parents, and students whose daily routines exemplify what “educational inclusion” means and what it takes to make it work. This moving portrayal of four memorable children -- preschool through high school -- reveals the challenges, strategies, and benefits of inclusion for all.

The “Songs of our Children” documentary is available directly from Landlocked Films at http://www.landlockedfilms.com/Order%20a%20Video.htm for $34 dollars (DVD or VHS). Cost includes media mail shipping.


MEDICARE IMPROVES ACCESS TO POWER WHEELCHAIRS AND SCOOTERS
(Courtesy of Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS))
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today announced new national coverage criteria for mobility assistive equipment (MAE) including power wheelchairs and scooters. The new criteria, which are effective immediately, adopt a function-based determination of medical necessity. This determination looks at the ability of the beneficiary to safely accomplish mobility-related activities of daily living, such as toileting, grooming, and eating, with and without the use of mobility equipment such as a wheelchair. The national coverage determination (NCD) addresses the full range of MAE from simple canes and walkers to sophisticated power wheelchairs.


Medicare Policy on Coverage of Power Wheelchairs, Scooters, Draws Fire
(From Senior Journal)
Medicare Policy on Coverage of Power Wheelchairs, Scooters, Draws Fire
Advocate says it is antiquated and illegal; industry sees problems but says it's step in right direction

May 7, 2005 – Medicare announced the final criteria for coverage of mobility assistive equipment (MAE), which includes wheelchairs and scooters, this week and the reactions, as expected, were not all favorable. The primary objections were about requirements that the devices must be necessary in the home. Robert M. Hayes, president of the Medicare Rights Center said it is an “antiquated and illegal policy that will keep tens of thousands of Americans in cruel and unnecessary isolation.”

The Restore Access to Mobility Partnership (RAMP), an industry group, said, “Our initial response is to express some disappointment in several areas.” In general, however, they concluded, “Clearly, this is a step in the right direction. However, we fear that some beneficiaries in need of mobility equipment may still fail to receive it under this new coverage policy.

Read more about this controversial policy at http://www.seniorjournal.com/NEWS/Medicare/5-05-07Wheelchairs.htm.

The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation Parent Public Policy Fellowship Program 2006

(From The Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation)

The Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation is seeking parents of persons with intellectual disabilities for an intensive, one-year Public Policy Fellowship in Washington, DC. During this one year Fellowship, the successful applicant will learn how legislation is initiated, developed, and passed by Congress, or how programs are administered and regulations promulgated by federal agencies.

Each year the Foundation brings a parent or close family member of a child with a disability to Washington, DC for a full year, where they actively participate in public policy development through work on the staff of a member of Congress, congressional committee, or federal agency. Former Parent Fellows describe the Fellowship as a major turning point in their lives. The year offers exciting opportunities to be involved in policy and legislative development in key areas such as special education, health and mental health care for persons with intellectual disabilities, child care, housing, justice, child welfare, employment and other areas related to improving the quality of life for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Since its founding in 1946, the Foundation has supported the creation of programs of national significance for persons with intellectual disabilities, their families and their communities. In carrying out its mission, the Foundation has consistently worked with national leaders who understand the realities of government. The Foundation appreciates the infinite need for leadership on disability issues in the government and public policy arenas.

In response to this need, the Foundation initiated the Public Policy Fellowship Program in 1980 and the Parent Public Policy Fellowship Program in 1995. Kennedy Fellows receive first-hand knowledge and experience in the development of public policy and the opportunity to hone their skills in challenging new environments.

Former Kennedy fellows have gone on to pursue careers as leaders in university centers, non-profit advocacy and service organizations, Congressional staff and Federal political appointments.

The successful applicant's background will include distinguished involvement in efforts to improve the lives of persons with intellectual and other disabilities at the regional, state or national level. **Salaried experience in the field is not required.** The expectation is that fellows will become leaders in the field of disabilities and will return home after their year in Washington to make significant contributions to policy and program development in their home state.

**Completed applications must be e-mailed or postmarked by September 1, 2005.**


Incight™ Fellow Scholarships for students with disabilities

Our Incight™ Fellow Scholarship Program is a long-term commitment to students entering and attending college. Requirements are as follows:

- Physical disability, including sight, hearing and learning disabilities
- 2.5 GPA (minimum)
- Essay of 250 word max (please see application for subject matter)

For more information, visit: [http://www.incight.com/incight/edu1.html](http://www.incight.com/incight/edu1.html)

BullyOnLine—Resources for Information on Bullying and Prevention Strategies

(From Bully OnLine)

Based in the UK, and founded by Tim Field, a bully survivor, Bully OnLine is the world's largest resource on workplace bullying and related issues including stress, trauma, PTSD and bullying-related suicide. Visit the website to learn more about bullying and harassment prevention, and find advice, resources, and support. Bully OnLine is a project of the Field Foundation.

JUDGE ALLOWS LEARNING DISABILITIES CASE TO GO TO TRIAL

05/13/05 7:20 PDT, OAKLAND (BCN)

A lawsuit seeking special accommodations for students with learning disabilities when they take medical school admission tests will proceed to trial after an Alameda County Superior Court judge denied a motion that sought to dismiss the case.

Read the article at: http://cbs5.com/localwire/localfsnews/bcn/2005/05/13/n/HeadlineNews/DISABILITY-RULING/resources_bcn.html

MEDSCAPE Safety Alerts 2005

**MRL Inc. AED20 Automatic External Defibrillators**

Audience: Emergency healthcare professionals and Cardiologists

MRL Inc. and FDA notified healthcare professionals of a voluntary worldwide recall of 597 AED20 Automatic External Defibrillators manufactured between February and July of 2004. The AED20 may display a “Defib Comm” error message during use resulting in a failure of the device to analyze the patient's ECG and deliver the appropriate therapy which prevents the defibrillator from resuscitating a patient. The company has received 12 related complaints with this specific group of AED20's, including one instance which may have prevented patient resuscitation.

**LifeScan, Inc. OneTouch Ultra, InDuo and OneTouch FastTake Blood Glucose Meters**

Audience: Healthcare professionals and consumers

LifeScan, Inc. initiated a worldwide notification to all users of its OneTouch Ultra, InDuo and OneTouch FastTake Meters. LifeScan found that it was possible for consumers, in the course of setting their meter's date and time, to accidentally change the unit of measure and thereby misinterpret their blood glucose results. The notification program includes letters to registered users and health care professionals, and also special instructions inserted in each package of test strips. The products are distributed worldwide primarily through retail pharmacy and mail order channels.

Reviewed by Gary D. Vojin, MD

For additional information, visit http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/SAFETY/2005/safety05.htm#MRL

Advocacy Articles - Tactics & Strategies: How to Disagree with the IEP Team Without Starting WW III

Many parents have questions about what to do when they are presented with an IEP that is not appropriate for their child.

You should advise the IEP team that you don't think the IEP is appropriate, that it does not provide your child with enough help or the right kind of help. You should use facts to support your position (i.e., facts from an evaluation of your child from a private sector evaluator, graphs of your child's test scores).

Be polite but firm.

Read the complete article at: http://www.wrightslaw.com/advoc/articles/strategy.disagree.htm

Advocacy - How to Solve Parent-School Problems & Protect Relationships

"View your relationship with the school as a marriage without the possibility of divorce." - Pam Wright

"Our seven-year old has autism. After his aide told us that he has not received all the speech language and OT services called for in his IEP, we wrote letters demanding that the school make up the missing sessions."

"Now the teacher and special ed supervisor are angry with the aide. They told her that she cannot tell us anything that goes on at school. Doesn't the aide have a right to communicate with us? Is there any law we can refer to?"

Read the complete article at: http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/advo.probs.protect.htm

Learning to Negotiate is Part of the Advocacy Process

by Brice Palmer, Advocate

Negotiating solutions to disputes and/or claims saves time and money. Most of our experience is in the civil area, but the techniques and skills in special education cases are the same. By using these techniques, we rarely are forced to take a special ed case all the way to a hearing.

Here are a few techniques that have worked for us. Perhaps they will be helpful for you.

Read the tips at: http://www.wrightslaw.com/advoc/tips/palmer_negotiation_process.htm

It's My Life: Employment, A Guide for Transition Services From the Casey Family Foundation

(From The Casey Foundation)

Career and employment success for young people from foster care is rooted in an ongoing journey connecting parents, caregivers, friends, mentors, advocates, communities, schools, and employers. Specific tools and strategies can help in this process. Expanding on the It's My Life transition framework, this practical, concise handbook is intended for
child welfare professionals and others responsible for helping young people prepare for transition to adulthood and the workplace.

This guide provides the following recommendations to help prepare young people for employment:

• Start early to develop employability
• Cultivate interests and skills, and relate them to future employment
• Promote activities that help young people explore careers
• Build job-readiness skills
• Help young people get and keep jobs
• Promote work-related education and training after high school

*It's My Life: Employment* provides benchmarks for career exploration and techniques for job seeking. It breaks out the benchmarks by age group and lets young people describe their successes in their own words. It also provides a wealth of links to online tools and assessments and many suggestions for taking advantage of community resources. *It's My Life: Employment* was published in 2004 by Casey Family Programs.


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**Resource Links From Freedom Scientific**

(Courtesy of Freedom Scientific Inc.)

Freedom Scientific, Inc. was created in 2000, by combining three companies in the assistive technology arena. The company is divided into two groups: the Learning Systems Group and the Blind/Low Vision Group. The company's mission is to develop, manufacture and market innovative technology-based products and services that those with vision impairments and learning disabilities use to change their world.

In addition to information about the company's trademark WYNN and TestTalker software, Freedom Scientific offers a variety of useful links for teachers, AT professionals and others, on the Freedom Scientific website at [http://www.freedomscientific.com/LSG/resources/industry_links.asp](http://www.freedomscientific.com/LSG/resources/industry_links.asp).

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**Medication Combined With Behavior Therapy Works Best For ADHD Children, Study Finds**

(Courtesy of Science Daily)

Source: University at Buffalo

In fact, when the two are combined, the study showed, the amount of medication required to achieve the same results as use of medication alone can be reduced by two-thirds.

"One of the major findings of the study is that when using behavior modification, you can get away with tiny, tiny doses of medication, much lower than previously thought," said ADHD researcher William E. Pelham, Jr., University at Buffalo Distinguished Professor in the Department of Psychology, UB College of Arts and Sciences and UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

The study is the first to test the effectiveness of a new drug treatment, a methylphenidate (MPH) patch. Methylphenidate is the stimulant used in pill form by ADHD drugs Concerta and Ritalin.

The study is published in the May issue of Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology. It was funded by a grant from Noven Pharmaceuticals. Shire Pharmaceuticals Group, which purchased the rights to the MPH patch from Noven, will seek FDA approval for the MPH patch in 2006.

Read more of this article at [http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2005/05/050506155008.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2005/05/050506155008.htm).

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**Study Finds ADHD Improves With Sensory Intervention**

Preliminary findings from a study of children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) show that sensory intervention -- for example, deep pressure and strenuous exercise -- can significantly improve problem behaviors such as restlessness, impulsivity and hyperactivity. Of the children receiving occupational therapy, 95 percent improved. This is the first study of this size on sensory intervention for ADHD.

The Temple University researchers, Kristie Koenig, Ph.D., OTR/L, and Moya Kinnealey, Ph.D., OTR/L, wanted to determine whether ADHD problem behaviors would decrease if underlying sensory and neurological issues were addressed with occupational therapy. Their study, "Comparative Outcomes of Children with ADHD: Treatment Versus Delayed Treatment Control Condition," will be presented Friday, May 13, at the American Occupational Therapy Association meeting in Long Beach, Calif.

Read the article at [http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2005/05/050513103548.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2005/05/050513103548.htm).

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**A Little Luxury Goes a Long Way--Best Bath, Luxurious Bathing Units for People of All Abilities**

(From Best Bath)
Boise, Idaho’s Best Bath Systems (a division of Fiberglass Systems) proudly offers Access products. The fiberglass shower units, soaking tubs, and jetted tubs are classified according to access level, ADA, Barrier-free, and Assisted-Living. The Best Bath website provides lists of product reference codes, dimensional drawings, and a product gallery.


**CSU gets an 'A' for access**

Disabled cite few problems getting around

By NIKOLAUS OLSEN

To be an institution that welcomes all, Colorado State University must first make sure that its 30,000 students, faculty and staff can access all buildings on campus.


**Free Online Graph Paper / Grid Paper PDFs**

Downloadable and very printable, these PDFs are extremely useful.

- **Lined Paper**
  - Lined Paper PDF Generator - Just horizontal lines. I needed this a while back, so I figured other people might also need it.
- **Graph Paper**
  - Graph Generator Lite - Specify the number of squares you want - and the size of them.
- **Plain Graph Paper PDF Generator** - Set your border and grid spacing (i.e. 4 lines per centimeter) to get as much graph as possible on your paper.

And many, many more at: [http://www.incompetech.com/beta/plainGraphPaper/](http://www.incompetech.com/beta/plainGraphPaper/)

**Virtual Drum Kit can be played by mouse or keyboard**


**Events/ Conferences in Montana**

**Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Teleconference, May 17, Great Falls, Billings, Lame Deer**

Date: May 17, 2005, 9:00 AM - noon
Where: Great Falls, VisionNet classroom, 1309 NW Bypass
Teleconference sites: Lame Deer, Billings
Presenters: Jill Plumage, Fort Belknap Reservation FAS Coordinator
Information/registration: [http://www.pluk.org/training/FAS.htm](http://www.pluk.org/training/FAS.htm)

**Input Sought from Healthcare Providers and Client Advocates at PASSPORT Summits, May 18, Billings**

As the PASSPORT to Health program enters its twelfth year of successfully managing the delivery of health care to Montana’s Medicaid clients, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) is planning summits to determine if the current operation of the PASSPORT to Health program is the most effective way to meet its objectives.

The Department stresses that attendees should look at the program in a truly comprehensive way; therefore, no idea is off the table for consideration. “Change to the PASSPORT program, whether slight or radical, may be in order,” said Mary Angela Collins, Managed Care Bureau Chief. “These summits will provide a forum for providers to identify parts of the program they feel are ineffective or outdated. All we ask is that ideas fit within our goals for managed care.”

PASSPORT to Health’s objectives include fostering a medical home between providers and clients, which promotes appropriate care and reduces costs, as well as assuring adequate access to primary care.

One-day facilitated summits are planned for locations across the state:
- **Billings** on May 18, MSU-B
- **Kalispell** on June 8, Kalispell Regional Medical Center
- **Missoula** on June 15, St. Patrick’s Hospital

A cross-section of PASSPORT stakeholders are invited, including: PASSPORT providers, specialists, and other non-PCPs, representatives from billing companies, hospitals, FQHCs, RHCs, the tribal health community, and client advocates.
Implemented in 1993, the PASSPORT program has been successful in saving over $20,000,000 annually. These savings allow the program to provide services to people who may not have otherwise received them, and help maintain provider reimbursement rates. In addition to meeting its financial objectives, the PASSPORT program has been well received by 80% of its PCPs and clients.

If you have ideas to offer, and would like to participate in one of the summits, contact PASSPORT Program Officer Niki Scoffield at (406) 444-4148 or niscoffield@mt.gov. For a copy of the agenda and more details, visit Montana Medicaid’s website at www.mtmedicaid.org.

### BraveHearts Grief Support Group, May 17, Billings

BraveHearts is a grief support group for children, teens, and families. The group meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at the Mayflower Congregational Church. Every meeting includes refreshments, fun activities, and story time. Registration is required for this free program. Please call Amy at 247-3300 for more information and to register.

**Meeting Schedule:**
- May 17: Tree of Life (Family Trees)
- June 7: Memories (A Year to Remember)
- June 21: Memory Box (Be sure to bring keepsakes . . . photos, cards, music, etc. to put in the box.)

### Ronald McDononald Care Mobile Schedule, Mon.—Thurs. MAY 16-31, Billings

**What is the Care Mobile?** The Care Mobile is a pediatric clinic on wheels that delivers free medical and dental care to uninsured children in the region.

**Who are potential Care Mobile patients?** Children who have no health insurance are a priority, but service is not limited to those children. The Care Mobile is designed to see children ages 1-18 and children who have CHIPS or Medicaid as their primary insurance.

**Where will the Care Mobile go?** The Care Mobile will visit sites in and around Yellowstone County. It will go where the children are - to schools, neighborhoods and communities.

The schedule is subject to change. Please call to verify the time and location of your appointment.

For more information, call the Care Coordinator at 406.238.6766. For appointments, call 406.238.6008.

### POSTPONED: Financial Planning for Families Teleconference, May 19, Billings

This session has been postponed:
- Date: May 19, 2005, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- Where: Billings, Mansfield Center
- Teleconference sites: (none at this time)
- Presenters: Bruce Larson, Jason Harkins, & parent panel

Information/registration: [http://www.pluk.org/training/Financial.htm](http://www.pluk.org/training/Financial.htm)

### The 299 Club—Support for Parents of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, May 20, Billings

The number 299 comes from the first portion of the diagnostic code used to identify Autism Spectrum Disorders. The 299 Club is a parent-to-parent support group designed to offer information sharing, education, and support “to build our community, one piece at a time.”

- Explore Innovative Approaches to Autism
- Browse the Resource Library
Understanding Asperger's Syndrome, May 20, Billings, May 23, Missoula

From PESI Healthcare

This intensive full-day seminar will provide participants with a general overview of autism spectrum disorders (ASD), followed by an in-depth focus on the most recent addition to ASD, Asperger's Syndrome. Participants will develop a thorough understanding of the features, characteristics and learning styles associated with Asperger's Syndrome. Numerous practical, “proven-to-work” intervention strategies will be given, as well as effective methods of programming to meet the unique learning, thinking, and processing differences of children and adolescents with Asperger's Syndrome. Particular focus on issues related to the behavioral challenges and subsequent intervention strategies unique to this population, will also be explored. CEUs are available.

Seminar speaker Susan L. Stokes, M.A., CCC-SLP, is the Autism Coordinator for Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) 6 and the First Step Autism Program, an early intervention program for students with autism spectrum disorders. She has specialized in the area of autism spectrum disorders as both a speech/language pathologist and autism consultant for over 20 years. Susan has attended numerous national and international trainings and conferences relating to the field of autism, as well as presented at many state and national workshops and conferences. Susan is the author of Autism: Interventions and Strategies for Success, a publication written for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, including 6 articles regarding autism spectrum disorders available at www.cesa7.k12.wi.us.

Stokes’ everyday experiences in working with children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders will give participants a practical and humor-filled understanding of this very unique population. Participants will leave with information that can be directly applied to the children and adolescents that they support with Asperger's Syndrome, including numerous “easy-to-use” intervention strategies. The instructional style for this seminar includes a combination of lecture, group activities and multi-media presentations to meet the learning needs of all participants.

Learner objectives:

- Differentiate between Asperger’s Syndrome and the other autism spectrum disorders, according to the DSM-IV: Revised.
- Describe the unique features, characteristics and learning styles associated with Asperger’s Syndrome.
- Identify key components necessary for providing an appropriate program to meet the needs of children and adolescents with Asperger’s Syndrome.
- Demonstrate various intervention strategies to meet the unique learning, thinking and processing needs of children and adolescents with Asperger’s Syndrome.
- Understand the foundation for behavioral challenges exhibited by children and adolescents with Asperger’s Syndrome.
- Describe appropriate behavioral intervention strategies for children and adolescents with Asperger’s Syndrome.

Program purpose: to provide the knowledge, skills and intervention strategies necessary to better support children and adolescents with Autism and Asperger’s.

Registration rates vary ($154 to $183.95). For more information, or to register online visit PESI Healthcare at http://ssl.peshicare.com/iebms/coe/coe_p1_all.aspx?oc=10&cc=COE&typeid=MT1 and choose the location (Billings or Missoula) that suits you.

On The Same Page Workshop, May 23, Helena

On the Same Page is a new workshop specifically for the parents of special needs kids, young adults, school counselors, special educators, and anyone interested in finding out more about Social Security Administration services, the Montana Job Training Partnership, and other local and state resources.

When: May 23, 2005. Session 1 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm; Session 2 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm
Where: UM-Helena College of Technology Student Center
1115 N. Roberts (free parking on street or in student lot)
**What to Bring:** Pen, paper and questions

**Presenters**

* R. Andrew Hudson - **Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration**
* Judy Hay - **Disability Program Navigator, The University of Montana-Helena College of Technology & Montana Job Training Partnership**
* Roger Ala - **Professional Relations Officer, Disability Determination Services**

**Topics:**

- Supplemental Security Income
- Social Security Disability
- Work Incentives
- Support Services
- The Disability Decision
- Q&A

The focus of this workshop will be programs and services available, useful tools to assist in the application process, and clearing up misinformation that creates barriers for individuals and families who apply for benefits.

Please RSVP to Andrew Hudson at 441-1270, X3004 or Judy Hay at 459-2772. Session 1 & 2 will be the same, but space may be limited. Refreshments will be provided.

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**Petro Theater Screening “Charlie’s Lake” Features Billings Native, May 26, Billings**

(From Ian Elliot, MSU-Billings)

Mayfair Films, in collaboration with the Montana Center on Disabilities at MSU-Billings is proud to announce the screening of “Charlie’s Lake” the story of Jon Whitmer and his family, long time residents of Billings, MT. The 45-minute film reveals Jon Whitmer’s perspective on his life as a survivor of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and the various issues and events that come up in a typical year. The screening will also provide an opportunity for audience members to dialog with individuals directly involved with the making of this documentary.

*When:* 7:00 PM Thursday May 26th—Doors open 6:30 PM
*Where:* Petro Theater, MSU-Billings campus
*Seating is on a first come, first serve basis. The facility is accessible and admission is free.*

A reception, arranged by Sue Dow of STEP, will follow in the Fireplace Lounge, located on the ground floor of the adjoining Student Union Building. Petro Theatre is located on the lower level of Petro Hall on the MSU-Billings campus (building #4 on the MSU-Billings campus map located at [http://www.msubillings.edu/campus/maintour.htm](http://www.msubillings.edu/campus/maintour.htm)).

For further information please call Ian Elliot at the Montana Center on Disabilities - MSU-Billings at: 406-657-2172 or toll free at 1-888-866-3822

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**Financial Planning for Families Teleconference, June 2, Missoula, Butte**

Date: June 2, 2005, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
*Where:* Missoula, Ruby's Convention Center
*Teleconference site: Butte*
*Presenters: Nancy Gibson, Chris Siegler, & parent panel*
*Information/Registration: [http://www.pluk.org/training/Financial.htm](http://www.pluk.org/training/Financial.htm)*

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**LDA OF MONTANA ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING, June 4, Billings**

(From LDA of Montana)

We are reorganizing the Learning Disabilities Association of Montana! After years of service to this organization, Rosie Wathen has asked to step down from her position of leadership. Barbra Lefler has asked for help with arrangements for an organizational meeting of people in Montana interested in re-activating LDA of Montana. Ms. Lefler will arrive in Billings from the national headquarters in Pittsburg to help us organize.

The meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2005 from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM at the Mansfield Health Educational Center.
Lunch will be provided. We will be electing new leadership and developing strategies for the kind of organization that we want in Montana. Everyone is welcome. New board members and officers are expected to stay and attend the entire meeting.

Help shape the future of your LDA! Your input is welcome, spread the word and join us!

For more information, contact Mark Taylor, LDA of Montana, at (406) 259-3110, or [mark@learningclinic.com](mailto:mark@learningclinic.com).

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**Region 3 CSPD: REWARDS Decoding Program, June 6, Billings**

Presented by Gail Adams
Many students falter in reading at the middle school level because they have not learned strategies to use in decoding longer words. This lack of advanced decoding ability affects fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary achievement. This session will teach participants to use REWARDS, a multisyllabic decoding program that has been well documented as an effective remedial strategy for students in grades 4-12.

Register online at http://www.msubillings.edu/mcdregister.

Two-Day Picture Exchange Communication System Training Workshop, June 6 & 7, Great Falls

Presented by Christine Cavarretta, BCBA & Michela Figini-Myers, BCABA, Holiday Inn- Great Falls, 1.3 ASHA CEUs

For registration information, visit us online at http://www.pecs.com or call toll free 888-732-7462. For general information, contact Judy Barrett at jbarrett@pecs.com or call 302-368-2515. If you are interested in sending 5 or more people, please contact us regarding group discounts.

2nd Annual Montana Institute on Educational Technology, June 6-10, Great Falls

This event combines topical seminars on classroom technologies, best practices, applications and more. An Administrator / Counselor track has been added this year. Four (4) short workshops will be offered on Tuesday, June 7 covering topics such as online learning, dual enrollment, gender equity and more. Please see insert for more information and how to register.

Credit and CEU’s: All workshops are eligible for the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) Renewal Units. 2 Graduate Credits are available, but require that participants enroll in all five days of the institute as well as an additional assignment. Participants wishing to receive college credit will be required to pay tuition/fee costs.

Location: Montana State University-Great Falls College of Technology

Registration: $75 per day or $200 for full institute; fee includes lunch and course materials. RITE Project Partners and Central Montana Tech Prep Consortium Members will receive registration fee waivers.

For more information or to register, visit http://outreach.msugf.edu/MIET/.

Impact of Childhood Disability: Understanding the Parents’ Journey from Grief to Growth, June 10-11, Billings

In a long-awaited conference opportunity, parents and caregivers are invited to join national presenter and author, psychologist Ken Moses, PhD, for a two-day conference exploring childhood disability and its impact on families and caregivers. The conference—sponsored by St. Vincent’s Healthcare (and in cooperation with Billings Public Schools, STEP, and ECI)—will be held at the Mansfield Health Education Center. CEUs are available and free childcare will be offered during the Saturday session. Space is limited please register early. Call Health Access, St. Vincent Healthcare, at 406-657-8792 to register.

Cost: $50-$100. A limited number of scholarships, courtesy of the Children’s Clinic, are available to parents of children with special needs. Financially strapped, need to attend, and can’t swing full registration? Call Health Access, St. Vincent Healthcare, at 406-657-8792 and ask about the “$10 dollar option.”

Family Learning Weekend for the Visually Impaired, Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind, June 10-12, MDSB, Great Falls

A FREE three-day weekend in Great Falls at MDSB is designed specifically for families with children who are visually impaired. This weekend is packed with ideas. A nationally renowned keynote speaker, Judith Lesner from the National Association of Parents of the Visually Impaired (NAPVI), will be speaking to families about the importance of parent advocacy. She will present with her son, Jacob Lesner-Buxton, who will be addressing the current issues in the education of the blind. Both Judith and Jacob are experienced will be working with our parents to design a Montana chapter of NAPVI. For more information, please contact MDSB at 1-800-882-6732 or Barb Rolf, Outreach Vision Consultant at (406) 251-5674.

The Power of Early Childhood Relationships in Shaping a Lifetime of Health and Resilience, June 11, Kalispell

(Courtesy of The Nurturing Center)

Dr. Bruce Perry (Senior Fellow, Child Trauma Academy and longtime clinician, teacher and researcher) will present “The Power of Early Childhood Relationships in Shaping a Lifetime of Health and Resilience” at the West Coast Hotel in Kalispell. This workshop is recommended for medical professionals, social service and educational professionals, child care professionals, foster parents, family members and other interested individuals.

Dr. Perry will:
• Provide an overview of the key principles of neurodevelopment crucial for understanding the role of experience in defining functional and physical organization of the brain
• Describe emerging clinical and research findings concerning maltreated children that suggest the negative impact of abuse, neglect, and trauma on brain development.
• Outline the clinical implications of a neurodevelopmental approach to child maltreatment.

Registration rates vary ($40, $75). CEUs are available. For more information and a registration form, please contact The Nurturing Center at (406) 756-1414, Toll Free 1-800-204-0644, or email info@nurturingcenter.org. Registration forms are due by June 1st.

**MASP Summer Institute, June 12-14, Billings**

Jack M. Fletcher, PhD (professor, Dept. of Pediatrics at University of Texas Health Sciences Center-Houston, Assoc. Director Center for Academic and Reading Skills (CARS)), will present “Neuropsychology of Developmental Disorders.” Explore the origins of brain dysfunction, review the behavior systems model, discover the current concepts behind the behavior-brain relationship, and investigate learning disabilities identification, intervention, and research.

The Institute will be held from Sunday June 12 through Tuesday June 14, 2005, at the Mansfield Health Education Center in Billings. CEUs are available. Fees vary ($110-$145)


**Walk F.A.R. for NAAR Autism Walk—June 12, Great Falls**

To date, NAAR has committed $21.1 million to fund 211 autism research projects and fellowships worldwide - more than any other non-governmental organization. NAAR has been able to make these investments, in large part, through the success of Walk F.A.R. for NAAR, the signature fundraising and autism awareness event of NAAR. Each year, walks throughout the USA, Canada and England attract thousands of walkers and raise millions for research.

Great Falls Walk ([http://www.autismwalk.org/greatfalls](http://www.autismwalk.org/greatfalls))


Interested? Want to Learn More?
- Penny Martin--Local Volunteer Leadership--406.771.3998 or j.martin@bresnan.net
- Scott R. Moore--Pacific Northwest Regional Director
- National Alliance for Autism Research - 1370 Stewart Street – Seattle WA 98109
- 206.464.5182 smoore@naar.org [http://www.autismwalk.org](http://www.autismwalk.org) or [http://www.naar.org](http://www.naar.org)

**Power Mobility Camp, June 13-17, Billings**

Located at MSU-Billings campus, the purpose of the camp is to allow any individual an opportunity to try power mobility. Several sessions are encouraged for evaluation. For more information, please call Mary O'Connell, PT, ATP at 1-800-732-0323 or 406-243-5688. People of all ages, with any disability, are welcome.

**Special Education in Montana Teleconference, June 16, Missoula**

Date: June 16, 2005, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Where: Billings, Mansfield Center
Teleconference sites: (none at this time)
Presenter: Kathy Manley Coburn
Information/registration: [http://www.pluk.org/training/SPEDlaw.htm](http://www.pluk.org/training/SPEDlaw.htm)

**Region 3 CSPD: Discipline and the Difficult Child, August 16, Billings**

Presented by Gene Bedley

In this session, you will discover the importance of how you define your children. You will learn proven strategies for working with young children who are angry, difficult, or challenging. Highly practical solutions and strategies will be shared to help your students develop more responsibility and self-discipline at a young age. Ideas will also be shared for discussing difficult behavior with the child's parents.

You’ll learn how to:
- Apply specific strategies that will help your difficult children make better choices
- Strengthen your young children's responsible and cooperative behavior within your program
- Organize your classrooms around the seven core ethical values that promote respect and responsibility
- Develop classroom management strategies to meet the fifteen needs of your difficult young children
- Help your preschool through second grade students accept responsibility for their choices
- Increase the work ethic in your young students
- Utilize music to strengthen student character in your classroom
- Help your troubled students achieve daily success in your classroom
- Encourage the development of problem solving strategies
- Intervene and calm down the angry young child

Register online at http://www.msubillings.edu/mcdregister.

**Online Training/Workshops/Events::**

**Disability Law Resource Project (DLRP) Webcast May 18**

(From DLRP)

**IDEA 2004: May 18, 1:00-2:30pm.**

**PRESENTER:**

Troy R. Justesen, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) in the U.S. Department of Education will present this Webcast on Wednesday, May 18, 2005, from 3:00-4:30pm Eastern; 2:00 Central; 1:00 Mountain; 12:00 Pacific; 11:00 Alaska; 9:00 Hawaii.

As the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) in the U.S. Department of Education (DOE), Troy Justesen serves as the principal adviser to the Assistant Secretary of OSERS on all departmental matters related to special education and rehabilitative services. Please submit questions for the presenter ahead of time to webcast@ilru.org.

**SUMMARY:**

IDEA 2004 becomes effective July 1, 2005. In this webcast, Dr. Justesen will provide an update on the development of the implementing regulations for IDEA 2004. He will outline the next steps in the process as well as opportunities for the public to provide comment. Additionally, he will address some key issues raised during the comment period to help us understand some key changes introduced in this latest version of IDEA as well as what those changes may mean for students, parents, and schools.

To link to these webcasts, and download accompanying materials, visit http://www.ilru.org/html/training/webcasts/calendar.html.

For instructions on how to access a webcast, visit http://www.ilru.org/html/training/webcasts/instructions.html. Please check this site ahead of time to test and ensure your computer is configured and updated to participate in the webcast.

For technical assistance, please check out our FAQs (frequently asked questions) at: http://www.ilru.org/html/training/webcasts/FAQ.html or contact a Webcast team member at webcast@ilru.org or 713/520-0232 (v/tty).

**Upcoming Cyberchats from the Genetic Alliance**

Genetic Alliance increases the capacity of genetic advocacy groups to achieve their missions and leverages the voices of millions of individuals and families living with genetic conditions.

- May 23: Genetic Counseling - Barbara Biesieker, National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)


**ILRU webcast calendar**

The ILRU (Independent Living Research Utilization) program is a national center for information, training, research, and technical assistance in independent living. Its goal is to expand the body of knowledge in independent living and to improve utilization of results of research programs and demonstration projects in this field.

- Wednesday, May 18, 2:00 PM Central
  - IDEA 2004 - Troy R. Justesen, U.S. Department of Education
- Monday, June 13
- Wednesday, June 15, 2:00 PM Central
- Wednesday, June 22, 2:00 PM Central Transportation - Marilyn Golden
- Wednesday, July 13, 2:00 PM Central
  - The History and the Future of the ADA - Lex Frieden

**Online Notetaker Training**

Online training of student notetakers is now available - it's comprehensive, interactive and free!

- Three modules take about 90 minutes to complete.
- Learn effective notetaking strategies!
- Complete the training at your convenience.
- Receive a printed certificate of completion.

Notetaker Coordinator's handbook suggests selection criteria, policies, and practices for using student notetakers effectively.

Collaborative effort of Camden County College, NETAC Central Office and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, a college of Rochester Institute of Technology.

Go to [http://www.netac.rit.edu/onlinenotetakertraining.html](http://www.netac.rit.edu/onlinenotetakertraining.html).

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**Events/ Workshops/ Conferences outside Montana::**

**National ADA Symposium, May 17-19, Overland Park, KS**

(From Monday Morning in Washington, DC)

The National ADA Symposium is the most comprehensive and effective event available on the Americans with Disabilities Act and disability related issues. It is designed to meet the specific needs and interests of professionals who are involved in interpreting and implementing the American with Disabilities Act's guidelines and regulations. Experts directly involved in interpreting, regulating and implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act provide the training. The Symposium brings together presenters from the key agencies involved with the ADA including the U.S. Dept. of Justice, the EEOC, Dept. of Education, Dept. of Labor and the U.S. Access Board. These presenters provide dynamic training that participants can put to use in their professions.

For more information, including online registration, go to [http://www.adaupdate.org/Symposium.html](http://www.adaupdate.org/Symposium.html).

**Autism One Conference, May 26-29, Chicago IL**

As always, Autism One 2005 features four major tracks to help parents and professionals make the most informed choices and decisions, they are: Biomedical Treatments; Behavior / Communication / Education Therapies; Complementary/Alternative Treatments; Government/Legal/Personal Issues. Each track offers three days of presentations focusing on particular treatments, research, and/or issues of that field. All presentations are open on a walk-in basis—conference registration covers them all.

Learn about the most effective treatments and therapies, how to obtain services and how to deal effectively with schools. Learn what to expect in future for the fields of medicine, education, government, and law.


**IDEA Public Meetings, June 6, San Antonio**

John H. Hager, assistant secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), U.S. Department of Education, is pleased to share with you the schedule of a series of public meetings to be held during calendar year 2005 to receive comments on the proposed rules to implement programs under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.

Schedule:

- Monday, June 6, 2005
  1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
  San Antonio, TX
- Friday, June 17, 2005
  1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
  Nashville, TN
- Wednesday, June 22, 2005
  1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
  Sacramento, CA
- Friday, June 24, 2005
  1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Las Vegas, NV
- Monday, June 27, 2005
  1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
New York, NY
- Wednesday, June 29, 2005
  1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Chicago, IL
- Tuesday, July 12, 2005
  1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Washington, DC

People on the Move Sessions, June 8-9, Salt Lake City, UT—Register by May 27th

The People On The Move program consists of two days of instruction for travel trainers, teachers, job coaches, bus operators, transportation coordinators, independent living specialists and others who assist people with disabilities in their use of public and private transportation so that they can go to school, jobs and other community destinations.

- **Next Session is June 8-9, 2005: Salt Lake City, Utah (Register by May 27)**
  If you miss the May 27th deadline for Salt Lake City (June 8-9), there are other dates and cities; each is followed by the application deadline:
  - September 7-8, 2005: Boston, Mass. (Aug. 3)

The Collaborative Assistive Technology Conference of the Rockies, June 9-11, Westminster, CO

Attendees will learn about local and national perspectives on state-of-the-art assistive technology devices and services. Don't miss the largest assistive technology conference in the Rocky Mountain Region, with attendance estimated at over 600. With over 70 sessions geared toward every age and disability, there is something for everybody! Presenters are among the most respected in their fields. The goal of the conference is to enhance the quality of life for individuals with disabilities through the appropriate selection and use of assistive technology. Anyone with an interest in assistive technology devices and services is welcome. Breakout sessions will focus on funding issues and legislation, education, employment, hands-on assistive technology training and the design and development of low-tech adaptive devices.

This conference is designed for people with disabilities and their families, special educators, teachers, government agency representatives, occupational & physical therapists, speech-language pathologists, public health administrators, legislators, rehabilitation counselors, employers, insurers, and people who need up-to-the-minute information about technology devices and services.

If you use or recommend assistive technology now - or you're planning to take advantage of all that technology can offer—this conference will give you the "inside track." With 70+ sessions covering all aspects of assistive technology, you'll have the opportunity to take a walk along today's technology landscape and 'surf' what tomorrow's technology will offer. With local and national presenters, this conference is your hands-on route to new insights and information, including:

- **Today's Assistive Technology Devices and Services**
  - Future Trends
  - Changes in Legislation
  - Case Studies
  - Innovative Technology Applications
  - Funding Strategies and Procedures
  - Technology Assessment


National Leadership Summit on Improving Results: Policy and Practice Implications for Secondary and Postsecondary Education and Employment for Youth with Disabilities, June 14-15, Washington, DC

(From Monday Morning in Washington, D.C.)

In response to the need to improve high school experiences and post school outcomes for youth with disabilities, National Center on Secondary Education and Transition (NCSET) hosted its first National Leadership Summit on Improving Results for Youth in September 2003. More than 250 participants attended, including state agency leaders; policymakers; professionals representing general education, special education, career and technical education, workforce development, vocational rehabilitation, and other agencies; parents; and youth with disabilities.
In order to continue the national conversation which occurred at the 2003 Summit, NCSET in partnership with federal agencies and national organizations will co-host a second National Leadership Summit on Improving Results for Youth in Washington, DC in June 14-15, 2005.

The goal of this event is to convene state-level teams of policymakers to examine the progress made in the implementation of the strategic action plans developed at the 2003 Summit, and to further build state/territory capacity to improve high school experiences that lead to successful post school outcomes for all youth.

Access [http://www.ncset.org/summit05/](http://www.ncset.org/summit05/) for more information and registration.

From Roots to Wings: Guiding Youth With Disabilities to Employment, RSA's First National Transition Conference, June 16-17, Washington, DC

(From Monday Morning in Washington, D.C.)

[Note, this conference follows the 2005 National Leadership Summit on Improving Results for Youth.]

The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), State VR agencies, State educational agencies, youth leadership organizations, consumer organizations, and other stakeholder groups are planning a national conference that will offer learning experiences and networking opportunities for State VR agency and State education agency staff at both the state and local levels. This conference will bring together VR and education policymakers and practitioners, as well as personnel from collaborating agencies that work with transitioning youth with disabilities.


“Making Connections, Strengthening Communities” 14th Annual CTC Conference, June 17-19, Cleveland, OH

(Courtesy of CTCNet)

The Community Technology Center Network’s major event is “the largest national gathering of community technology organizations, programs, and experts.” The goal for the 2005 conference is to “to chart the progression of the community technology movement from a small grassroots effort, focused on technology access, to a growing national and international field of practice harnessing technology to meet human and social needs.” According to CTCNet, the Annual Conference “is a gathering of our member organizations, leaders in the field, and others in related fields interested in creating equitable participation in information technology. CTCNet members receive a discounted registration rate and repeatedly cite this conference as one of the most important services CTCNet offers.”

For registration rates and more information, visit the CTCNet website at [http://www.ctcnet.org/conf/2005/attending/registration.asp05](http://www.ctcnet.org/conf/2005/attending/registration.asp05).

Institute on Disability—Communities for Everyone: Universal Design for Community and Systems Change, June 23-24, Portsmouth, NH

(From Institute on Disability)

The Institute on Disability invites you to participate at “Communities for Everyone: Universal Design for Community and Systems Change,” June 23 and 24, 2005 at the Sheraton Harborside Portsmouth Hotel and Conference Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Community services and supports for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and their families continue to evolve. We have seen a significant paradigm shift over the past 30 years from an institutionally based system to a community based services system. Unfortunately, many people still are not part of their communities. In order for meaningful community participation to be successful, local communities must be accessible, welcoming, and inclusive of all residents.

Communities for Everyone is a two-day institute that will explore innovative approaches to building inclusive communities and creating sustainable systems change to support all residents to be full participants in community life. Workshops and keynote presentations will provide information that reflects current practices as well as future designs to create welcoming, accessible, and inclusive communities that support all residents.

Registration

Participants are registered on a first-come, first-served basis. A confirmation notice will be sent upon receipt of your registration. **Registration and payment of the conference fee of $275 must be received no later than 5:00 PM on Friday June 17th, 2005.** Late registrations will be considered only as space is available.

Mail or fax the registration form to: UNH, Institute on Disability, Real Choice 10 Ferry St. Unit #14 Concord, NH 03301 Telephone: (603) 228-2084 Fax: (603) 228-3270

For additional information or questions about registration, please contact Judy King at jaking@unh.edu.

National Down Syndrome Conference—Imagine, July 7-10, Chicago

(From NDSS)

The NDSS National Conference is the country's premier conference on Down Syndrome. The 2005 conference, “Imagine,” will bring together parents, family members, professionals, teens and adults with Down syndrome, and siblings from across the country for education, networking, celebration and much more. This year's conference invites attendees to imagine the possibilities for the Down syndrome community - and how together we can make that potential a reality. The 2005 NDSS National Conference is presented in collaboration with the National Association for Down Syndrome, which serves the Chicago metropolitan area.

Why Should You Attend “Imagine”?

• Actively participate in helping to shape the vision of the future for people with Down syndrome.
• Learn best practices in education, health care, employment, community living and inclusion.
• Attend the Festival of the Arts 2005, featuring the many talents of people with Down syndrome.
• Learn from and meet top experts from around the country.
• Find out about the newest products, programs and services in the exhibit hall.
• Acquire the most up-to-date information on education, research and advocacy.
• Network with more than 900 conference participants.
• Learn about resources for babies, children, adolescents and adults with Down syndrome.
• Meet and network with hundreds of affiliate leaders from across the U.S.

Who Should Attend?

• Parents and family members
• Individuals with Down syndrome
• Siblings of individuals with Down syndrome
• Parent group leaders and advocates
• Educators and early intervention specialists
• Physicians, nurses and genetic counselors
• Psychologists, social workers and counselors
• Speech-language, physical and occupational therapists

Register online at https://programs.regweb.com/resourceone/ndss05/register/. Registration costs vary: $125-$275.
For more information, visit http://www.ndss.org/content.cfm?fuseaction=NwsEvt.EvtConfNC.

5th National Early Childhood Inclusion Institute, August 3-5, Chapel Hill NC

(Courtesy of NECTAC)

The Fifth National Early Child Inclusion Institute starts August 3rd in Chapel Hil, NC. Geared toward supporting inclusive environments for children from birth to age five, the institute offers speakers from NECTAC, PACER, CEC, and NCCIC, as well as presenters from the FPG Child Development Institute at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Who should attend the Institute?

• State and Local Administrators
• Teachers
• Early Interventionists
• Service Providers
• Speech and Language Pathologists
• Physical Therapists
• Occupational Therapists
• Inclusion Specialists
• Technical Assistance Providers
• Staff from Federally Funded Projects
• Parent

Attendees will

• Learn about research findings and resources to guide inclusive policy and practice
• Develop better collaborative relationships and cross-agency systems to support early childhood inclusion
• Gain awareness of strategies and models to support inclusive services
• Enjoy the opportunity to meet, learn from and problem solve with peers

Registration fees:
$100 if paid by June 15, 2005
$125 if paid June 16 through July 15, 2005

Register online at http://www.nectac.org/~meetings/InclusionMtq2005/mtqregform.asp
Registration closes July 15. Please register early to assure your place at the Institute. We do not anticipate being able to accommodate walk-ins. The registration fee includes continental breakfasts, breaks, lunches, and a North Carolina barbeque party Wednesday evening. Questions about registration? Contact Judi Shaver at judi_shaver@unc.edu or call (919) 962-7316.
For more information, visit http://www.nectac.org/~meetings/InclusionMtg2005/mtghomepage.asp

2005 National Association for Rural Mental Health (NARMH) Annual Conference, August 4-6, Honolulu
(Courtesy of NARMH)

The presentation tracts for this year’s conference stretch beyond the customary and traditional mental health program areas, extending explicitly into the areas of dual diagnosis and forensic mental health services, with an emphasis on culturally based deliveries of care. The conference is fostering this effort to create greater dialogue among participants from the many sectors that touch people in need of mental health and substance abuse care and treatment, and to aide in dissolving some of the barriers to collaboration and integrated service development and delivery.

NARMH 2005 Conference Tracts:
- Systems Design and Management
- Child / Adolescent Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
- Adult Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program/Services
- State of the Art, New Bio-Medical Advances and Ethics
- Junior Rural Researchers Review

Registration costs vary from $185 to $460 dollars. Conference details are available at www.narmh.org or by calling (320) 202-1820.

Conference on Learning Disabilities Gathers at Fort Lauderdale - October 20-22, 2005

The 27th International Conference on Learning Disabilities will take place at the Fort Lauderdale Marina Marriott. This year's theme is "New Horizons in Learning Disabilities: Research Based Practices." Through high-quality topical sessions, parents, practitioners, and researchers will review "what is working" for individuals with learning disabilities in a range of environments.

The opening keynote speaker, John Maag - University of Nebraska-Lincoln - will discuss how to respond to the student who says "Make me!" Pointing out that teachers cannot "make" others do anything, Maag's keynote will focus on resistance. In the presentation resistance will be reconceptualized, and techniques for managing it will be presented. Dr. Maag will continue this theme in a special workshop titled "Controlling Your Emotions and Behavior Regardless of How Disagreeably Others Treat You."

More information at: http://www.cldinternational.org/c/@s0JbCblercc/Pages/home.html
Selected Sources::

3. PEN Weekly NewsBlast http://www.publiceducation.org
4. Health and Disability Training Calendar http://mtlh.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/training.htm
5. The American Indian Disability Technical Assistance Center Training Calendar http://aidtac.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/TrainingCalendar.htm

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- View an archive of all Weekly eNews at http://www.pluk.org/eNews.htm

- Mission Statement: Parent’s Let’s Unite for Kids unites parents, professionals, families and friends of children with special needs to support one another, and share information for the benefit of their children.
- Vision Statement: Given information and support, individuals with disabilities and their families will feel empowered to advocate for themselves and participate fully in educational and community opportunities.
- Statement on accessibility: Today, we endeavor to be conscious of the need for making all electronic information accessible, as we are aware of physical accessibility issues in our community. For design guidelines visit http://ncam.wgbh.org/cdrom/guideline/.
- Privacy Policy: We do not sell, rent, or lend the e-mail addresses of our subscribers.