



## Come to the Conference and Make It Your Own

Planning is underway for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference on Developmental Disabilities — October 30 and 31, and November 1 — to take place at the Sheraton and Northern hotels in downtown Billings.

Why always Billings, you may wonder? The Conference began as a training event for state providers involved in developmental disability services, but has grown substantially to encompass consumers, their families, educators, and organizations concerned with quality services, employment, independent living, advocacy and awareness. The number of participants has grown into the 800 range, the Conference Steering Committee has struggled to find solutions to our location issue.

The venue needs to be accessible, offer low lodging rates, and be big enough to hold everyone, or close enough to another hotel to assure that people with mobility issues are not adversely affected. The Steering Committee has made some decisions this year that could challenge the “always in Billings” notion, though, so stay tuned.

Our coordination continues to evolve, and the 2002

Conference is proof of our willingness to respond to the feedback we’ve received from those who attend. This year’s official opening will begin with the afternoon keynote on Wednesday, and there will be no morning presentations scheduled on that day. In past years, attendance at the Wednesday morning sectionals had been sporadic. Generally,

people must arrive the night before and the cost of the extra night’s lodging can move the conference out of the financial realm of possibility for many. So, we will schedule group meetings Wednesday morning and early evenings, and leave the remaining time to keynote and general presentations.

Keynotes this year (still tentative, as we still are making arrangements) are BJ Freeman, John Agosta, and Amy Hewitt.

BJ FREEMAN had been selected as a keynote for the 2001 Conference but had to withdraw due to a severely broken foot. Barring anything similar, she’ll present Wednesday afternoon on “Autism: What We Know.” BJ is a Professor of Medical Psychology at UCLA School of Medicine and the Director



of their Autism Evaluation Clinic. She is considered an international authority on the diagnosis, assessment and treatment of children and adults with autism and related developmental disabilities.

JOHN AGOSTA is actually a former staff member of Montana DPHHS, now Vice President of the Human Services Research Institute in Oregon. From the HSRI web site: "John has worked in the field for nearly 25 years in various direct service or administrative capacities. At HSRI, his work focuses on community-centered systems for people with disabilities, involving employment, residential and family supports. His recent work focuses on managed long term supports, emphasizing 'participant driven supports' as a means for promoting cost efficiency within a context of self determination and community integration."

AMY HEWITT works with the Institute on Community Integration (ICI), the University Affiliated Program in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Minnesota. Amy has created training materials for the Research and Training Center on Community Living, the part of ICI "focused on community supports for persons with developmental disabilities and their families; providing research, evaluation, training, and technical assistance activities in several areas." Through ICI, Amy is

also part of a collaborative effort known as the College of Direct Support, identified as "the first online college for direct support staff" and based upon principles of thorough, cost effective training across geographic distances.

We are hoping to also provide an additional featured presentation by KIM PEEK and his father Fran. Kim's abilities are the model for those in the movie "Rainman." The Peeks relate their life experience with Kim's amazing talents in computation and memory, giving a family perspective on the perception of developmental disability and the variety of contradictions therein.

As always, there will be a number of sectional presentations by professionals, service providers, disability-related organizations, parents and individual consumers. The Developmental Disabilities Planning and Advisory Council (DDPAC) Service Award ceremony will be held Wednesday evening and there will be a Halloween-themed dance Thursday night. An assistive technology / adaptive equipment fair will take place throughout the Conference, as will a trade show and art exhibit.

We welcome the participation of families who wish to present their own story, or would like to attend to find out more about the developmental disability community. If you are interested in receiving more information on the

2002 Conference, we are more than happy to send it to you. Contact Julie Tompkins or Suzanne Solenberger at The Rural Institute, (800)732-0323 or (406)243-5467 or by e-mail to [julietom@selway.umt.edu](mailto:julietom@selway.umt.edu)

The Invitation to Present, Tentative Agenda and registration details will be posted on the Conference web site: [www.mtddconference.org](http://www.mtddconference.org)

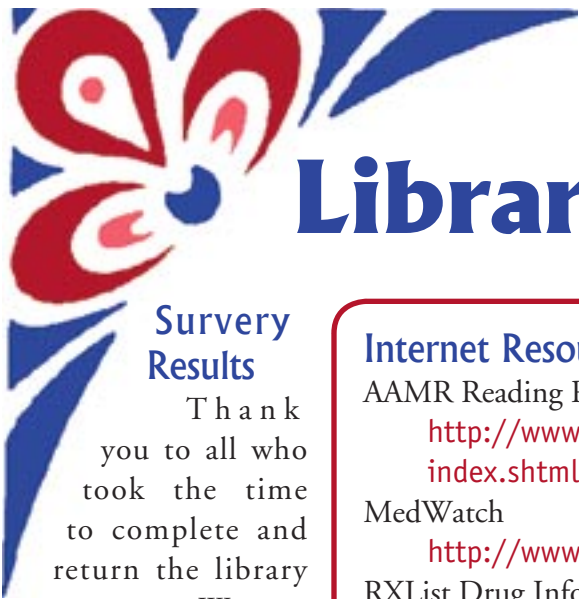


## Journal News

The library has recently subscribed to the journal, *Sexuality and Disabilities*.

Some of the other journals that the library receives are:

- *American Journal on Mental Retardation*
- *Career Development for Exceptional Individuals*
- *Exceptional Children*
- *Exceptional Parent*
- *Infant Mental Health Journal*
- *Journal of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders*
- *Journal of Learning Disabilities*
- *Journal of Positive Behavior Interventions*
- *Journal of Special Education*
- *JASH/ Journal of the Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps*
- *Mental Health Aspects of Developmental Disabilities*
- *Research in Developmental Disabilities*.



# Library News

## Survey Results

Thank you to all who took the time to complete and return the library user survey. We were very pleased with the response and all the comments. Some requested a listing of all our resources. This is not practical due to the thousand of items we have. However, much of the library collection can be accessed online by going to the OCLC database known as WorldCat. If you are interested in doing this, have your public or college library demonstrate how to navigate it and have them issue you a password so you can access the database from your office or home computer.

This past year, each issue of the *PLUK News* has published a bibliography on various subjects. Keep those issues for future reference. Subjects featured this year have been learning disabilities, autism and asperger syndrome, behavior, and special health care.

Some survey comments expressed a need for specific information. Since the surveys did not reveal who was replying, please call and speak with the librarian. Resources currently in the library collection can meet those needs.

## Internet Resources

AAMR Reading Room

<http://www.aamr.org/Reading-Room/index.shtml>

MedWatch

<http://www.fda.gov/medwatch>

RXList Drug Information

<http://www.rxlist.com>

HealthFinder

<http://www.healthfinder.gov>

Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Aging with a Disability

<http://www.agingwithdisability.org>

SeniorLaw

<http://www.seniorlaw.com>

National Library of Medicine

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/>



## New Library Material

*A Child's Journey Through Placement*  
Vera Fahlberg FOS29

*Forgotten Generation: The Status and Challenges of Adults with Mild Cognitive Limitations*  
Alexander Tymchuk AGE84

*Making Life More Livable: Simple Adaptations for Living at Home after Vision Loss*  
Maureen Duffy VIS221

*Surviving Manic Depression: A Manual on Bipolar Disorder for Patients, Families and Providers*  
E. Fuller Torrey EMOMOO35

*Skills Training for Children with Behavior Disorders: A Parent and Therapist Guidebook*  
Michael Bloomquist BEH409

*Suicide in Later Life: Recognizing the Warning Signs*  
Nancy Osgood EMOMOO38

*Helping Bereaved Children: A Handbook for Practitioners*  
Nancy Webb DEA52

*Love 'Em or Lose 'Em: Getting Good People to Stay*  
Beverly Kaye MAN156

*Prescriptions For Independence: Working With Older People Who Are Visually Impaired*  
Nora Griffin-Shirley VIS222

*Rights of People with Mental Disabilities: The Authoritative ACLU Guide to the Rights of People with Mental Illness and Mental Retardation*  
Robert Levy LEG230

*Mental Retardation: Definition, Classification, and System of Supports* MEN241

# Quality Matters: Not Disabilities

We all want to be treated equally with dignity and respect. However, do we all treat people this way? If you're answering truthfully, the answer is, "No, not always." Maybe we are having a bad day or wake up in a bad mood. Whatever the reason, we sometimes forget that not everyone is to blame for what is going on in our lives. I can say I try to treat others as I want to be treated. Notice that I said the key word *try*. I have been in the human service field for over 14 years and by no means do I claim to be any kind of expert. As many of us who stay in the field, I do so because I love what I do and couldn't

imagine doing anything different.

As the times are changing, we have seen many advances in the field of developmental disabilities. And as time goes on, we will begin to see more and more that it is quality that matters — not a person's disability. As services become more individualized and monies portable, it will be the person with a "disability" who will be able to see through the services that may not be a quality service. For many, what a wonderful world this will be.

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— Lisa Kopp, Mountain View Social Development Center



## QUALITY MATTERS

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