

We are proud to present news of interest for Montana families of children with disabilities and special health care needs, and for the professionals and educators who serve them; however, it does not constitute an endorsement.

*"People are usually more convinced by reasons they discovered themselves than by those found by others." –Blaise Pascal*

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### Impacts of Childhood Disability on Families , 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, June 10-11, exploring childhood disability and its impact on families and caregivers.

Dr. Moses has spent his career studying the "relationship between human development and grieving" and for more than twenty years he has carried a private practice and offered a range of services from counseling and psychotherapy to consultation, supervision, education and training services.

The conference "Impacts of Childhood Disability: Understanding the Parents' Journey From Grief to Growth" is sponsored by St. Vincent's Healthcare (in cooperation with Billings Public Schools, STEP, and ECI). CEUs will be offered and, a limited number of registration scholarships (for parents of special needs children) will be available. For more information, see the conference listing in this issue of PLUK eNews.

### Kids at Heart Gala, May 13



The event will be held again at Sheraton Hotel in Billings and is set for Friday May 13<sup>th</sup>. The 2005 Kids at Heart Gala features the band *The Midlife Chryslers* (Billings' area doctors who participate in 4 or 5 performances a year for local nonprofits). The Committee is excited about this notable band's involvement and everyone is looking forward to the Gala. In addition to the Chrysler's performance, the event will include heavy hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction, a live auction (featuring auctioneer Bill Holt), and much more. For information on sponsorships or tickets, call PLUK's office at 406 255-0540 or 800 222-7585. Visit the PLUK web site to see a list

of auction items, <http://www.pluk.org>.

### Benefit Concert for PLUK—May 20, Kalispell



Celebrate the Power and the Legend  
of America's First Journey West with

**ROB QUIST**  
and

**JACK GLADSTONE**

In Their Highly-Acclaimed New Multi-Media Production

**ODYSSEY WEST**



**An Original Musical and Visual Narrative**

**Commemorating the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition**

*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>

#### BraveHearts Grief Support Group, May 3, Billings

BraveHearts is a grief support group for children, teens, and families. The group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3	Planting Seeds & Making a Memory Garden
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.)

#### Final Legislative Update (14) from C. Briggs

1. Appropriations. The 59<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Montana Legislature is now history. About 10:15 a.m. today, the House and Senate adjourned *sine die* (Latin, "dismissed indefinitely"), which means the end – as distinct from a recess – or postponement until a later time. Within the first hour of convening, the Republican Leader, Roy Brown (R-Kimberley), stated he would end the impasse and be the lone Republican House member to join the 50 Democrats and approve HB-2, the "General Appropriations Act of 2003", with the joint conference committee report as approved by the Senate late last week. The House approved the conference report, and voting stood 51-49. The joint conference committee never reconvened to entertain some \$60 million additional fund cuts in the bill, as the Republican leadership desired.

Both houses adjourned the regular 2005 Legislative Session with a clear understanding they will convene a special session late in the year to resolve the education funding mandate imposed by the Montana Supreme Court. Among the final bills considered earlier in the week, HB-5 was finally approved, which was the long-range funding bill (concerning more than one biennium or two-year cycle). As a result of these two bills being approved the legislature was able to complete its work and presumably keep state spending under the "cap" (or ceiling), which most citizens learned not many months ago was placed in statute by the 1981 Montana Legislature. As indicated in an earlier report, there were no additional cuts to HB-2 and, hence, appropriations increases that are important to disability advocates are approved for the biennium that begins July 1, 2005.

#### 2. Other Legislation.

Here is the final status of the remaining bills we have been following:

- HB 197 (Jayne) – Will make it a felony for anyone convicted of abusing, neglecting or exploiting an older adult or person with a developmental disability, at the request of DPHHS. Senate amendments kept violence between consumers a misdemeanor. It has been *transmitted* to the **Governor**.
- HB 336 (Lange) – This bill providing service funding to developmentally disabled youth who have aged out of services for about a year still but *died* without action in the Senate.
- HB 438 (Buzzas) – The Braille literacy bill was approved and is being prepared for *transmittal* to the **Governor**.
- HB 513 (Raser) – This will extend state tax credits to citizens who donate to developmental disabilities programs. It has been *transmitted* to the **Governor**.
- HB 550 (Windy Boy) – Appropriates \$100,000 over the biennium for the leadership forum for youth with disabilities. It is being prepared for *transmittal* to the **Governor**.
- HB 687 (Mendenhall) – This is an important companion to the I-149 tobacco tax initiative, as it makes provision to track tobacco sales, and compliments the actions of the sub-committee that funded six auditors for tax collection. It is being prepared for *transmittal* to the **Governor**.
- HB738 (Kaufmann) – Will establish an advisory commission to study all provider rates and services provided by DPHHS. The bill has been *transmitted* to the **Governor**. The work of this advisory commission will be important to all providers of services to people with disabilities.
- SB 41 (Keenan) – Establishing “funding principles” for Medicaid, it’s one of several the Senator offered as part of a larger Medicaid redesign. It has been *transmitted* to the **Governor**
- SB 93 (Cobb) – Requires DPHHS to report monthly to the Legislative Finance Committee updating Medicaid cost estimates. It has been *transmitted* to the **Governor**
- SB 110 (Cobb) – A significant piece of the Medicaid redesign legislation. The bill has been *sent* to the **Governor**.
- SB 127 (Keenan) – Another Medicaid redesign bills, this one focuses on restructuring home and community-based waiver services. It has been *sent* to the **Governor**.
- SB 146 (McGee) – Based on a lawsuit, this bill intends to redesign – and fund – Montana’s public defender system, which could be a good thing for people with disabilities on limited incomes. This important bill (that requires a disabilities advocate to be appointed to the State Public Defender Commission) has been *transmitted* to the **Governor**.
- SB 150 (Keenan) – What has been termed the “waiver of deeming bill” would require cost-sharing for community-based Medicaid services. The bill *died* in House committee.
- SB 415 (Tester) – A significant bill drawing lots of attention designed to mandate utilities access alternative energy, such as wind. While seen as progressive energy policy, a number of non-profit organizations have raised questions whether it could potentially raise costs to consumers. A conference committee was appointed April 20<sup>th</sup>; apparently, no report was recorded and approved by both houses, presumably killing the bill.
- SB 428 (Stapleton) – Establishes the 211 emergency human services system statewide. The House concurred in Governor’s amendments and was returned to the Senate, but Senate did not concur. Bill is presumably *dead*.
- SB 433 (Lind) – Creates a Medicaid pilot project for 50 developmentally disabled individuals, provides for retention of unspent funds in their annual cost plan for future services, as well as a portion to the DDP “risk pool”. The **Governor** signed it earlier this week.
- SB 500 (Cobb) – Revises state election laws to facilitate voting accessibility for people with disabilities. It has been *transmitted* to the **Governor**.
- SB 526 (Cobb) – Would exempt bed taxes (such as hospitals and nursing homes), as well as voter approved tax initiatives (such as I-149) from consideration of the spending cap. The bill was scheduled for hearing in House Appropriations on Tuesday but no action was taken. Bill is, therefore, *dead*.

Except for those very few bills whose fate is unclear, the actions of the 2005 Montana Legislature are indicated. However, as in the past, we will be assessing and evaluating the implications of this Legislature’s decisions for many months to come, certain to discover implications of its actions that no one had previously understood or pondered but knowing the citizens of the state will have to live with, nonetheless. I think, on balance, disabilities services, programs and rights have been better served in this Session than in many of the ones in at least the last decade or more.

I extend my best regards and thanks to all of you for your diligence, passion and good efforts to improve the circumstances and the support systems for people with disabilities in Montana. I look forward to working with you again in the future.

Charlie Briggs, CEO  
CWB Consultation

### Input Sought from healthcare providers and client advocates at PASSPORT Summits



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: **Helena** on April 26, **Havre** on May 10, **Billings** on May 18, **Kalispell** on June 8, and **Missoula** on June 15. 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](mailto:niscoffield@mt.gov). For a copy of the agenda and more details, visit Montana Medicaid's website at [www.mtmedicaid.org](http://www.mtmedicaid.org).

### OPI & Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind offers Summer Skills Program

The Montana Office of Public Instruction, Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind (MSDB), and the Montana school for the Deaf and the Blind Foundation will co-sponsor summer programs at the MSDB.† For information and a questionnaire regarding the Summer Skills Programs, please use the following link: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/SpecED/05MSDBSummerSkillsProg.pdf>

If you have questions regarding the summer programs, please call the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind at 406-771-6000.

### Flathead County Elections in 2006 Herald Major Changes to Montana Voting Methods

(From The Daily Inter Lake)

Posted: Sunday, Apr 17, 2005 - 11:08:23 am PDT

By WILLIAM L. SPENCE

The Daily Inter Lake

The Flathead County Election Department is preparing for several major changes over the next year, including the introduction of an electronic vote-counting device that should provide rapid election results.

Clerk and Recorder Paula Robinson said she expects the first shipment of M100 tabulators to arrive by midsummer. Beginning with the 2006 primary election, one of the devices will be located at each of the county's 43 polling stations.

The tabulators will scan paper ballots and alert voters to any discrepancies such as under-voted or over-voted races, she said.

Faulty ballots will be returned to voters, who can either revise them or instruct the machine to accept them as is. The ballots will then be stored in secure containers, without ever being handled by anyone other than the voters themselves.

In addition to the tabulator, several other changes are scheduled for this year and next, including:

- Computerized voter registration records -- Flathead County will be one of the first jurisdictions in Montana to deploy a statewide database for voter registration records.

That project is scheduled for this summer, Robinson said. Eventually, all county election departments will be linked to the database, which should make it easier to identify and remove voters who have moved to other counties, or to update records for people who move here.

"The database will have your signature on file, so we'll be able to compare signatures and verify [voter] petitions more easily," Eisenzimer said. "We'll also be able to link to our address database and automatically tell which precinct someone is in. We used to spend hours doing that." Prior to implementing the system, all registration cards will have to be bar-coded and scanned into the database. The work is scheduled to be completed by the 2006 primary.

- Same-day registration -- The Montana Legislature recently approved Senate Bill 302, which makes several changes in state voter registration statutes.

Most notably, the bill allows people to register to vote as late as the day of the election. Those who come in after the normal registration deadline will have to vote at the election office. SB 302 has been sent to Gov. Brian Schweitzer for his signature.

- Direct recording electronic equipment -- This is another device that could be deployed by the 2006 primary election. It allows people who are blind or vision-impaired, or who have some other disability that makes it difficult to mark a regular ballot, to vote in privacy.

The direct recording equipment and the M100 ballot scanner are both intended to meet the requirements of the federal Help America Vote Act.

Robinson said the Election Department also is considering changes to its absentee voting procedures and evaluating the number and location of polling places to make sure they're still adequate.

Absentee voting might be switched from the county courthouse to the county fairgrounds, she said, because the fairgrounds is better able to handle large numbers of people and its handicap accessibility is better.

The hours for absentee voting also could be shifted or expanded to make it easier for working people to vote.

"Last year, we had more than 8,000 absentee ballots," Robinson said. "I bet we have at least 10,000 next time. I'd like to encourage as much absentee voting as possible to alleviate the amount of paperwork we need to handle on election night."

Reporter Bill Spence may be reached at 758-4459 or by e-mail at [bspence@dailyinterlake.com](mailto:bspence@dailyinterlake.com).

Read the rest of this article in the Daily Inter Lake archive at <http://www.dailyinterlake.com/articles/2005/04/17/news/news02.txt>.

## National Council on Disability (NCD): Report Recommends Immediate Changes in Emergency Planning for People with Disabilities

(Courtesy of Monday Morning in Washington, D.C.)

WASHINGTON—The National Council on Disability (NCD) recently released a report (<http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2005/publications.htm>) recommending immediate federal changes in emergency planning for people with disabilities.

According to NCD chairperson Lex Frieden, "Saving Lives: Including People with Disabilities in Emergency Planning, provides an overview of steps the Federal Government should take to build a solid and resilient infrastructure that will enable the government to include the diverse populations of people with disabilities in emergency preparedness, disaster relief, and homeland security programs. This infrastructure would incorporate access to technology, physical plants, programs, and communications. It also would include procurement and emergency programs and services."

The decisions the Federal Government makes, the priority it accords to civil rights, and the methods it adopts to ensure uniformity in the ways agencies handle their disability-related responsibilities are likely to be established in the early days of an emergency situation and be difficult to change if not set on the right course at the outset. By way of this report, NCD offers advice to assist the Federal Government in establishing policies and practices in these areas. This report provides examples of community efforts with respect to people with disabilities, but by no means does it provide a comprehensive treatment of the emergency preparedness, disaster relief, or homeland-security program efforts by state and local governments.

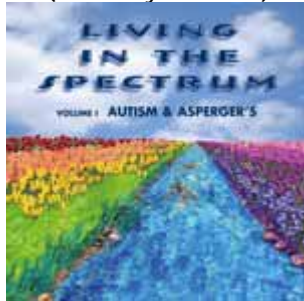
Key Recommendations:

- DHS should establish a Disability Access Advisory Group, in addition to the Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness, made up of qualified people with disabilities and others with disability-specific disaster experience who meet regularly with senior officials to discuss issues and challenges.
- The DHS Directorate of Emergency Preparedness and Response should integrate information on people with disabilities into general preparedness materials. It also should inform readers and information users on how to get access to more customized materials.
- The DHS Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties should regularly issue guidance for state and local emergency planning departments to reinforce their legal obligation to comply with ADA and Section 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act in planning for, operating, and managing programs and services such as Citizen Corps, shelters, and other disaster services.
- The FCC should develop stronger enforcement mechanisms to ensure that video programming distributors, including broadcasters, cable operators, and satellite television services, comply with their obligation to

make emergency information accessible to people with hearing and vision disabilities, that it acts immediately on violations, and that it is proactive on Section 255 hearing aid compatibility.

### "Living In The Spectrum: Autism & Asperger's" Audio CD

(Courtesy PR WEB)



Royal Oak, MI (PRWEB) April 18, 2005 -- Being that April is "Autism Awareness" month, and with 1 in 166 children now being diagnosed with Autism or it's close relative, Asperger Syndrome, MindscapeProductions.com is donating a portion of the proceeds from the sale of their audio CD about Autism and Asperger Syndrome to various Autism organizations to help raise awareness, acceptance and understanding about the conditions.

The CD, entitled "Living In The Spectrum – Autism & Asperger's" is filled with valuable nuggets of insight from researchers, parents and individuals who have Autism or Asperger's. It features captivating music, poetry and intriguing interviews.

"Living In The Spectrum" is an ideal primer for parents, relatives, school districts, teachers, employers, doctors or anyone wanting to learn about Autism and Asperger's. The 55-minute CD delivers a captivating introduction to the subject matter. Co-producer, Lecia Macryn states, "What makes this presentation unique is that it not only educates people about Autism and Asperger's and presents the facts, but also puts a positive perspective on it. It offers hope, encouragement and highlights the gifts those in the autism spectrum bring us. Plus, because it's an audio CD, people who don't have much time on their hands can listen to it while driving, on the treadmill or working on their computer."

The Audio CD, "Living In The Spectrum – Autism & Asperger's," ISBN# 0976576007 is available for \$16.95 online from Mindscape Productions at <http://www.MindscapeProductions.com> or from Amazon <http://www.amazon.com/>.

### The Special Ed Advocate--Wrightslaw

(From Wrightslaw)

In this issue of *The Special Ed Advocate*, we look at IEPs, Extended School Year (ESY), and highly qualified special ed teachers. Download this issue at <http://www.wrightslaw.com/nltr/05/nl.0412.htm>.

#### Highlights:

- Finding a tutor for a child with LD
- Educating educators
- Writing IEPs for success
- Support for school personnel and parent training in IEPs
- How I got extended school year services after school said "no"
- Answering questions about extended school year (ESY) services
- Highly qualified special ed teachers
- Find help at Yellow Pages for Kids

### Free curriculum for internet safety

<http://www.isafe.org>

i-SAFE America provides age-appropriate K-12 curriculum to schools in all 50 states free of charge. The curriculum is a dynamic interactive program designed to educate and empower the student. Each lesson includes Activity Pages and Discussion for the class.

### Study and Work Abroad

Study and Work Abroad for All: <http://www.independentliving.org/studyworkabroad/> In addition to information about traineeships and volunteer positions this free online database lists universities offering services for disabled students. Presently over 1,100 universities in 36 countries are covered. The database is in English, free of charge and open to anyone.

### Independent Living Online Library

Online full text Library: <http://www.independentliving.org/library.html> contains hundreds of articles, guides or manuals on independent living, Universal Design, human rights, legislation, women with disabilities, assistive devices.

### Nutrition for Persons with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

People with intellectual/developmental disabilities often have a higher tendency of being obese than people in the general population. For ideas on how to improve nutrition in persons with Down syndrome, see the NCPAD factsheet at [http://www.ncpad.org/nutrition/fact\\_sheet.php?sheet=197&view=all](http://www.ncpad.org/nutrition/fact_sheet.php?sheet=197&view=all).

### Watch "Riding the Bus with my sister" support a great cause on May 1st

On Sunday, May 1, Hallmark Hall of Fame will broadcast *Riding the Bus with My Sister* on CBS. Directed by Angelica Houston, and starring Andie MacDowell and Rosie O'Donnell, this is the movie adaptation of our friend Rachel Simon's wonderful book of the same name.

It is Rachel's wish that the premiere of this movie be used as an opportunity to support the Sibling Support Project! Here's what she told us:

As I wrote *Riding the Bus with My Sister*, I learned of The Sibling Support Project's important work. Whether it's helping local communities start Sibshops, connecting young and adult sibs with their peers on SibKids and SibNet, conducting wonderful workshops for parents and providers, or creating engaging books for sibs and families, The Sibling Support Project is the go-to group for all things sibling. I hope you'll join me and support the work of The Arc's Sibling Support Project!

--Rachel Simon, author, *Riding the Bus with My Sister*.

In honor of this special network presentation, we're celebrating the many important roles brothers and sisters play in the lives of their sibs who have disabilities. I hope you'll help us celebrate by making a secure online donation to the Sibling Support Project.

When making your online donation, be sure to check the "in support of" box and select either "Stay at Home Premiere" or "Sibling Support Project." (By selecting "Stay at Home Premiere," 50% of your contribution will go to ANCOR, another worthy cause.) You can also send a contribution to The Arc's Sibling Support Project, 1010 Wayne Avenue, Suite 650, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

To learn more about what we do and why brothers and sisters are so important, please visit us at our website at <http://www.thearc.org/siblingsupport/>

### A Kiss That Binds: Understanding The Interaction Of Fragile X Mental Retardation Protein And Kissing Complex RNAs

Fragile X syndrome is the most common inherited form of mental retardation, affecting approximately 1 in 3600 males and 1 in 4000-6000 females. Fragile X syndrome results from loss of expression of the Fragile X mental retardation protein (FMRP), the product of the FMR1 gene. Now, Drs. Robert and Jennifer Darnell and colleagues, from The Rockefeller University, report the uncovering of a new interaction between FMRP and messenger RNAs (mRNAs) containing a tertiary RNA structure termed a "kissing complex".

Read the complete article at:

Read the complete article at: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2005/04/050416183454.htm>

### NEA, School Districts Fight Education Law

Thu Apr 21, 9:01 AM ET U.S. Government – AP, By BEN FELLER, AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON - The nation's largest teachers union and school districts in three states sued the Bush administration Wednesday over the No Child Left Behind law, aiming to free schools from complying with any part not paid for by the federal government.

Read the complete article at: [http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/ap/education\\_lawsuit](http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/ap/education_lawsuit)

### Circle of Security early intervention program for parents and children

<http://www.circleofsecurity.org/>

The Circle of Security Project is an innovative, first-of-its-kind early intervention program designed to alter the developmental pathway of parents and their young children. Glen Cooper, Kent Hoffman, and Bert Powell from Marycliff Institute in Spokane, Washington and Robert Marvin from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia are currently designing this unique, cost-effective program.

### PARENTS AND TEENS FINALLY AGREE ON SOMETHING: ADHD TREATMENT WORKS

Families Credit Therapy with Better Grades, Higher Self-Esteem, Improved Relationships

Alexandria, VA (March 8, 2005) — Families with teenagers diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) strongly believe that treating the condition can lead to significant improvements in school and at home, according to a new nationwide survey.

Roughly two-thirds of these parents (66%) and teenagers (61%) report their teen/they currently receive treatment for ADHD. Both groups credit their treatment – in the form of medication, counseling and/or behavior therapy, and school services – with contributing to better grades in school, higher self-esteem, improved social relationships and enhanced participation in extracurricular activities.

Download the survey results at <http://www.nmha.org/newsroom/NMHA-ADHDsurveyrelease.pdf>

## Time magazine: The Bully Blight

Scientists find that getting picked on is more harmful than anyone knew

By MICHAEL D. LEMONICK, Monday, Apr. 11, 2005

Like most of her classmates at Washington High School in Milwaukee, Wis., La Shanda Trimble, 18, is attentive to fashion trends; it's the particular trend she chooses that sets her apart. She's a Goth, wearing black lipstick and nail polish, listening to bands like Linkin Park and Rob Zombie rather than rapper Nelly or R&B star Ciara. She likes to wear her hair in pigtails instead of the more popularly accepted braids. The other kids don't approve. "They think I should act like them," says the 11th-grader. "They like me to listen to rap and pop and wear, like, brand-new shoes."

Read the article at: <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1047497,00.html>

## Partnership for Reading offers information for parents & teachers

<http://www.nifl.gov/partnershipforreading/>

The Partnership for Reading offers information about the effective teaching of reading for children, adolescents, and adults, based on the evidence from quality research. The Partnership invites you to explore this site for information on the research, principles about reading instruction suggested by the research, and products for parents, teachers, administrators, and policy-makers.

## Events/Conferences in Montana::

### Input Sought from healthcare providers and client advocates at PASSPORT Summits, April 26, Helena



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:

- o **Helena** on April 26,
- o **Havre** on May 10,
- o **Billings** on May 18,
- o **Kalispell** on June 8, and
- o **Missoula** on June 15.

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](mailto:niscoffield@mt.gov). For a copy of the agenda and more details, visit Montana Medicaid's website at [www.mtmedicaid.org](http://www.mtmedicaid.org).

### Fourth Annual Native American Brain Injury Conference, April 26-27, Billings

The Fourth Annual Native American Brain Injury Conference, scheduled for April 26-27 in Billings, will feature nationally recognized speakers and an evening concert with singer-songwriter Jack Gladstone.

Registration fees vary (\$55-\$105). Pre-register by April 8, 2005 for the best rates. Register online at <http://www.msubillings.edu/mctdregister>. Questions? Call Ian Elliot at 1-888-866-3822, or Nell Eby at 406-655-7636 for more information

### Step Up to Writing—A Key to Academic Success, April 27-28 - Kalispell

Step Up to Writing is a writing program that makes a dramatic difference in student success. This two-day workshop is designed for teachers who want to help struggling students learn to communicate in an organized and effective manner. Participants will leave the workshop with a wealth of strategies that motivate students as they significantly increase their academic success.

The trainer, Neilia Solberg, B.A., is a Step Up to Writing consultant for Sopris West Educational Services. Included in her years of teaching are elementary school and staff development in the language arts and content reading. Recent experience in Academic Achievement plans across the curriculum and grade levels as well as expanded responsibilities in coordinating instruction development.

For more information and to register online, go to the Region V CSPD web site: <http://www.cspd.net>.

### OPTIMIST SPECIAL CHILDREN'S CAMP FUND RAISER April 30

Join us for dinner and entertainment with a Hawaiian theme (featuring Calamity Entertainment with a possible special guest appearance by Brenda Williams and Steve Repac) at the lower level of Shrine Auditorium

WHEN: April 30, 2005, doors open 6 PM with no host cocktails. Dinner served at 7 PM.

COST: \$45.00 includes entertainment, appetizers, and dinner. Trivia contest prizes and door prizes will be awarded.

This is a fundraiser for Optimist Special Children's Camp. This camp is attended by 45-60 Children ages 6-18 every year. Wear your grass skirts, muumuus, and Hawaiian shirts. Come prepared to dance the Hula, or to learn how. Tickets and information are available from any Optimist member, or call 252-1048 or 247-4704.

### BraveHearts Grief Support Group, May 3, Billings

BraveHearts is a grief support group for children, teens, and families. The group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3	Planting Seeds & Making a Memory Garden
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.)

### Free Tickets Available for Vigilante Player's "Water Bingo" May 4, Billings

PLUK is pleased to announce that tickets are available for the Yellowstone County Deputy Sheriff's Association presentation of the Vigilante Player's production " Water Bingo." This mystery play (about a vial of water stolen from the moons of Venus) is suitable for all ages.

WHEN/ WHERE: May 4, 2005, 7:00 PM at the Lincoln Center.

Interested? Tickets are available at the Billings PLUK office—call 406 255-0540 or 800 222-7585 for more information.

### Session 3: Getting Students Past the "Gatekeeper", May 5, Missoula

Effective instruction, especially at the middle school level, is a critical component for laying the foundation for higher-level mathematics. This one-day workshop focuses on the "big picture" concepts and those topics necessary for algebra success. By tackling the important topics and modeling the "big picture" concepts for students, teachers and students can "tear down" these roadblocks to algebra success.

To register, or for further information, please go to <http://www.cspd.net>.

### All Kidding Aside: Preventing Harassment, May 5, Miles City

Sponsored by Region 1 CSPD

**May 5—"All Kidding Aside: Preventing Harassment,"** Miles City MCC, 1:00-4:30 pm

For more information, contact Helen Murphy at [dmurphy@midrivers.com](mailto:dmurphy@midrivers.com) or (406) 485-3600.

### Tools for Independence: Assistive Technology, May 6, Miles City

Date: May 6, 2005, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Where: Miles City Community College

Presenter: Roger Holt, ATP

Information/registration: <http://www.pluk.org/training/AT.htm>

### Managing Multiple Priorities, May 10, Helena

Sponsored by Region 1 CSPD

**May 10—“Managing Multiple Priorities,”** Helena, 8:30 am to 12:00 noon

For more information, contact Helen Murphy at [dmurphy@midrivers.com](mailto:dmurphy@midrivers.com) or (406) 485-3600.

### 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>

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

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>

### 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>

### 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](mailto:jbarrett@pecs.com) or call 302-368-2515. If you are interested in sending 5 or more people, please contact us regarding group discounts.

### Impacts of Childhood Disability on Families, 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.

Cost: \$50-\$100. A limited number of scholarships, courtesy of the Children's Clinic, are available to parents of children with special needs. For more information, please call Health Access, St. Vincent Healthcare, at 406-657-8792.

### 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 MSDB 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 MSDB at 1-800-882-6732 or Barb Rolf, Outreach Vision Consultant at (406) 251-5674.

### 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)

Download the MASP SI Brochure at [http://www.pluk.org/MASP\\_SumInst\\_2005.pdf](http://www.pluk.org/MASP_SumInst_2005.pdf).

### 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>)

Help spread the word about the Montana Walk F.A.R. for NAAR event. Download the event flyer at [http://www.autismwalk.org/site/DocServer/Great\\_Falls\\_Walk\\_Flyer\\_FINAL.pdf?docID=705](http://www.autismwalk.org/site/DocServer/Great_Falls_Walk_Flyer_FINAL.pdf?docID=705). Want to build a Walk F.A.R. team, check out [http://www.autismwalk.org/site/PageServer?pagename=fundraising\\_tips](http://www.autismwalk.org/site/PageServer?pagename=fundraising_tips).

Find out more about the Walk F.A.R. for NAAR Events at

<http://www.autismwalk.org/site/PageServer?pagename=homepage>.

Interested? Want to Learn More?

Penny Martin--Local Volunteer Leadership--406.771.3998 or [j.martin@bresnan.net](mailto: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](mailto:smoore@naar.org) <http://www.autismwalk.org> or <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>

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

### Disability Law Resource Project (DLRP) Webcasts April 27, May 18

(From DLRP)

**Saving Lives—Including People with Disabilities in Emergency Planning: April 27, 1:00-2:30pm MST**

**PRESENTER:**

Patricia Pound, Member, National Council on Disability, will present this Web cast on Wednesday, April 27, 2005 from 3:00-4:30pm Eastern; 2:00 Central; 1:00 Mountain; 12:00 Pacific; 11:00 Alaska; 9:00 Hawaii.

Patricia Pound was confirmed in 2002 as one of President Bush's nominees to the National Council on Disability, an independent federal agency making recommendations to the President and Congress on disability policy.

**SUMMARY:**

In this Webcast, Patricia Pound will discuss the report presented by the National Council on Disability (NCD) entitled Saving Lives: Including People with Disabilities in Emergency Planning.

Under its congressional mandate, NCD is charged with the responsibility to gather information on the development and implementation of federal laws, policies, programs, and initiatives that affect people with disabilities. In 2003, because of the Administration's initiatives in homeland security, NCD committed to evaluate the development of the Federal Government's work in that area as well as in the areas of emergency preparation and disaster relief as they relate to and affect Americans with disabilities.

This report provides an overview of steps the Federal Government should take to build a solid and resilient infrastructure that will enable the government to include the diverse populations of people with disabilities in emergency preparedness, disaster relief, and homeland security programs. This infrastructure would incorporate access to

technology, physical plants, programs, and communications. It also would include procurement and emergency programs and services. Please submit questions for the presenter ahead of time to [webcast@ilru.org](mailto:webcast@ilru.org).

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

**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 Web cast 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](mailto: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](mailto:webcast@ilru.org) or 713/520-0232 (v/tty).

**"Riding the Bus with My Sister" to air on TV May 1**

Rachel Simon's book *Riding the Bus with My Sister* has been made into a Hallmark Hall of Fame television movie. The film will air May 1 on CBS stations around the country.

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

**YAI/National Institute for People with Disabilities Network 26th Annual International Conference  
"Building Brighter Futures for People with Developmental and Learning Disabilities," May 9-13, NYC**

Dive into one of the largest conferences of its kind at the 26<sup>th</sup> annual YAI/National Institute for People with Disabilities Network international conference. This event features more than 120 sessions and 2 full-day post conference workshops.

Cost: Varies \$195-\$545

Visit [www.yai.org](http://www.yai.org) for conference details, including a full agenda, and to register.

**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>

**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.

Registration rates: \$99-\$295

Register online at <https://www.exporeg.com/autismone/>. Questions or registration concerns, email [Registration@AutismOne.org](mailto:Registration@AutismOne.org). For more information, visit <http://autismone.org/homepage.cfm>.

### IDEA Public Meetings

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

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.

If you missed the March 2 deadline for Ann Arbor, there are other dates and cities; each is followed by the application deadline:

- June 8-9, 2005: Salt Lake City, Utah (May 27)
- September 7-8, 2005: Boston, Mass. (Aug. 3)
- November 14-15, 2005: New Orleans, La. (Oct. 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. This conference is co-sponsored by the Colorado Department of Education, SWAAAC teams and Assistive Technology Partners, a division of the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine - NIDRR Grant #H224A0014.

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

The deadline for early registration is April 29, 2005. Register early and save! Access a PDF registration form at <http://www.uchsc.edu/atp/conf2005/conf2005reg.htm>.

### **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/> 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.

Access <http://www.dtiassociates.com/rsatransitions/> for more information, including an agenda and registration.

### **"Making Connections, Strengthening Communities" 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Technology 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>.

## NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME SOCIETY CONFERENCE, July 7-10

(From NDSS)

Sponsored by NDSS, the National Down Syndrome Conference will be held at The Fairmont Hotel in Chicago. Self-advocates, families and professionals are encouraged to attend. For more information, visit <http://www.ndss.org/content.cfm?fuseaction=NwsEvt.EvtConfNC>.

## 2005 National Association for Rural Mental Health (NARMH) Annual Conference, August 4-6, Honolulu Scholarship Deadline: April 29

(Courtesy of NARMH)

Kukulu kumuhana "Pooling Thoughts and Hopes to Solve Common Problems" August 4 – 6, 2005 | Honolulu, Hawaii  
Center for Mental Health Services Application for Financial Support Application Deadline: April 29, 2005

The Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), through a contract with AFYA, Inc. (AFYA), is providing financial support to rural consumers of mental health services who would like to participate in the annual conference sponsored by the National Association for Rural Mental Health (NARMH). The purpose of the scholarships is to foster transformation of mental health care to focus on recovery. Please note: To be eligible for this scholarship, a completed application and letter of recommendation must be received by April 29, 2005.

Conference information is available at: [www.narmh.org](http://www.narmh.org) or by calling (320) 202-1820.

## Selected Sources::

1. *Monday Morning in Washington, DC*, <http://www.inclusionresearch.org>
2. *Rocky Mountain DBTAC*, <http://www.adainformation.org>
3. *PEN Weekly NewsBlast* <http://www.publiceducation.org>
4. *Health and Disability Training Calendar* <http://mtdh.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/training.htm>
5. *The American Indian Disability Technical Assistance Center Training Calendar*  
<http://aidtac.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/TrainingCalendar.htm>
6. *Technology for Nonprofits*: <http://www.techsoup.org>

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- ❖ **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.
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