

PLUK eNews August 6, 2004

Vol 3 Num 1



Welcome to PLUK's electronic newsletter!

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.

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Archived Video Streams Available from Regional Parent Conference

You can now access video streaming of Doug Fisher's ("Strategies for Teaching All Children - Lessons Learned about Accessing the General Education Curriculum") and Stephen Hinkle's ("High Expectations and the Importance of an Inclusive Life for Students with Disabilities") keynote addresses from the Regions 5-6 Conference July 29-31.

Just go to <http://www.peakparent.org> and click on the links under the heading "Achieving Mile-High Expectations." You will need to download "QuickTime Player" if you don't already have it on your computer.

PLUK trainings and activities planned for 2004-05

PLUK & associate boards around the state have planned a number of training and activities for this upcoming school year. Mark your calendar if you are interested in participating.

Statewide Interactive Videoconferences

- September 14, 6-8pm, "Parents Working with Schools"
- October 12, 6-8pm, "The Process of Transition"
- November 9, 6-8pm, "Students with Deaf-Blindness"

Other Training/Community Activities

- August 14, Softball Tournament, Billings
- September 8, Founders Day Celebration, Billings
- September 22, Legislative Forum, MSU-Billings
- September 28, "Closing the Achievement Gap" with BJ Wise in collaboration with MCASE
- First week of October, Flathead Valley Children's Theater event, Kalispell
- October 14, "Stop the Bullying" with Dr. Marlene Snyder
- October 26, Magical Tymes party, Missoula
- Late February 2005, Sports Festival, Billings
- May 13, 2005, Kids at Heart, Billings

Sections of the ADA

http://www.timesrecordnews.com/trn/local_news/article/0,1891,TRN_5784_3063913,00.html

The Americans with Disabilities Act contains five sections—called "titles"—that outline the rights of people with disabilities.

Title I: Employment.

The purpose of this section is to protect people with disabilities from discrimination on the basis of their disability. As long as the individual is qualified for an employment opportunity, that opportunity may not be denied because of the person's disability.

This title, as well as the rest of the ADA, applies to all public sector employers and private employers with more than 15 employees

Title I is enforced by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which resolves complaints through education, arbitration and, if necessary, litigation. From July 1992, the month the ADA became law, though the end of 2003, the EEOC filed or participated in 618 direct lawsuits. Over that same period, EEOC actions resulted in almost \$31 million in civil penalties and benefits to plaintiffs.

Title II: Public Services

The purpose of Title II is to prohibit discrimination on the basis of handicap in all services, programs, and activities provided or made available by local or state governments and their affiliate agencies.

Examples of programs and services covered under this section are public buses, government meetings, public schools and universities and recreation areas and parks.

The title applies regardless of whether the entity receives federal funding. Complaints under this section are filed with the Department of Justice.

Title III: Public Accommodation

All public accommodations - restaurants, bars, theaters, hotels, stores, social service centers - even if privately owned, must be designed and constructed so as to be readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.

This title requires operators to make "reasonable modifications" to policies, practices and procedures, unless such modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of the services provided. (For example, the owners of a dimly lit "romantic" restaurant would not have to add lighting to accommodate persons with visual impairment. Rather, their staff could read the menu to the person.)

Owners must remove physical barriers when it is "readily achievable" - when the changes can be accomplished easily without much expense.

ADA statistics show that most accommodations cost less than \$500, with more than 30 percent costing nothing at all.

This title is enforced by the Department of Justice.

Title IV: Telecommunications

This title requires telephone companies provide relay services for hearing- and speech-impaired people.

This title also requires manufacturers of televisions that are 13 inches or larger to have closed captioning capabilities.

The Federal Communications Commission enforces this section.

Title V: Miscellaneous.

The title addresses governmental immunity (states are not immune to lawsuits), retaliation provisions, awarding of attorney's fees and other issues.

Compiled by staff writer Lee B. Weaver. Sources: Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, Department of Justice, freedvice.com, and the University of Kentucky Center for Developmental Disabilities Education.

Access Board Issues New Guidelines for Accessible Design (7/23/04)

The U.S. Access Board announces the release of new design guidelines that cover access for people with disabilities under the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. The guidelines update access requirements for a wide range of facilities in the public and private sectors covered by the law. "These guidelines are our guarantee that when a building is built or renovated anywhere in the nation, its doors are wide open to our citizens with disabilities," noted Jan Tuck, Vice Chair of the Board. It is estimated that 54 million Americans have some type of disability.

The Board's guidelines detail how accessibility is to be achieved in new construction and alterations and provide specifications for various building elements and spaces, including entrances, ramps, parking, restrooms, and telephones, among others. The new design document is the culmination of a comprehensive, decade-long review and update of the Board's ADA Accessibility Guidelines, which were first published in 1991. Revisions have been made so that the guidelines continue to meet the needs of people with disabilities and keep pace with technological innovations. For example, new provisions for ATMs specify audible output so that people with vision impairments are provided equal access, and reach ranges have been lowered to better serve people who use wheelchairs and persons of short stature. The guidelines also feature a new format and organization and have been extensively edited for greater clarity. "This new version of the guidelines will not only improve access, but will also enhance compliance by making it easier to achieve," said Tuck.

Read the complete article at: <http://www.access-board.gov/ada-aba.htm>

Kaiser Permanente's Groundbreaking Disabilities Handbook to Be Published on 14th Anniversary of ADA Act

Latest Culturally Competent Care Handbook Helps Health Care Providers Better Understand Individuals With Disabilities

OAKLAND, Calif., July 22 /PRNewswire/ -- A groundbreaking guide for providers who work with individuals with disabilities will be launched July 26, 2004 at the Kaiser Permanente's Rehabilitation Center

in Vallejo, CA to coincide with the 14th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. "A Provider's Handbook on Culturally Competent Care: Individuals with Disabilities" is the fifth in the series of culturally competent care handbooks produced by Kaiser Permanente's Institute for Culturally Competent Care.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=109&STORY=/www/story/07-22-2004/0002216037&EDATE=>

A copy of "A Provider's Handbook on Culturally Competent Care: Individuals with Disabilities", or any of the companion handbooks, can be obtained by contacting Kaiser Permanente's Diversity Hotline at 510-271-6663.

United Cerebral Palsy Launches DontBlockMyVote.org to Advance Equal Access for Voters with Disabilities

WASHINGTON, July 14

United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) today launched www.DontBlockMyVote.org, a national campaign for equal access to the polls, to call on Members of Congress to fully fund the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA).

By logging on to <http://www.DontBlockMyVote.org> activists can send a free letter to their Members of Congress asking them to fully fund HAVA and provide all Americans equal access to the polls. Congress is currently negotiating the 2005 budget.

Additionally, through a partnership with Rock the Vote, visitors to www.DontBlockMyVote.org can use an online voter registration tool to register to vote.

"Too many Americans with disabilities cannot exercise their constitutional right to vote because polling places are inaccessible to those who use wheelchairs, voting machines are inaccessible to people who are blind or have limited use of their hands, and ballots are inaccessible to people with limited literacy skills," said UCP President and CEO Stephen Bennett.

Why You Should Request a Paraprofessional, Not an "Aide"

by Suzanne Heath, Research Editor, Wrightslaw

It's time to stop using the term "aide"—and stop writing "aides" into IEPs. The No Child Left Behind Act provides the federal definition of "paraprofessional." According to NCLB, all paraprofessionals shall have:

(A) completed at least 2 years of study at an institution of higher education;

(B) obtained an associate's (or higher) degree;

(C) met a rigorous standard of quality and can demonstrate, through a formal State or local academic assessment—

(i) knowledge of, and the ability to assist in instructing, reading, writing, and mathematics; or

(ii) knowledge or, and the ability to assist in instructing, reading readiness, writing readiness, and mathematics readiness, as appropriate. (20 U.S.C. § 6319(c)); *Wrightslaw: No Child Left Behind, page 200*)

There is no federal legal definition for an "aide".

When you use the term "paraprofessional" in the IEP, you refer to a federal legal definition and a quality standard. This is not the case when you use the term "aide".

For more information, visit: <http://www.wrightslaw.com/heath/parapro.aide.htm>

Fact Sheet Addressing Workplace Rights of People with Epilepsy

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) released a new fact sheet addressing the workplace rights of people with epilepsy under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Title I of the ADA, which is enforced by the EEOC, protects qualified individuals with disabilities from discrimination by private and state and local government employers with 15 or more employees. This document explains how the ADA might apply to job applicants and employees with epilepsy.

(1) Topics discussed include:

- when epilepsy is considered a disability under the ADA;
- when an employer may ask an applicant or employee questions about epilepsy and how it should treat voluntary disclosures;
- what types of reasonable accommodations employees with epilepsy may need;
- how an employer should handle safety concerns about applicants and employees with epilepsy;
- and

- how employers can ensure that no employee is harassed because of epilepsy or any other disability.

<http://www.eeoc.gov/facts/epilepsy.html>

LARGEST STUDY EVER LAUNCHED TO FIND GENES ASSOCIATED WITH AUTISM USING DNA TECHNOLOGY

The National Alliance for Autism Research has launched the Autism Genome Project, the largest study ever conducted to find the genes associated with inherited risk for autism. Over the next six months, the world's leading genetics researchers will pool their resources and use a new technology called the DNA micro array, to scan the human genome in the search for the genetic causes of autism.

Read more at http://www.naar.org/news/render_pr.asp?intNewsItemID=176

FIRST ONLINE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE ON THE ABUSE OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

This online training conference is funded through a grant from the Office for Victims of Crime, part of the Office of Justice Programs in the U.S. Department of Justice; and is presented by ARC Riverside California, a private, non-profit corporation devoted to improving the welfare of individuals with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities and their families.

WHERE: <http://disability-abuse.com>

WHEN: Thursday, September 9 through Wednesday, September 29, 2004

WHAT: An online conference consisting of 22 ONE-HOUR Webinars (online seminars) that you can conveniently attend from any computer connected to the Internet! Extensive access to 22 top experts -- each of our training faculty will provide you and your classmates with 10 hours of contact between September 9, 2004 and January 31, 2005

One-year membership in our disabilities and abuse network, including:

Continuous access to online training materials until August 2005: you can always review what you learned, and keep on learning; Access to training listservs and forums so you can keep in touch with our faculty and your classmates for mutual support and professional growth; and Continuing Education credit is available for: Psychologists (APA), Health Education Specialist (CHES), Registered Nurse (BRN), Attorney (MCLE), Social Worker (BBS), Marriage And Family Therapists (BBS), Substance Abuse Counselor (CAADAC), Trauma Specialist (ATSS), Custody Evaluator DV Offender Treatment Provider (DVOTP), Counselors (NBCC), and Law Enforcement (POST)

WHO: All professionals and all workers in the fields of abuse/victimization and/or disabilities. Topics include: prevention, identification, investigation, prosecution and treatment. Seminars will concern casework and care-giving where people with disabilities are victims of child abuse, domestic violence, dependent adult abuse, and elder abuse.

COST: \$150 for the entire conference--all 22 webinars! (A reduced fee is available of \$100 per trainee for Agencies sponsoring groups of 10+ trainees). A limited number of scholarships are available where financial hardship is a factor. To complete a scholarship application please visit <http://www.disability-abuse.com/scholars.htm> or for information please contact Online Training eLearning Director Tom Hanna at 607-275-9360 or tph3@cornell.edu. The deadline for scholarship applications is August 25, 2004.

HOW: Visit <http://disability-abuse.com> to register by September 1, 2004 to be eligible to receive full continuing education credits. Those who register later are welcome (and will receive full access to all webinars in archive form) but will not be able to receive the full amount of continuing education credits available to those who attend live webinars.

New Video: A DEAF CHILD'S VIEW...of growing up in a hearing family

A DEAF CHILD'S VIEW...of growing up in a hearing family is the theme for this unique video. The video shows a typical day and family outing through the eyes of a deaf child, using three different scenarios: One of a family that does not communicate in a meaningful way; one which uses the oral method; and one which uses Sign Language. Deaf psychologist Lori Schmidt narrates this very powerful video, emphasizing the importance of early communication between a deaf child and his or her hearing family. One mode of communication is not supported over the other. The key is the particular method or combination of methods that works best for the individual child. This video is a helpful resource for parents, libraries, educational interpreters and other professionals in the field of Deafness. Like to see a clip or have additional questions? Email dfchdmedia@adelphia.net for additional information.

Students with Disabilities to Gain Improved Access to Learning

New standard expected to help students who are blind, print-disabled

Students with blindness, low vision and print disabilities are expected to gain improved access to textbooks under a voluntary standardized format for electronic files, U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige announced today. On behalf of Secretary Paige, Deputy Secretary of Education Gene Hickok discussed the new standard at an event commemorating the 14th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The event was co-sponsored by the Departments of Commerce and Education in Washington, D.C.

Read the complete release at: <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2004/07/07272004.html>

Training/Workshops/Meetings/Conferences in Montana::

S'Cool Moves, August 9-11, Miles City

by Debi Heiberger-Wilson, Miles City at MCC

Contact: Helen Murphy 406/485-2321 or email: dmurphy@midrivers.com

7th Annual Region 5 CSPD August Institute: August 11-13, Missoula

For more information or to register go to the Region V CSPD Online Registration website at <http://www.cspd.net> or contact Nancy Marks at admin@cspd.net or 728-2400ext 5036 for more information.

S'Cool Moves, August 16-18, Billings

by Debi Heiberger-Wilson, SUB Ballroom, MSU-Billings

For more information on the program, visit: <http://www.schoolmoves.com>

To register or download the brochure, visit: <http://www.msubillings.edu/cspd/events.htm>

For information, contact Deb Miller at the Montana Center on Disabilities at 406/657-2312 or dmiller@msubillings.edu.

Montana SILC "Tools For Change" August 18-20, Great Falls

Hear the current issues, learn about the legislative process, and gain the tools to advocate for positive change. Symposium registration is limited, will be "first come, first served," and includes; room (Holiday Inn, 8/18-8/19), continental breakfast, served lunch and dinner, planned events.

Cost: \$35.00 (Checks payable to NCILS)

Mail Payment to: Montana SILC, PO Box 4210, Helena, MT 59604

Location: Holiday Inn, 400 10th Ave. South, Great Falls, MT

406-727-7200, or 1-800-257-1998

Registration Closes: July 21, 2004

Contact: Denise Wolf, dwolf@state.mt.us, 1-877-296-1197

AIMSweb Training Seminar, August 19-20, Billings

AIMSweb® is a formative assessment system that 'informs' the teaching and learning process by providing continuous student performance data and reporting improvement to students, parents, teachers, and administrators to enable evidence-based evaluation and data-driven instruction.

Based on over 25 years of scientific research, the AIMSweb system consists of Standard Curriculum-Based Measurement (CBM) testing materials and web-based data management and reporting applications.

Combined, these components provide schools a pro-active and preventative solution for documenting student achievement, identifying students at risk, demonstrating adequate yearly progress, and establishing and ensuring accountability.

Visit <https://aimsweb.edformation.com/training/TrainWrapper.cfm?inc=TrainList.cfm&step=1> or <http://www.learningclinic.com/seminar.html> for information.

The Impact of Childhood Disability: Understanding the Parents Journey, August 20-21, Billings

Saint Vincent Hospital is sponsoring Dr. Ken Moses, a psychologist who has devoted his career to working with issues of personal growth in the shadow of profound loss. A limited number of scholarships are available to parents. For more information call Health Access at 657-8792.

Step Up to Writing, August 23-24, Circle at Circle High School

This program will present multisensory, classroom-proven teaching strategies that will improve the writing of all students, regardless of ability levels. (K-12)

For more information, please contact: Helen Murphy at 406-485-2143 (h) or dmurphy@midrivers.com

Bright Solutions for Dyslexia, August 26, Hardin

Susan Barton will do an all-day presentation in Hardin, Montana. The public is invited, free of charge.

Speaker: Susan Barton, Founder, Bright Solutions for Dyslexia

Date: Thursday, August 26, 2004

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Subject: Dyslexia: Symptoms, Causes and Solutions

Venue: Hardin Middle School Auditorium, 611 W. 5th Street, Hardin, MT

Cost: FREE

Come learn the warning signs of dyslexia, the latest brain research, the genetic link- and how to help students with dyslexia.

Lunch will be provided

Reservations are required by August 18.

To reserve a spot, contact Anna Gregerson at Bright Solutions for Dyslexia.

Phone: 408-559-3652 x8

E-mail: anna@brightsolutions.us.

<http://www.dys-add.com/>

Quality of Life Montana Realtor Run, August 28, Billings

TIMES: 8am for 5mile run/8:15am for 2 mile run

FEE: \$15

REGISTER: Billings Association of Realtors Office, 1643 Lewis Ave., Ste. 12
248-7145 (phone), boardoffice@billings.org (email)

PURPOSE: To raise funds to help the YMCA

FOR MORE INFO: Call 248-7145

Wellspring - Exploring the Source of Good Health, September 8-10, Billings

The Community Services Bureau of the Department of Public Health and Human Services will be holding their 6th annual conference at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center, September 8th through the 10th, 2004. The Community Services Bureau manages a number of programs that provide in-home care services to the elderly, or to people of any age who have physical disabilities. These programs include the Personal Assistance and Self-Directed Personal Assistance Programs, the Home and Community Based Services (Waiver) Program, Home Health, and Hospice.

The topic of this year's conference is "Wellspring - Exploring the Source of Good Health". The conference will highlight the many ways that people can maximize their health and lifestyle even in the face of illness or physical challenges. The keynote speaker for this year's conference is Julie Beckett, whose efforts to establish care for her young daughter led to the establishment of Medicaid in-home care programs. Julie is also the co-founder of Family Voices, which advocates use to develop better health care policies for children with special needs.

For further information, contact Kathy Wise, 406-655-7644, or Kim Kennedy, 406-655-7635.

Yellowstone City-County Health & Montana AFSP Join Forces for Suicide Prevention, September 15 or 16, Billings

The Montana Chapter of the American Foundation For Suicide Prevention (AFSP) and the Yellowstone City-County Health Department are offering a full day of QPR training. Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR) is a recognized suicide intervention/prevention skill that teaches people of all ages to become gatekeepers (people in the position to recognize crisis and the warning signs of someone contemplating suicide). QPR teaches people to recognize warning signs, clues, and communication from those in distress, and to respond vigorously to prevent suicide.

When: September 15, or September 16

Where: Mansfield Education Center, on the St. Vincent's Healthcare campus in Billings, MT

Cost: \$355 per person. Limited \$200 scholarships are available for agencies and individuals not able to afford the entire fee, one scholarship per agency.

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Registration: Space is limited to 50 people per day. RSVP by August 6; call Katie Mayer (YCCHD) at 406-651-6437 or katiem@ycchd.org.

Augmentative Communication Seminar, September 23, Billings

Tanya Rose Curtis of Augmentative Communication Solutions will present a half-day seminar on communication devices September 23 at Billings Clinic Room #3 from 3:00-7:00pm. More detailed information will be available later in the summer.

Strengthening the Adoptive Family, September 27, Helena

Intermountain Children's Home and Services is sponsoring.

This conference features Sharon Kaplan Roszia, MS, and Allison Davis Maxon, MFT of the Kinship Center in Santa Ana, California <http://www.kinshipcenter.org> who will provide innovative therapeutic techniques to help address the specific needs of the adoptive family.

Conference topics include:

- Adoptive family development
- Strengthening family attachment
- Interventions to increase emotional intelligence within the adoptive family

This conference will assist practitioners and parents in understanding the effects of adoption on a child throughout their life. The seminar will also involve a look at sibling issues, disruptions and therapeutic interventions.

Discounted registration is available for families and students. For more information contact Intermountain Children's Home and Services at 406.442.7920, or 800.200.9112. The conference registration brochure is available online at <http://www.intermountain.org>.

Classroom Instruction That Works, October 21-22, Glendive at Dawson County High School

Research-Based Strategies for Increasing Student Achievement

The results of research findings of 9 broad teaching strategies that have positive effects on student learning will be presented.

For more information, please contact: Helen Murphy at 406-485-2143 (h) or dmurphy@midrivers.com

2004 MEA-MFT Educators' Conference, October 21-22, Helena

'Let the Light In: Teach a Child'

Registration information will be coming to MEA-MFT's K-12 local presidents after Labor Day.

For more information, go to: <http://www.mea-mft.org/edconf04.htm>.

Training/Workshops/Conferences outside Montana::

WHAT MAKES A MEETING ACCESSIBLE?, August 17, Audio Conference

That is the question to be answered at the August 17 Audio Conference distance learning session. Access by people with disabilities to meeting rooms and all of the amenities associated with conferences, workshops, and seminars is frequently overlooked or misunderstood. The speaker will outline the major areas where issues of access should be considered during the planning and conduct of a successful meeting. Strategies for addressing space needs, working with hotel and catering staff, written and oral communication and tips for presenters will be discussed. Resources for additional information will be provided. CRCC Credit is available for this session with verification of attendance. The session begins at 12:00 MST, is 90 minutes in length and costs \$25 to participate. To register in the Rocky Mountain region, contact the Rocky Mountain DBTAC at training@mtc-inc.com. The last day to register is the Friday before the session. The Distance Learning Series is a collaborative project of the 10 Disability and Business Technical Assistance Centers (DBTACs) which include the Rocky Mountain, Great Lakes, Mid-Atlantic, New England, Northeast, Great Plains, Southwest.

Access to the General Education Curriculum: Research-Based Interventions for High School Students with Disabilities, August 17, Teleconference

Tuesday, August 17, 2004, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Central Time
(9 a.m. Hawaii, 12 noon Pacific, 1 p.m. Mountain, 3 p.m. Eastern)

This teleconference will discuss results from the Institute for Academic Access, a research institute designed to develop and field test interventions for high-school students with disabilities to ensure their success in the general education curriculum. The presenter will briefly review the results of a descriptive study of nine high schools and the educational experience of students with disabilities in those schools. Then they will present the philosophy behind and components of an intervention model that is currently being tested in high schools as well as research results associated with those components and the mode as a whole.

Presented by: Jean B. Schumaker, PhD, Center for Research and Learning, University of Kansas
Complete information about the teleconference is available at <http://www.ncset.org/teleconferences/>.

FIRST ONLINE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE ON THE ABUSE OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES, September 9-29

This online training conference is funded through a grant from the Office for Victims of Crime, part of the Office of Justice Programs in the U.S. Department of Justice; and is presented by ARC Riverside California, a private, non-profit corporation devoted to improving the welfare of individuals with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities and their families.

WHERE: <http://disability-abuse.com>

WHEN: Thursday, September 9 through Wednesday, September 29, 2004

WHAT: An online conference consisting of 22 ONE-HOUR Webinars (online seminars) that you can conveniently attend from any computer connected to the Internet! Extensive access to 22 top experts -- each of our training faculty will provide you and your classmates with 10 hours of contact between September 9, 2004 and January 31, 2005

One-year membership in our disabilities and abuse network, including:

Continuous access to online training materials until August 2005: you can always review what you learned, and keep on learning; Access to training listservs and forums so you can keep in touch with our faculty and your classmates for mutual support and professional growth; and Continuing Education credit is available for: Psychologists (APA), Health Education Specialist (CHES), Registered Nurse (BRN), Attorney (MCLE), Social Worker (BBS), Marriage And Family Therapists (BBS), Substance Abuse Counselor (CAADAC), Trauma Specialist (ATSS), Custody Evaluator DV Offender Treatment Provider (DVOTP), Counselors (NBCC), and Law Enforcement (POST)

WHO: All professionals and all workers in the fields of abuse/victimization and/or disabilities. Topics include: prevention, identification, investigation, prosecution and treatment. Seminars will concern casework and care-giving where people with disabilities are victims of child abuse, domestic violence, dependent adult abuse, and elder abuse.

COST: \$150 for the entire conference--all 22 webinars! (A reduced fee is available of \$100 per trainee for Agencies sponsoring groups of 10+ trainees). A limited number of scholarships are available where financial hardship is a factor. To complete a scholarship application please visit <http://www.disability-abuse.com/scholars.htm> or for information please contact Online Training eLearning Director Tom Hanna at 607-275-9360 or tph3@cornell.edu. The deadline for scholarship applications is August 25, 2004.

HOW: Visit <http://disability-abuse.com> to register by September 1, 2004 to be eligible to receive full continuing education credits. Those who register later are welcome (and will receive full access to all webinars in archive form) but will not be able to receive the full amount of continuing education credits available to those who attend live webinars.

Parents and Children Making it Against the Odds: National Parental Involvement Conference, September 14-16, Atlanta GA

Parents & Children Making It Against the Odds: National Parental Involvement Conference is an interactive professional development opportunity for all individuals within schools and school systems who have responsibility for or an interest in strengthening the ties between parents and schools.

The event will bring together experts and colleagues to discuss, explore and learn about parental involvement programs that work. You'll hear ideas for improved communications and interactions between schools and parents, and have the opportunity to work with your parent involvement team to craft your policy or plan. Other conferences may include sessions about parental involvement... this conference is focused only on parental involvement.

For more information, visit <http://www.aplusevents.com/npi04/>

Understanding and Influencing Health Care Systems for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs, September 30, Colorado Springs

Colorado's Family-to-Family Health Information Network presents the first annual family and community training event focusing on topics and issues related to the needs of families and providers who are involved with children with special health care needs. "Understanding and Influencing Health Care Systems for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs" will be held on September 30 in Colorado Springs from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. For more information, contact Sara Kennedy at 719-634-2328 or SaraK17@aol.com.

World Congress and Exposition on Disabilities, October 7-9, 2004—Orlando, FL

The WCD Foundation for Education offers 3 days, 5 tracks, and more than 75 sessions for this fifth annual event, covering healthcare, AT, family, adaptive PT and education issues. Keynote speakers include Tim Shriver, President of Special Olympics; Jim and Jill Kelly, founders of The Hunter's Hope Foundation; and Army Four Star General James "Tom" Hill, founder of EFMP. The conference is open to everyone; particularly to people with disabilities, family members and caregivers, healthcare professionals, and educators. CEU and CME credits are available. Registrations for single day or three-day conference includes a free pass to all special events. Not interested in conference sessions? Register by October 1st for a three-day free pass to the special events.

When: October 7-9, 2004

Where: Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL

Conference Session Registration Fees: \$65-\$520

Questions? Call 877-923-3976. Register on the web at <http://www.wcdexpo.com>.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN ART, EDUCATION AND DISABILITY, October 10-13, New York

Sponsored by VSA arts and held in New York, New York. For more information go to: <http://www.vsarts.org/programs/institute/index.cfm>

Closing the Gap, October 21-23, Minneapolis MN

Pre-conference sessions October 19-20

Closing The Gap's Annual Conference has an international reputation as a leading source for information on innovative applications of computer technology for persons with disabilities. The 2004 Conference builds on a tradition of providing a comprehensive examination of the most current uses of technology by persons with disabilities and the professionals who work with them.



Topics will cover a broad spectrum of technology as it is being applied to all disabilities and age groups in education, rehabilitation, vocation, and independent living. People with disabilities, special educators, rehabilitation professionals, administrators, service/care providers, personnel managers, government officials, and hardware/software developers will share their experiences and insights at what has become known as the most significant networking experience of the year -- the annual Closing The Gap Conference.

<http://www.closingthegap.com/conf/>

ICDL Eighth International Conference, November 3-7—DC Metro Area

The Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders conference "Autism and Disorders of Relating and Communications, Reversing the Core Deficits: Progress and New Directions"

When: Preconference Workshops November 3-4, Conference November 5-7

Where: Hilton Mclean, Tysons Corner, Virginia (Washington, DC Metro Area)

Registration: \$295-\$430

Mail all registration details and payments to:

ICDL, 4938 Hampden Lane, Suite 800, Bethesda, MD 20814

For more information and Preconference details, please visit <http://www.icdl.com>.

**"Assistive Technology and Accessible Media in Higher Education"
November 9 –12, Boulder, CO**

<http://www.colorado.edu/ATconference>

The conference is presently seeking proposals and intends addressing:

- The beneficial implementation of Assistive Technology in post-secondary education for individuals with
 - physical, sensory, and learning disabilities;
 - ADA and Section 508 compliance; and
- Accessible university information, web, library, and media resources and services.

"This conference is intended for disability service providers in the post secondary setting, Assistive Technologists, faculty, Web designers and programmers interested in accessibility, special educators, college administrators responsible for legal policy related to disability and accommodation, rehabilitation counselors and persons with disabilities."

<http://www.colorado.edu/ATconference/coverview2004.html>

Kathy Martinez, Deputy Director of the World Institute on Disabilities, will be the keynote speaker. She is internationally recognized for her work with employment, gender and minority disability rights issues. Martinez oversees the National Technical Assistance Center for Latinos with Disabilities, and the NIDDR funded International Disability Exchanges and Studies (IDEAS) for the New Millennium Project.

TASH Conference 2004, November 18-20, Reno NV

The TASH conference is one of the largest and most progressive international conferences to focus on model, innovative, and effective strategies for achieving full inclusion of people with disabilities. This invigorating conference brings together some of the best hearts and minds in the disability movement with several hundred presenters and features over 450 breakout sessions, exhibits, roundtable discussions, poster sessions and much more, jam-packed with info. It provides a forum for individuals with disabilities, families, researchers, administrators, educators, scholars, and others to create dialogue and action for social and systems reform. This is a wonderful opportunity to attend a conference with over 2500 other people from around the world (15 nations last time) which showcases national and local achievement and brings a global perspective to the community on issues of importance in the lives of people with disabilities and their families. For renewing the spirit, lifting the heart, and challenging the mind:



For more information and call for papers: <http://www.tash.org/>

Some of the more than 40 topics at the TASH Conference will focus on the following themes:

- Building Partnerships & Relationships, Communication
- Inclusive Education Across the Lifespan
- Transition, Community Living & Employment
- Diversity, Values, Equality, Advocacy & Ethics
- Quality of Life

Selected Sources::

1. Monday Morning in Washington, DC, <http://www.inclusionresearch.org>
2. Rocky Mountain DBTAC, <http://www.adainformation.org>
3. Transition Newsflash, Montana Center on Disabilities, <http://www.msubillings.edu/transition>
4. PEN Weekly NewsBlast <http://www.publiceducation.org>
5. Reference Points: Transition updates from the TATRA Project, <http://www.pacer.org/tatra/tatra.htm>
6. The American Indian Disability Technical Assistance Center Training Calendar <http://aidtac.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/TrainingCalendar.htm>
7. Rural Policy Matters, <http://www.ruraledu.org/rpm/rpm.htm>
8. 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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