

PLUK eNews August 23, 2004

Vol 3 Num 2

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.



Exxon, Billings, winners of the Fixed and Finagled softball tournament.

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Founders Day Celebration, September 8, Billings

The Board of Directors, volunteers and staff invite you to attend PLUK's annual Founders Day Celebration at the Mansfield Center, September 8 at 6pm. Julie Beckett, the National Policy Director of Family Voices will be the keynote speaker. Call Sheryl at the PLUK office, 406/255-0540, to reserve a spot for our 20th anniversary!

Evergreen Spina Bifida meeting in Butte, September 25

Evergreen Spina Bifida Association promotes well being, education, and socialization of all people affected by Spina Bifida and fosters public awareness of this birth defect. ESBA serves the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Alaska.

Members of the Evergreen Spina Bifida Association are adults or children with spina bifida, parents, friends, relatives, and professionals with an interest in this spinal tube birth defect.

The Butte meeting is at Sliver Bow pizza, 3500 Harrison Ave on September 25 from 6pm-8pm. Everyone is invited. Come to talk or learn, teach and just not feel alone in what we our going through.

For more information contact Paula Christensen 406/683-4793.

New Support Group Starting in Missoula

Missoula HOPE ABC is a support group for parents which will be starting this fall. If you would be interested in helping plan the initial meetings, or if you want to be notified of the first meeting, please contact Melanie Martin-Dent, mmartindent@yahoo.com or 406/546-7006.

Update: Paraprofessional or "Aide"

In the August 6, 2004 issue of eNews http://www.pluk.org/eNews/Aug_06_04.htm we reprinted an article from Wrightslaw basically stating that "paraprofessional" should be used in place of "aide" <http://www.wrightslaw.com/heath/parapro.aide.htm>.

We received a response from Tim Harris of the Early Assistance Program at Montana's Office of Public Instruction to clarify this issue for Montana Families:

"...The contention on their part is that parents must articulate that they want a paraeducator/paraprofessional rather than an aide, because if they don't, they won't get what they want. Furthermore, IEP teams determine the level of participation in a student's education an aide will provide. This having to articulate the right word is not true in Montana. We don't play a semantic game with parents regarding the services provided by an aide or paraeducator. This may be true elsewhere, but not here..."

If you have any questions about this issue, Tim would be happy to respond. He may be reached in Helena at 406/444-4402 or tharris@state.mt.us.

Planning is the Key to Success

"Failing to prepare is preparing to fail." - John Wooden, basketball coach

Can you imagine educating a child with a disability without a master plan?

You do not know about the child's disability, how the disability affects the child's learning, or how the child needs to be taught. You do not know what services and supports the child needs. Is it reasonable to think you will figure this out as you go along?" (*Chapter 2, Creating Your Master Plan, Wrightslaw: From Emotions to Advocacy*)

If you are like many parents, you are confused about your role. What do you need to learn? How can you ensure that the school provides your child with quality, appropriate special education services?

Long-Range Planning

You need to make long-term plans for your child. You are the constant factor in your child's life. You represent your child's interests. If your child does not receive an appropriate education and master the skills necessary to be an independent, self-sufficient member of the community, you will deal with the outcome.

Your Role as Project Manager

Project managers organize, plan, monitor progress, anticipate problems, and ensure that jobs get done. On long complicated projects, project managers are essential to success.

Your child's special education is a long-term project. As the parent, you are the logical person to step into the role of special education project manager.

Learn the most common reasons why projects fail, and why you need to make plans, define goals, organize information, and build relationships. Learn about the skills, information and attitude you need to act as your child's special education project manager.

Read more at <http://www.fetaweb.com/01/plan.prepare.htm>.

Living Well with a Disability Program Report

States are struggling with increases in Medicaid spending for people with disabilities. Medicaid recipients with disabilities who participated in the Living Well with a Disability program reported striking reductions in their limitations from secondary conditions, and also reduced their use of medical services. The potential net benefit to Medicaid of implementing the Living Well program would be significant. To find out more, read: "Living Well and Medicaid: Better Health for Consumers, Lower Costs for States" at: <http://rtc.ruralinstitute.umn.edu/health/Medicaid.htm>.

Institute for Applied Behavior Analysis (IABA) training seminar, September 8-10, Helena

The Developmental Disabilities Program (DDP) of the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) is sponsoring a three day Institute for Applied Behavior Analysis (IABA) training seminar Wednesday, 9/8/04 through Friday, 9/10/04 at the Red Lion Colonial Hotel in Helena. The session is entitled Positive Approaches to Solving Behavior Challenges. Attendees will be given an overview of proven non aversive intervention techniques to assist staff who work with persons with developmental disabilities who exhibit maladaptive behaviors. The instructor, Dr. Tom Willis, is Associate Director of the Institute for Applied Behavior Analysis and an internationally recognized authority on topics of behavioral

assessment, the design of non aversive behavioral support services and staff management strategies for total quality assurance. More information about Dr. Willis is available at <http://www.iaba.com>.

This three day event will be useful for a wide range of staff. Direct service workers, Family Support Specialists, Quality Improvement Specialists, DD Case Managers, program managers and others involved in the client planning process will benefit from this training. Parents, special education teachers and aides and persons in the mental health system serving persons with dual diagnoses (MI/MR) will also benefit.

For more information, contact Perry Jones at 406/444-5662 or pjones@state.mt.us. Or contact Sandi Cory at 406/444-2995 or scory@state.mt.us.

It Takes Two to Talk, September 7 – November 23, Billings

It Takes Two to Talk is just one of the Hanen Parent Training Programs used worldwide. This class is designed for parents of children with speech/language delays. Children who are not yet talking or using very limited language, such as one or two word sentences, would benefit from this program. The Hanen approach involves parents as language facilitators.

Extended family and other people involved in the child's life are welcome to attend.

The Hanen Parent Training Program serves two purposes. The first being to educate the parents and assist them in becoming an active part in their child's communication development. The second is that the parents gain support from others attending and learn from each other. We begin as strangers and conclude as friends.

Please contact the Scottish Rite Language Clinic for more information or to register. Phone 406/259-1680 or email srlcdc@wtp.net (subject: It Takes Two).

Group says counties slow on access

By LINDA HALSTEAD-ACHARYA, Of The Gazette Staff

COLUMBUS - In the rotunda of the Stillwater County Courthouse, a nondescript beige phone and a two neon-pink signs provide the keys to courthouse access for people with disabilities.

The signs instruct anyone needing assistance to call the appropriate office. In a typical year, the two busiest offices in the courthouse together get about 12 calls for assistance, said Stillwater County Commissioner Maureen Davey. Most often the visitor simply needs help with some paperwork and is met by courthouse staff.

According to a report from the Montana Advocacy Program (MAP), that kind of limited access is apparently common statewide and doesn't meet Americans With Disabilities Act requirements.

In a letter to Stillwater County commissioners in late July, MAP said its survey of the the courthouse revealed several areas of concern, among them the lack of an elevator to access the courtroom and lack of ADA accessible restrooms and drinking fountains. The letter also cited a recent Supreme Court decision related to a Tennessee case that requires states to provide access to courts.

Read the complete article at:

<http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?id=1&display=rednews/2004/08/14/build/state/31-access.inc>

Out of the Darkness Walk, September 16, Billings

An *Out of the Darkness* walk is planned for Thursday, Sept. 16, 2004 from 6:00 AM until 7:30 AM in downtown Billings. The purpose of this non-competitive event is to provide funds to support suicide prevention programs and to raise community awareness. This walk is a signature event of the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention held throughout the United States during September-October 2004. The walk is approximate 2.5 miles beginning at the Mansfield Center at 12 Avenue north and 30th Street. Each walker is encouraged to solicit sponsors totaling a minimum of \$150. To register in advance for the walk, please contact Alyce Compton at 406-257-0749 or register online at the website

<http://OUTOFTHE DARKNESS.ORG>. Registration will also be available onsite at the south door of the Mansfield Center beginning at 6AM on September 16th. Sponsors are also needed. If you cannot participate in the walk, you are invited to be a sponsor through a monetary contribution of a check or money order payable to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Bearing the Olympic Torch for Diabetes Awareness

Posted 08/12/2004, Anne Peters Harmel, MD

Our patients often teach us more than we could ever teach them. Gary Hall, Jr, an 8-time Olympic medal winner, is one such patient. I was with him when he won 4 of those medals, and I am heading to Athens to see if he can win more. This is the first in a series of reports as I start my journey to the

birthplace of the modern Olympics; in this report I will recount my past 6 years as the physician on the team of an elite athlete.

Read the complete article at: <http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/487237>.

IBM accessibility: It's business, not charity

Officials push universal design to make technology more usable, by Margaret A.T. Reed

Accessibility is no longer merely a philanthropic endeavor for IBM Corp. Producing accessible solutions is now part of a business initiative to make technology more usable for everyone, rather than only people with disabilities.

The baby boomer generation will soon reach retirement age, but 80 percent of Americans plan to work well past that point. Twenty percent of the population will be 65 or older by 2030, and based on current figures, at least half of that group is likely to have a disability, according to a 2003 report called "How Will Boomers Fare at Retirement?" by the AARP, formerly the American Association of Retired Persons. Disabilities include hearing, vision and mobility loss — all factors that impair a person's use of technology.

The rising number of senior citizens creates a high demand for technology that is adaptive to their needs. For this reason, a shift in how people view accessibility is needed, according to Frances West, director of IBM's Worldwide Accessibility Center. "All of us are going to get old eventually, [so] all of us can benefit."

To read more, go to <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0809/tec-ibmaccess-08-09-04.asp>.

ADA extends 'auto-mobility

By ANGELA ANDERSON , Citizen staff 08/10/2004

Adaptive Driving Access salesman Jason Roberts shows a vehicle that has been adapted to be wheelchair accessible.

When Tom Poole's brother-in-law, Lacy Taylor, was rendered paralyzed after a car accident, Poole decided to change his line of work. The former construction worker decided he wanted to make a living selling cars. Thirteen years later, Poole is not simply selling cars, he is selling mobility.

Poole's company, Adaptive Driving Access Incorporated, is among the fastest growing mobility dealerships in Houston. The company modifies vehicles for people with disabilities, allowing those who are unable to walk, or in some cases even move their arms, the opportunity to be in the drivers' seat. Poole said that after Taylor's accident he became very concerned with how difficult it was to get him in and out of a car.

Read more at

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=12654666&BRD=1574&PAG=461&dept_id=532238&rfl=6

Kennedy Foundation Seeks Fellowship Applicants for 2005

Parents or close family members of a child with intellectual and developmental disabilities are invited to submit applications for a one-year fellowship in Washington, DC, to learn how legislation is initiated, developed and passed by Congress and regulations distributed by federal agencies. Candidates should have solid policy experience in state-level advocacy, education, development of community supports and services, or similar areas, beyond the level of benefit solely the candidate's own child. Salaried experience in the field is not a requirement. Mid-career professionals in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities are invited to submit the applications for a one-year fellowship in Washington, DC, to observe and participate in federal public policy development through work as staff of a congressional committee or federal agency. Outstanding policy experience is sought in 1) state level advocacy; 2) education, law, economics, criminal justice, international issues, child welfare or other social services, housing community organizing, etc.; 3) health or mental health care policy affecting persons with intellectual disabilities; or 4) development of family support services. The deadline for either fellowship is September 1. Address questions to Jill Fosse, 301-565-5476. For application details go to <http://www.ipkf.org>.

Free ADHD Brochures for Coaches, Tutors, and Other Volunteers

For many children, the most rewarding part of the week is the time they spend playing sports and participating in out-of-school activities. "Helping Helpers" is a brochure for coaches, tutors, and other volunteers that has tips on how to work with children in their groups who may have a learning disability or Attention-Deficit/ Hyperactivity Disorder. At no cost, LDOnLine.org will send you copies of the brochure (minimum quantity is 100) to distribute to volunteers. Visit <http://www.ldonline.org> for information.

Stories about Creative Solutions to Disability Discrimination Wanted

The authors of a book titled "Everyday Law for Individuals with Disabilities" are seeking examples of situations where people using the principles of self-advocacy came up with creative solutions to disability discrimination issues. The book is being written for lay audiences, and the authors hope that it will help people using the principals of self-advocacy to obtain their rights under the federal disability discrimination statues. Specifically, the authors are looking for stories concerning employment, access to facilities, grade and high school education, post-secondary education, reasonable accommodations, transportation, housing and voting. If you have a story you are willing to share on one of these topics (or any other), please send an e-mail to Adam Milani at milani_a@mercercer.edu. Webpage: <http://www.law.mercer.edu/faculty/index.cfm?staffid=60>.

Montana Moving Toward Electronic Case Processing for Social Security

By Roger Ala, Montana Disability Determination Services

The Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Montana Disability Determination Services (DDS) are migrating to a fully electronic case processing system. For children's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability claims, this means Social Security, medical, and school records will be maintained in an electronic folder that is entirely paperless. The major reasons for moving to a paperless environment are: (a) storage and retrieval of older files is difficult; (b) paper files are sometimes lost and difficult to reconstruct; and (c) HIPAA is intended to enable the use of electronic records.

We will try to keep you informed as we implement our electronic case processing system. For additional information, please call Roger Ala at 800-545-3054 or 406/444-5727. You may e-mail me at Roger.Ala@ssa.gov. My address is Disability Determination Services, P. O. Box 4189, Helena, MT 59604.

2004 Pocket Resource Guide for Free

EPLibrary is pleased to offer the 2004 Pocket Resource Guide for free. That's right, you only pay for shipping and handling based on the shipping method you select when placing the order.

This offer is brought to you through the generosity of Liberty Motor Company, the largest manufacturer of rear entry wheelchair accessible minivans.

This guide provides, in a pocket version, 176 pages of information including:

- National Resources on Specific Disabilities
- Parent to Parent Programs
- Parent Training and Information
- Adaptive Recreation Organizations
- National Information and Advocacy Resources
- Association of University Centers
- Family Voices Contact List
- Canadian Resources
- Vocational Rehabilitation Programs

and much much more!

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to get the "bible" for the disability community in the Pocket Version for only the cost of shipping and handling.

To order simply go to:

<http://www.goemerchant7.com/index.cgi?ST=buy&Action=add&Merchant=eplibraryorg&ItemNumber=EP640RGFREE&Add=1>

You might also want to call Liberty Motor Company toll free at (888) 578-8886 and thank the nice people for their generosity.

The Macintosh User Group Store

PLUK is an Apple User Group and anyone associated with PLUK may purchase products at special pricing. Visit the following link: <http://www.appleugstore.com> enter the following password to shop.

Password:

8/1/2004 - 11/30/2004- User ID: xserve / Password: raid

National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth

A new resource is available to parents of and advocates for youth with disabilities from the National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth). *Intersection* is a new no-cost electronic newsletter for and about the workforce development system working with youth with

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disabilities. You can view copies of current and back issues on the NCWD/Youth website at <http://en.groundspring.org/en/go?j=6330179&u=49912>. Even better, you can subscribe and have *Intersection* sent directly to your inbox, just sign-up at <http://en.groundspring.org/en/go?j=6330179&u=49913>.

Also, the NCWD/Youth website at <http://en.groundspring.org/en/go?j=6330179&u=49914> includes useful information for youth with disabilities, families of youth with disabilities, workforce development professionals, youth service providers, employers and policymakers.

HOW HAS NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT AFFECTED PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

Congress needs to know from individual citizens how NCLB affects your community. The participation of concerned citizens is vital to the effort to improve our public schools. GiveKidsGoodSchools.com has launched a quick online survey to determine how No Child Left Behind has affected your child, school, or community. (Even if you haven't noticed its effect, please take a moment to tell us that.) It is critical that government and education leaders hear from concerned residents about the impact of this law. With your input, policymakers will be provided with concrete, "on the ground" information about the effectiveness of the No Child Left Behind Act. Results of this survey will be reported to Congress, the Administration and state and local policymakers.

<http://www.zoomerang.com/recipient/survey.zgi?p=WEB2PFFVXQ54>

CURRICULUM COMMEMORATING 9/11 FREE TO EDUCATORS NATIONWIDE

Families and Work Institute has created "9/11 As History," a free, multi-dimensional curriculum to help youth, parents and educators address the commemoration of Patriot Day, the anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Funded by Bank One Foundation, 16 age-appropriate lesson plans for pre-K through grade 12 students were developed by individuals and organizations with considerable expertise in addressing these issues including Dr. Robin Gurwitch, director of early childhood intervention services at the University of Oklahoma; The Anti-Defamation League; Reading Rainbow; Educators for Social Responsibility; Do Something; and National Institute on Media and the Family. Adhering to national education standards, the lesson plans have been used throughout the United States and the curriculum has been adopted by the school districts of Dallas, Texas, and Phoenix, Ariz. All resources can be downloaded free of charge from:

<http://www.familiesandwork.org/911ah/911ashistory.html>

Career Planning Begins with Assessment: A Guide for Professionals Serving Youth with Educational and Career Development Challenges

To successfully make the transition from school to adult life and the world of work, adolescents and young adults need guidance and encouragement from caring, supportive adults. The best decisions and choices made by transitioning youth are based on sound information including appropriate assessments that focus on the talents, knowledge, skills, interests, values, and aptitudes of each individual. This guide serves as a resource for multiple audiences within the workforce development system. Youth service practitioners will find information on selecting career-related assessments, determining when to refer youth for additional assessment, and additional issues such as accommodations, legal issues, and ethical considerations. Administrators and policymakers will find information on developing practical and effective policies, collaboration among programs, and interagency assessment systems.

More information at: http://www.ncwd-youth.info/resources_&Publications/assessment.html.

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

Go to <http://www.pluk.org/ITV.htm> for more detailed information

- October 12, 6-8pm, "The Process of Transition", airing from Helena
- November 9, 6-8pm, "Issues in Hearing and Vision ", airing from Great Falls

Other Training Activities

- September 28, "Closing the Achievement Gap", with BJ Wise, Helena
Sponsored by MCASE in collaboration with PLUK
Contact Julie Sykes at samjs@sammt.org for registration information.
- October 4, all-day workshop on "Positive Behavior", with Doug Cochran Roberts, Billings
one of a series of all-day workshops for professionals and parents, visit <http://www.pluk.org> for details.
- October 14, all-day workshop on "Stop the Bullying", with Marlene Snyder, Missoula
one of a series of all-day workshops for professionals and parents, visit <http://www.pluk.org> for details.
- October 18, all-day workshop on Special Education Law, with Kathleen Manley Coburn, Kalispell
one of a series of all-day workshops for professionals and parents, visit <http://www.pluk.org> for details.
- November 1, all-day workshop with Doug Cochran Roberts, Kalispell
one of a series of all-day workshops for professionals and parents, visit <http://www.pluk.org> for details.
- November 3, all-day workshop on Assistive Technology with Roger Holt, Bozeman
one of a series of all-day workshops for professionals and parents, visit <http://www.pluk.org> for details.
- November 10, all-day workshop on Assistive Technology with Roger Holt, Great Falls
one of a series of all-day workshops for professionals and parents, visit <http://www.pluk.org> for details.

Other Community Activities

- September 8, Founders Day Celebration, 6:00pm, Mansfield Center, Billings
contact the PLUK office to register, 406/255-0540.
- September 22, Legislative Forum, MSU-Billings Student Union Ballroom
sponsored by the Billings Disabilities Services Coalition. To register phone Sheryl at the PLUK office, 406/255-0540. Around 20 candidates have signed up to participate.
- October 3-9, Theater Experience for Kids, Kalispell, contact Stephanie Luehr at 406/756-6159
Sponsored by the Flathead Valley Associate Board
- October 8 Comedy Improv Dinner and Auction, contact Val Burgan at 406/771-6011
Sponsored by the Great Falls Associate Board
- October 26, Magical Tymes party, Missoula, contact Deborah Hayes Hyde at 406/543-8405
in conjunction with Missoula Children's Theatre production of Beauty and the Beast
Sponsored by the Missoula Associate Board
- February 19, 2005, Sports & Recreation Festival, Rocky Mountain College Athletic Building, Billings. Contact Dennis Moore at the PLUK office, 406/255-0540.
Sponsored by the Billings Associate Board.
- May 13, 2005, Kids at Heart Gala with a performance by the *Mid Life Chryslers*, Sheraton-Billings, call Dennis Moore at the PLUK office, 406/255-0540
Sponsored by the Billings Associate Board

Training/Workshops/Meetings/Conferences in Montana::

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 5 mile 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

It Takes Two to Talk, September 7 – November 23, Billings

It Takes Two to Talk is just one of the Hanen Parent Training Programs used worldwide. This class is designed for parents of children with speech/language delays. Children who are not yet talking or using very limited language, such as one or two word sentences, would benefit from this program. The Hanen approach involves parents as language facilitators.

Extended family and other people involved in the child's life are welcome to attend.

The Hanen Parent Training Program serves two purposes. The first being to educate the parents and assist them in becoming an active part in their child's communication development. The second is that the parents gain support from others attending and learn from each other. We begin as strangers and conclude as friends.

Please contact the Scottish Rite Language Clinic for more information or to register. Phone 406/259-1680 or email srlcdc@wtp.net (subject: It Takes Two).

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.

Institute for Applied Behavior Analysis (IABA) training seminar, September 8-10, Helena

The Developmental Disabilities Program (DDP) of the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) is sponsoring a three day Institute for Applied Behavior Analysis (IABA) training seminar Wednesday, 9/8/04 through Friday, 9/10/04 at the Red Lion Colonial Hotel in Helena. The session is entitled Positive Approaches to Solving Behavior Challenges. Attendees will be given an overview of proven non aversive intervention techniques to assist staff who work with persons with developmental disabilities who exhibit maladaptive behaviors. The instructor, Dr. Tom Willis, is Associate Director of the Institute for Applied Behavior Analysis and an internationally recognized authority on topics of behavioral assessment, the design of non aversive behavioral support services and staff management strategies for total quality assurance. More information about Dr. Willis is available at <http://www.iaba.com>.

This three day event will be useful for a wide range of staff. Direct service workers, Family Support Specialists, Quality Improvement Specialists, DD Case Managers, program managers and others involved in the client planning process will benefit from this training. Parents, special education teachers and aides and persons in the mental health system serving persons with dual diagnoses (MI/MR) will also benefit.

For more information, contact Perry Jones at 406/444-5662 or pjones@state.mt.us. Or contact Sandi Cory at 406/444-2995 or scory@state.mt.us.

Why Are Our Students So Angry, September 13 or 14, Kalispell

This program will help you understand anger, angry behavior, and how adult behavior influences child behavior. This dynamic session will give you the tools and techniques to deeply change how - and how effectively - you work with young people. SAME SEMINAR BOTH DAYS

The presenter, Malcolm Smith, is a nationally known training facilitator, consultant, author and educator whose ideas about reaching out to angry people have been adopted by schools, residential facilities and community programs. He is the author of The Peaceful Intervention Program, of Meditations of the Art of Peaceful Intervention, and of a popular series guides: The Realistic Expectation Series.

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

What's New from IntelliTools, September 14, Polson

This workshop will provide an overview of the new products from IntelliTools. Persons attending this workshop will: 1) Gain understanding of the new Classroom Suite products from IntelliTools and how they compare to the previous products. 2) See examples of how to use these technology products in the general education classroom.

The speaker, Ms. Terry Lankutis, has worked as an Independent Contractor providing high quality, education and technology services to schools and organizations throughout the United States in the area of educational technology. In addition, she has a unique background of 12 years as a Special Educator and 6 years as an Apple Education Technology Consultant.

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

Guided Practice using IntelliTools Products, September 15 & 16, Polson

This two-day workshop is designed to give teams with all levels of experience, from novice to advanced, time to learn new features of the programs and practice using them to modify general education curriculum content to meet the needs of students with disabilities. Persons taking graduate credit are required to attend the "What's New from IntelliTools" session and both Sessions I & II of the "Guided Practice using IntelliTools".

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

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.

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.

Out of the Darkness Walk, September 16, Billings

The Out of the Darkness walk is planned for Thursday, Sept. 16, 2004 from 6:00 AM until 7:30 AM in downtown Billings. The purpose of this non-competitive event is to provide funds to support suicide prevention programs and to raise community awareness. This walk is a signature event of the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention held throughout the United States during September-October 2004. The walk is approximate 2.5 miles beginning at the Mansfield Center at 12 Avenue north and 30th Street. Each walker is encouraged to solicit sponsors totaling a minimum of \$150. To register in advance for the walk, please contact Alyce Compton at 406-257-0749 or register online at the website

<http://OUTOFTHE DARKNESS.ORG>. Registration will also be available onsite at the south door of the Mansfield Center beginning at 6AM on September 16th. Sponsors are also needed. If you cannot participate in the walk, you are invited to be a sponsor through a monetary contribution of a check or money order payable to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Medicaid Made Easy, September 16, Missoula

Sara Loewen presents three sessions on understanding school-based Medicaid services.

Contact Nancy Marks at admin@cspd.net for registration info or register with Sara Loewen at sloewen@state.mt.us.

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. Contact Tanya at Aug Com Solutions, 800-853-0310.

Evergreen Spina Bifida meeting in Butte, September 25

Evergreen Spina Bifida Association promotes well being, education, and socialization of all people affected by Spina Bifida and fosters public awareness of this birth defect. ESBA serves the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Alaska.

Members of the Evergreen Spina Bifida Association are adults or children with spina bifida, parents, friends, relatives, and professionals with an interest in this spinal tube birth defect.

The Butte meeting is at Sliver Bow pizza, 3500 Harrison Ave on September 25 from 6pm-8pm. Everyone is invited. Come to talk or learn, teach and just not feel alone in what we our going through. For more information contact Paula Christensen 406/683-4793.

Strengthening the Adoptive Family, September 27, Helena

Sponsored by Intermountain Children's Home and Services.

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>.

MCASE Fall Conference: Closing the Achievement Gap in Reading, September 28, Helena

This one-day workshop reviews current reading research and best practices which lead to significant improvement in reading achievement. It covers the issues of forming a school reading leadership team, increasing communication about reading, the importance of fidelity of implementation of the core reading program, providing in-class and out of class interventions, increasing parent involvement, grouping for instruction and creating a positive school climate.

B.J. Wise, M. Ed, is currently Director of Professional Development for the Western District of Sopris West Educational Services. B.J. has been a teacher, special education coordinator, principal and Assistant Superintendent for the state of Washington. She works with schools throughout the country on raising reading achievement and creating positive school climates. She was a National Distinguished Principal and has received the Washington State Award for Excellence in Education.

Contact Julie Sykes at samjs@sammt.org for registration information.

Download brochure at: <http://www.sammt.org/04fallmcasebrochure.pdf>

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>.

Guided Practice using IntelliTools Products (Session II), October 27-28, Polson

This two-day workshop is a continuation of Session I. Participants will share activities they have created for a student in their class. On the last day we will discuss ideas for implementing these products in a wide variety of curriculum areas as well as purchase options for those interested in wider implementation. Persons taking graduate credit are required to attend the "What's New from IntelliTools" session and both Sessions I & II of "Guided Practice using IntelliTools".

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

Focus on Decoding: REWARDS, November 29, Kalispell

Focus on Decoding: REWARDS, November 30, Missoula

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

The trainer, Dr. Feldman is the Director of Reading and Early Intervention with the Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE), Leadership Team Consultant for the California Reading and Literature Project and Independent Consultant in the area of PreK- 12 Literacy.

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

Ideas! Ideas! Ideas! The Teacher's Toolbox for Differentiating Instruction, January 18, 2005, Missoula

Ideas! Ideas! Ideas! The Teacher's Toolbox for Differentiating Instruction, January 19, 2005, Kalispell

This session is filled with strategies, tips, tools, and techniques that are both highly effective and extremely practical in helping your students succeed. Specific strategies will help your students get organized, be accountable for results, compensate for difficulties and improve reading, writing, and math skills. Effective tools for positive behavior and building self-confidence will also be included. The focus is on high expectations and high standards for all students while differentiating instruction to meet the needs of diverse learners. The strategies suggested are time-efficient for the teacher and highly effective for students. This session is designed to include ideas for all content areas and will benefit general educators and special educators as well as paraeducators, other school support staff and administrators. These are the "nuts and bolts" strategies that you will take back and use immediately!

Effective Reading Interventions, February 22, 2005, Missoula

Effective Reading Interventions, February 23, 2005, Kalispell

This is the second of a series of three workshops that focuses on specific research-based strategies and materials for working with students in grades 4-12 who struggle with reading.

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

Working with Angry and Resistant Youth: Strategies for Fostering Hope and Resilience, March 1, 2005, Polson

This presentation focuses on factors that contribute to the creation of a positive school climate for both students and staff. Dr Brooks discusses these factors by outlining the key dimensions of the mindset of effective educators and other professionals including an appreciation of: (a) empathy and exercises to promote empathy, (b) our own memories of school as guideposts for what we do today, (c) the lifelong impact we have on children and adolescents, (d) the mindset of resilient youth, (e) the components of motivation, (f) the importance of a strength-based approach that identifies and reinforces each student's "islands of competence," and (g) specific interventions for fostering motivation, learning, self-discipline, self-esteem, cooperation, caring, hope, and resilience in students. Strategies will be shared for professionals and parents about how to strengthen their own "stress hardness" so as to be less stressed and more effective in working with or raising these challenging youth.

Dr. Brooks is a clinical psychologist and faculty member at the Harvard Medical School. He also serves as an advisory board member of the Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorder (CHADD). His most notable publication is *The Self-Esteem Teacher*. He spends most of his time conducting motivation, resilience, and self-esteem workshops nationally and internationally.

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

Montana Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Conference, April 13-15, 2005, Billings

<http://www.mtcec.org/conference.htm>

Step Up to Writing- A Key to Academic Success, April 25-26, 2005, Missoula
Step Up to Writing- A Key to Academic Success, April 27-28, 2005, Kalispell

Step Up to Writing is a writing program which 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 which 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>.

Training/Workshops/Conferences outside Montana::

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.

Against the Odds, National Parental Involvement Conference, September 14-16, Atlanta

This conference brings together experts, colleagues and parents, for more than 20 hours of professional development and to discuss, explore and learn about parental involvement programs that work. Learn how to develop strong policies, find practical and useful information, and strengthen the home/school links. Other conferences may include a session on parental involvement . . . this conference is focused only on parental involvement.

When: September 14-16, 2004

Where: Hyatt Regency Atlanta (Special Conference Rate through A+ Events)

Registration: \$425 per person, \$1200 per three-person team (registering from same school or district)

Contact: <http://www.na4pi.org>.

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

Learning Disabilities Association 42nd Annual International Conference on Learning Disabilities, March 2-5, 2005—Reno, NV

The largest learning disabilities conference in the world is coming to Reno, Nevada, and bringing more than 300 workshops and exhibits. Topics include: adult issues; medical research; health issues; workshops on early childhood, reading, classroom strategies etc.; and NIFL "Bridges to Practice."

When: March 2-5, 2005

Where: Nugget Hotel, Reno

PLUK eNews August 23, 2004

Registration: \$75-\$230

Contact: <http://www.lidaamerica.org>

RESNA's 28th International Conference on Technology & Disability:

Research, Design, Practice, and Policy

Hyatt Regency, Atlanta, GA

- Pre-Conference Instructional Courses: June 23-24, 2005
- Full Conference Workshops: June 25-27, 2005

RESNA takes the 2005 Conference to Atlanta, GA, where assistive technology's leading researchers, renowned clinicians, and policy experts will create a conference program with unmatched levels of knowledge and expertise. RESNA presenters and attendees will experience a surprisingly intimate conference environment where:

- information is contemporary and innovative
- uncommon questions find in-depth answers
- sharing knowledge, ideas, and experiences is easy, and
- new connections last a lifetime.

How you can participate: Obtain proposal kits at <http://www.resna.org> and submit a proposal for a workshop or Instructional Course or Download an author kit and submit a paper for inclusion in the Interactive Poster Sessions or one of the student competitions!

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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Parent's, Let's Unite for Kids – PLUK
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800-222-7585; 406-255-0540; 406-255-0523 (fax)
plukinfo@pluk.org
<http://www.pluk.org>



Edited by: Roger Holt rholt@pluk.org
Proofed & condensed by: Elisabeth Mills scribe@pluk.org

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

Mission Statement: Parent's Let's Unite for Kids unites parents, professionals, families and friends of children with special needs to support one another, and share information for the benefit of their children.

Vision Statement: Given information and support, individuals with disabilities and their families will feel empowered to advocate for themselves and participate fully in educational and community opportunities.

Statement on accessibility: Today, we endeavor to be conscious of the need for making all electronic information accessible, as we are aware of physical accessibility issues in our community. For design guidelines visit <http://ncam.wgbh.org/cdrom/guideline/>.

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