

**PLUK eNews For the Week of March 10-15, 2003
Issue 15**

Welcome to the weekly PLUK eNews!

Presenting the news of interest for Montana families of children with disabilities and chronic illnesses, and for the professionals and educators who serve them.

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Highlights:

- **Reminder: PLUK ITV Learning Series, March 11, on Financial Issues for Parents and 2003 MT Legislative Update**
- **PLUK Weekly eNews Archive Now Available!!!**
- **Legislative Diary #17**
- **2003 Annual Montana CEC Conference**
- **IntelliTools Training in Glendive March 25 & 26**
- **Early Literacy Audio Conference Call March 21**
- **Art Workshop for Kids in Billings March 20**
- **The Alberta Bair Theater invites you to "Access to the Arts" in Billings**
- **Kids and Mental Illness Presentation in Billings March 18**
- **SEE-Sign Practice Group in Billings March 20**
- **Presentations by Diane Trister Dodge in Billings, March 28 & 29**
- **"Finding the Expert Within: Empowering IEP Teams to Make Wise Assistive Technology Decisions" at CEC Conference in Missoula**
- **Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Web Site and Handbook**
- **Communicating with your Child's School through Letter Writing**
- **THE LEARNING CAMP for children with LD & ADHD in Colorado**
- **IT'S TAX TIME AGAIN...**
- **FREE POCKET CALENDARS on Women's Health Issues**
- **OUTTA SIGHT TRAVEL for people with vision impairments**
- **MAKING SOFTWARE AND WEB SITES ACCESSIBLE publication**
- **Scholarships for Women with Disabilities Pursuing Graduate Degrees**
- **Support for Military Families of children with disabilities**
- **Job Opening for Interpreter in Choteau Schools**
- **Publisher O'Reilly Makes Books Accessible to People with Disabilities Worldwide Under Agreement with Bookshare.org**
- **New Frontiers Workshops in Billings May 10 on Autism Spectrum Issues**
- **Exceptional 2003 Parent Resource Guide**
- **Benton Foundation Study on Technology and Education**
- **"Taking Struggles in Stride" from Billings Gazette**
- **Seeking teams for scavenger hunt in Billings, March 22**
- **Disabilities groups in Billings organize coalition**

- **Support Groups/Classes in Billings**
- **National Library of Virtual Manipulatives for Interactive Mathematics**
- **Mental Health Parity Bills Reintroduced, Grassroots Support Needed**
- **POSITION ON PARITY FOR HEALTH CARE**
- **Circle of Courage Conference: A Journey of Culture in Denver on April 10**
- **PLUK Logo contest for Kids**
- **Insurance appeals and writing letters of medical necessity**
- **A Guide to Testing Accommodations**
- **The Power of Love Benefit for Special Olympics in Billings April 4**
- **Like to help PLUK? Go shopping!**

##

Reminder: PLUK ITV Learning Series, March 11, on Financial Issues for Parents and 2003 MT Legislative Update

A panel of professionals in Helena and Billings will cover topics such as Social Security Resources and Benefits for Children, Medicaid Waiver program, etc. Toward the end of the presentation, there will be an update on the 2003 Legislative Session with some discussion on how the laws passed will affect families.

For information/registration, visit the web site: <http://www.pluk.org/visionnet.htm>

Or contact the PLUK office at 800-222-7585 or 255-0540.

##

PLUK Weekly eNews Archive Now Available!!!

<http://www.pluk.org/eNews.htm>

Visit the link above to connect with all the previous PLUK Weekly eNews issues.

##

Legislative Diary #17

Greetings,

It appears that the Republicans are bound and determined to "table" all tax measures and we still haven't heard from the Democratic leadership about their next budget plan that they were to work on during the break. I encourage you to contact your local legislators and request that they vote for some of the tax bills such as tobacco and rental car taxes. It is almost certain that some new taxes will have to be part of the solution to our budget crisis. I know that the Coal Tax Trust is a very controversial subject across Montana. I don't see a way for us to pull ourselves out of this fiscal nosedive without using some of these resources. If you can request that your legislators keep these options open, I'm sure that they will all be needed before this process is over. You may want to send in a note to your legislator as a reminder that there is still a separation of powers between the three branches of government. Today in the House Taxation committee, I heard a legislator make the statement that there was no use in passing tax bills because the Governor has said that she will veto them. It is the legislators' obligation to do what is right for the state of Montana, not to act according to the Governor's wishes.

I understand how important it is that the branches of government work together in a spirit of cooperation. At the same time, legislators are independently elected to represent the best interests of the citizens of Montana and should act accordingly. Please write to your legislators and ask them to work cooperatively to solve our huge problems. In 43

legislative days they will all go home and the decisions they make between now and then will determine our future. We have to help them do the right thing.

House Bill 452 passed the House. This is Rep. Holly Raser's bill that establishes a special revenue account for Developmental Disabilities. Money will go into this account from contributions made by Montana citizens. The incentive for these contributions is a 30% tax credit to a maximum contribution of \$10,000. Rep. Raser has worked hard on this bill and deserves a lot of credit. Now the bill moves on to the Senate where it will probably be assigned to the Senate Taxation Committee.

House Bill 150 passed the Senate. This is Rep. Bob Lawson's bill that exempts payments for respite from wage & hour and overtime requirements. Parents and family members who receive the funding from corporations that contract for respite with the state will pay for the respite program. Congratulations to all who worked hard on this bill. It will certainly give families more control over respite and make more resources available for the service.

The House Appropriations committee will start on the state budget bill, House Bill 2. The Human Services budget (DPHHS) will be the 5th area of the bill to be reviewed. This means that they should get to our budget about the middle of next week. We will be advocating for the plan that came out of our subcommittee that offsets the Governor's proposed cuts to developmental disabilities and vocational rehabilitation. Please keep an eye open for alerts that I may send out asking you to contact the members of the House Appropriations committee. I will send you a list of these committee members and their email addresses in a later posting. One area that I have heard about, from a number of you, was the budget committee's action to eliminate Medicaid funding for disposable incontinency items. These disposable diapers are important for a number of people, including individuals in foster and group homes. I have spoken to legislators on the House Appropriations committee who are willing to make motions to restore funding for these diapers. As we get closer to the committee's work on our part of the budget, I will ask you to send messages supporting this motion.

As ever, Wally Melcher

##

**HAVE YOU REGISTERED?
2003 Annual Montana Council for Exceptional Children
CONFERENCE ON disabilities**

"Assistive Technology, Behavior, and Classroom Ideas"
" April 2-4, 2003 " *Holiday Inn-Parkside* " Missoula MT "

PLAN TO ATTEND! Special education educators, general education educators, administrators, parents, families, individuals with disabilities, counselors, psychologists, parent/student advocates, occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech and language therapists, paraprofessionals, and all others concerned with topics and issues regarding disabilities.

Pre-Conference Workshops: Wednesday, April 2

Conference Sessions: Thursday-Friday, April 3-4

For registration materials, e-mail debbieannahanna@hotmail.com, or contact MCEC President Jack Underwood, 406-873-4421, cbmsju@cutbankschools.net. For conference information go to <http://www.mtcec.org>.

##

Intellitools Training in Glendive March 25 & 26



IntelliTools Overview, March 25th (PM)

This will be an overview and demonstration of the IntelliTools products.

March 26th (all day)

This will be a hands on workshop using some, not all, of the IntelliTools products.

For more information and to register, contact: Karen Lassle at DCHS 406-377-4629
lasslek@midrivers.com

##

Early Literacy Audio Conference Call March 21

This is to announce that the registration for our March 21st Literacy Audio conference Call titled "Building Early Literacy and Language Skills for All Children" presented by Dr. Lucy Hart Paulson is now available online through our Web site at <http://www.dsqaic8.usu.edu>. Just click on "Early Literacy and Language Skills" link, then, click on the "register" button.

##

Art Workshop for Kids in Billings March 20

The Yellowstone Art Museum is once again sponsoring an art workshop for kids at the museum, 401 N 27th Street in Billings, from 3:30pm to 5:00pm on March 20. This workshop is to help kids explore their creative abilities and give them some hands on experience. There is no fee, but there is limited space and participants must pre-register. Call the PLUK Office at 255-0540 for more information or to register.

##

The Alberta Bair Theater invites you to "Access to the Arts" in Billings

On April 8 at 7:30 join "Dane Zanes and Friends" at 7:30pm. Call the PLUK office to reserve tickets at 255-0540. There's no charge, but seating is limited, so call soon!

##

Kids and Mental Illness Presentation in Billings March 18

Kee Dunning and some of her clients, age 11-18 will share feelings about having a psychiatric diagnosis, friendships, medications, support system, coping skills and quality of life. This free presentation, sponsored by NAMI of Billings, will be held at the Deaconess Health Conference Center Room A on Tuesday, March 18 from 7:00pm – 8:00 pm. Call 256-2001 for more information.

##

SEE-Sign Practice Group in Billings March 20

The Scottish Rite Language Clinic sponsors the practice group the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7:00pm at Coffee Legacy, 2160 Central Ave. Call 259-1680 for more information.

##

Presentations by Diane Trister Dodge in Billings, March 28 & 29

The Billings Community Child Care Coalition and HRDC are sponsoring presentations by Diane Trister Dodge, author of "The Creative Curriculum for Preschool". On Friday evening, 6:30pm – 9:00pm, March 28, will be "What Brain Research Tells Us About Preparing All

Children for Success in School and in Life". On March 29 starting at 9:00am will be "Linking Assessment and Curriculum in the Creative Curriculum for Preschool". The session on the 28th is \$15 per person and on March 29, the session is \$60. For information and registration forms, contact Kathleen Johnson at 259-7743 or <mailto:kathleenj@mail.com>.

##

"Finding the Expert Within: Empowering IEP Teams to Make Wise Assistive Technology Decisions"

April 2, 2003 (part of the MT CEC Conference)

Missoula Children's Theatre Ballroom

9AM-4PM

This fun, informative presentation is the culmination of a year long collaborative project between PLUK, MonTECH, Rocky Mountain DBTAC, CTCNET and the University of Montana. The content of the project is developed and facilitated by Ms. Terry Lankutis. Participants from throughout Montana in this first year of the Montana Collaborative Empowerment Project have spent the year working as a team learning to implement a student centered assessment process.

All 42 participants will present how the implementation of this student-centered process has improved the matching of appropriate technology to student need. Cost for this one day workshop is \$50 per person.

Registration forms can be found at <http://www.mtcec.org> or through email from: mdebbieannahanna@hotmail.com.

##

Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Web Site and Handbook

<http://www.msubillings.edu/unhs/index.htm>

The goal of universal newborn hearing screening is to assure that all infants receive screening for hearing loss before hospital discharge, or by one month of age if the infant is not born in a hospital. Ultimately, children with congenital hearing loss should be identified by three months of age and receive appropriate audiological, educational and medical intervention prior to six months of age.

The Montana Center of Disabilities has entered into a contract with the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) to provide coordination for the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening project and have developed a resource web site and handbook. For more information on the project, contact Brigid Hagerty at 1-888-866-3822 or bhagerty@msubillings.edu.

##

Communicating with your Child's School through Letter Writing

Throughout your child's school years, there is always a need to communicate with school: teachers, administrators, and others concerned with your child's education. There are also times when the school needs to communicate with you. This is particularly true when your child has a disability and is receiving special education services. Some of this communication is informal, such as phone calls, comments in your child's notebook, a chat when picking your child up from school, or at a school function. Other forms of communication are more formal and need to be written down.

The following are some resources to help with writing letters:

"Model Letters" from Oregon

Request to School District, Follow-up to discussion with school district, Notice to School District of Parents' Intention to Place Child in Private School, Complaint to

DOE, Request for DPH

<http://www.oradvocacy.org/writing.htm>

How to: Letters

something to think about before writing those letters!

http://www.wrightslaw.com/advoc/articles/DRAFT_Letters.html

NICHCY - Sample Letters (text-only version)

Discuss a problem, requests (initial evaluation, meeting to review IEP, change of placement, copies of records, independent evaluation, due process), write a Follow-up, or to give positive feedback.

<http://www.nichcy.org/pubs/parent/pa9txt.htm>

Coping.org Tools for Coping with Life's Stressors

Tools for Getting Parents Involved in the Exceptional Education Process Sample Letters for Parents

<http://www.coping.org/involvepar/letters.htm>

Teachers First - E-READY Special Education Parent Resources

<http://www.teachersfirst.com/sped/parents/ltr1.html>

##

THE LEARNING CAMP... is a unique summer camp program that focuses on helping children with learning disabilities such as dyslexia, attention deficit disorder (ADD), attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and other learning challenges build the self esteem and confidence needed to cope in the academic world. The program blends academic tutoring with the wonderful adventures that can be found in the heart of the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. Check it out at <http://www.learningcamp.com/>.

##

IT'S TAX TIME AGAIN...

*Are you taking advantage of tax credits and deductions that are available for barrier removal costs? The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has information on this website: <http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/page/0,,id%3D12035,00.html>.

*The IRS provides tax assistance for individuals with disabilities. For more information, visit the IRS web page <http://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/page/0,,id=16146,00.html>.

*The IRS plans to add a talk feature to its website for those with visual disabilities. Find out more about this at <http://www6.lexisnexis.com/wpublisher/EndUser?Action=UserDisplayFullDocument&orgId=60&docId=I:15261739&topicId=5772&start=2&topics=single>.

*The Department of Justice (DOJ) has a free tax information packet available on their website, complete with IRS forms at <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/taxpack.htm>.

##

FREE POCKET CALENDARS...The Department of Health and Human Services on Women's Health is giving away free pocket calendars addressing healthy lifestyle issues for women with disabilities. Find out how to order one at http://www.nod.org/cont/dsp_cont_item_view.cfm?viewType=itemView&contentId=1306&romLocHmePg=T&fromLocationId=16&timeStamp=05-Feb-0306:03:52.

##

OUTTA SIGHT TRAVEL... is the beginning of a dream come true for people with (or without) visual impairments. Many people have had the desire to take a dream vacation, but thought that it could never become a reality. The staff at Outta Sight Travel can steer you in the right direction. With their combined expertise they can assist you in planning a vacation that goes beyond the visual realm. They can help you plan destinations that are ready to accept service animals and get whatever documentation is necessary to facilitate the travel procedures. Their ultimate goal is to be able to provide the traveler with itineraries and information in accessible format. Check out the website at <http://www.outtasighttravel.com/>, or contact Gary at gmtravel@bellsouth.net.

##

MAKING SOFTWARE AND WEB SITES ACCESSIBLE... Publishers, educational programmers and Web site developers are increasingly aware that they must include students with disabilities in their audience to comply with a range of accessibility regulations. However, few developers understand why access is a critical need or how to provide it in their products. A newly updated and expanded publication from the CPB/WGBH National Center for Accessible Media (NCAM), "Making Educational Software and Web Sites Accessible: Design Guidelines Including Math and Science Solutions," addresses both these points in detail. Visit http://ncam.wgbh.org/news/pr_20030204.html.

##

Scholarships for Women with Disabilities Pursuing Graduate Degrees

THE MISSION ...of The Ethel Louise Armstrong Foundation, Inc. (ELA) is to "*Change the Face of Disability on the Planet.*" Through ELA, there is an opportunity to offer scholarships to women with disabilities who are currently pursuing graduate degrees. Learn more at the ELA website at http://www.ela.org/scholarships/index_scholarships.html.

##

Support for Military Families

STOMP (Specialized Training of Military Parents) is a federally funded Parent Training and Information (PTI) Center established to assist military families who have children with special education or health needs. Visit their site at <http://www.washingtonpave.org/stomp.html>.

EFMconnections provides information on services and resources available to military families with special medical or educational needs. The programs and services are provided both by military and by non-military sources. EFMconnections also provides email capabilities to assist in finding a point of contact at the next duty station. Visit their site at: <http://www.EFMconnections.org>.

##

Job Opening for Interpreter

Choteau Schools in Choteau, Montana has a full time interpreter position for a hard of hearing (HOH) student. Signing Exact English required. Full benefits and competitive salary. For information contact Supt. Kent Kultgen at 406-466-5303.

##

Publisher O'Reilly Makes Books Accessible to People with Disabilities Worldwide Under Agreement with Bookshare.org

PALO ALTO, Calif., March 04, 2003 - Today Bookshare.org, an online library of accessible digital books for people with disabilities, announced an agreement with O'Reilly & Associates, a leading publisher of computer books, to make digital versions of O'Reilly books available worldwide to qualifying users with disabilities.

Bookshare.org (<http://www.bookshare.org>) is a subscription service that provides an extensive online library of accessible digital books to people with severe visual, reading, and mobility disabilities. The service, which was created by Benetech, the leading technology nonprofit in the Silicon Valley, operates under a copyright exemption in US law allowing the redistribution of copyrighted works in specialized accessible formats for people with qualifying disabilities.

Read the complete article at: <http://www.bookshare.org/web/PressReleaseC.html>.

##

New Frontiers Workshops in Billings May 10

"A Parent's Guide to Treatments for Autism Spectrum Disorders Including ADD/ADHD" will be presented on May 10, 2003, 9:00am to 5:00pm at the Mansfield Center in Billings, 2900 12th Ave N. Featuring Lynn Hamilton, author of *Facing Autism: Giving Parents Reasons for Hope and Guidance for Help* and Bryan Jepson M.D. who established the Children's Biomedical Center of Utah which specializes in the treatment of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. There will also be workshops on positive behavior, nutrition, auditory processing, communication, sensory challenges and Parent's role in the IEP. Cost is \$50 for parents, \$80 for couples, and \$75 for professionals. For more information, contact Joey Kiernan at 256-0558 or Linda Loff lindaloff@msn.com.

##

Exceptional 2003 Parent Resource Guide

<http://www.eplibrary.com/resourceguide/>

Directories of National Organizations, Associations, Products & Services

- This year's guide, the largest ever, contains over 200 pages of information including:
- Comprehensive Listing of National Resources for Specific Disabilities
- Listing of State Special Education Directors
- Parent Support Programs
- Vocational Rehabilitation Programs
- Alliance for Technology Access Center and State Assistive Technology Programs
- Federal and Federally Funded Information Resources
- Mental Health Resources
- Canadian Resources
- Articles on Autism, ADD/ADHD, Incontinence and Power wheelchairs...
- EPLibrary a comprehensive listing of new and ever popular editions of special need books and videos

Plus much more!

EP630RG Regularly \$19.95 Special Offer only \$15.00

##

Benton Foundation Study on Technology and Education

http://www.benton.org/Library/sustainability/sus_challenge.html

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Benton Foundation and the Education Development Center's Center for Children and Technology (CCT) released their latest report, *The Sustainability Challenge: Taking Edtech to the Next Level*, over the Internet today. In the last 10 years, the United States has invested over \$40 billion placing computers in schools and connecting classrooms to the Internet; the report cautions that this massive investment in educational technology, or edtech, may be at risk.

The Sustainability Challenge outlines a number of critical next steps that are needed to sustain America's edtech infrastructure and insure that this investment helps support student achievement. The report offers a "Sustainability Top Ten List" of reforms necessary for insuring that the nation's edtech investments do not go to waste. The list includes:

- * Accelerating teacher professional development
- * Providing true professional technical support
- * Ensuring all Americans possess 21st Century Skills
- * Adopting a new national goal to bridge the home and community digital divides

##

Taking Struggles in Stride

<http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?tl=1&display=rednews/2003/03/01/build/life/65-tutor.inc>

By DONNA HEALY Of The Gazette Staff

As a kindergartner, Bobbie Sullivan could spend a half-hour putting on a pair of socks. Once, while she struggled with a routine task, her mother sat in the next room and cried.

Her parents were told not to expect too much. They were told that their daughter, who was born with cerebral palsy, might never learn to read or write. What the experts never factored into the equation was Sullivan's determination.

In August, at age 25, she will graduate with a master's degree in social work.

Visit the link above to read the complete article from the Billings Gazette on our own Bobbie Sullivan. We're proud of you!

##

Seeking teams for scavenger hunt in Billings

Parents, Let's Unite for Kids plans a Sports Scavenger Hunt in connection with the Sports Festival scheduled for March 22, at Metra.

PLUK is looking for teams from youth groups to participate in the event. Teams are made up of a minimum of four members and up to eight, generally from ages 10 to 18. For information or to sign up a team, call PLUK at 255-0540.

##

Disabilities groups in Billings organize coalition

<http://www.montanaforum.com/rednews/2003/02/28/build/health/plukcoalition.php?nnn=5>
BILLINGS – A group of 16 Billings-area organizations have joined together to create the "Disabilities Services Coalition."

A group of about 80 people gathered Thursday at Rimrock Mall to recognize March as "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month" and to bring public attention to the coalition.

Sheryl Shockley, whose daughter Vivienne is a Special Olympics athlete, said the organizations have given her daughter "the chance to be an equal participant in everyday life."

"And, isn't that what we all want?" Shockley asked. "We all have disabilities, but let's focus on the abilities we have and believe that we all can succeed each in our own way."

Shockley helped organize the coalition with Dennis Moore, executive director of Parents, Let's Unite for Kids, and Lynn Mallowney, executive director of Eagle Mount.

She said the coalition provides a way for all the organizations to work together to provide the most and best resources possible for individuals and families. The coalition members also intend to compliment each other's efforts, from not holding overlapping events to sharing volunteers. Among the group's goals is to promote resource awareness and serve as an advocacy group for the disabled community. Eventually, the coalition would like to do collaborative grant writing, Shockley said.

For more information about the Disabilities Services Coalition, call Shockley or Moore at PLUK, 255-0540, or Mallowney at Eagle Mount, 245-5422.

The public is welcome to attend the coalition's meetings, which are at 9 a.m. on the third Thursday of each month. The coalition members rotate hosting the meetings. Yellowstone Valley Area Special Olympics will host the next meeting, which is March 20 at the Mansfield Health Education Center.

##

Support Groups/Classes in Billings

- March 12. Multiple Sclerosis Support Group. The Wednesday morning Multiple Sclerosis support group will meet at the Mary Alice Fortin Conference Center at 10 a.m. Dr. Gumm from St. Vincent Healthcare will discuss ways of coping with cognitive dysfunction.
- Parenting Success. Saturdays, March 22, 29 and April 5, 10 a.m.-noon. A program for parents of children of all ages that encourages healthier self-esteem and family relationships through awareness, support and hope. Mary Alice Fortin Health Conference Center. To register call 255-8440 or 1-800-252-1246
- American Diabetes Association community support group. American Diabetes Association. Call 256-0616 for information.

##

National Library of Virtual Manipulatives for Interactive Mathematics

<http://matti.usu.edu/nlvm/nav/index.html>

Learning and understanding mathematics, at every level, requires student engagement. Mathematics is not, as has been said, a spectator sport. Too much of current instruction fails to actively involve students. One way to address the problem is through the use of manipulatives, physical objects that help students visualize relationships and applications. We can now use computers to create virtual learning environments to address the same goals.

##

Mental Health Parity Bills Reintroduced, Grassroots Support Needed

(March 7, 2003) -- The fight to end discrimination by private insurers against people with mental illnesses is heating up again as mental health parity bills were introduced last week in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Senators Pete Domenici (R-NM) and Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and Representatives Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) and Jim Ramstad (R-MN) introduced "The Paul Wellstone Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act" (H.R. 953, S. 486). The bills -- named in honor of the late Senator, a longstanding champion of mental health parity and other important mental health issues -- would require health plans sponsored by employers with more than 50 employees to provide equivalent coverage for mental health services and medical/surgical health services.

The bills would require parity only in plans that already provide mental health benefits. They would not require plans to offer such benefits.

Swift enactment of the legislation would, however, close gaps in the current federal parity law and level the health insurance-coverage playing field by creating a non-discrimination policy for individuals with private health insurance who require mental health treatment. The existing parity law, which is set to expire at the end of this year, provides parity only in lifetime benefits and annual limits on services. In addition to those protections, H.R. 953 and S. 486 would eliminate discriminatory limits on inpatient days, outpatient sessions, maximum out-of-pocket limits, co-payments and deductibles.

The bills would also ban arbitrary limits on services for diagnosable mental disorders by requiring insurers to cover any disorder found in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), the mental health field's widely accepted diagnostic reference.

Hopes were high for passage of mental health parity legislation last year. President Bush expressed support for parity in April and the relevant Senate committee unanimously approved the bill. But efforts to enact it were stymied in the 107th Congress and lawmakers only managed to extend the existing law to the end of 2003.

Currently, 162 Representatives and 24 Senators have co-sponsored the legislation, but more are needed to enact full mental health parity this year. To view current co-sponsors, please visit <http://www.bazelon.org/parity/supporters>.

##

POSITION ON PARITY FOR HEALTH CARE

California Network of Mental Health Clients, February 1998

One of the organizing purposes of the California Network of Mental Health Clients (the Network) was to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against mental health clients. The Network supports ending legal and civil discrimination of persons with mental disabilities in all areas of life -- education, employment, housing and health care. Clearly then, the Network is for parity in health care coverage, providing persons with mental disabilities the same level of insurance coverage as persons with other health problems (although there is a mixture of opinion among Network members as to the existence of a physiological base for mental and emotional problems in living.)

However, the Network is against any health care parity legislation that includes coverage for involuntary treatment. Involuntary treatment should be excluded from coverage in any health care parity legislation.

Read the complete article at:

<http://www.narpa.org/parity.htm>

##

Circle of Courage Conference: A Journey of Culture

The PEAK Parent Center in Denver Colorado on Friday, April 11, 2003, from 8:00 a.m. -4:30 p.m. is sponsoring a Circle of Courage Conference: A Journey of Culture. It will be held at the Hyatt Regency Denver Tech Center at 7800 E. Tufts Avenue. The cost for the conference is \$50 per person and includes lunch. Limited scholarships are available for parents of children with disabilities (call 719-531-9400).

Keynote presenters are: Dr. Martin Brokenleg, professor of Native American Studies, and Dr. Larry Brendtro, founder of "Reclaiming Youth at Risk". Breakout sessions will include parents representing diverse cultures sharing obstacles and successes about life experiences from a cultural perspective.

This conference is intended for family members from diverse backgrounds and professionals to explore the concept of culture, including what it means to provide quality

care and supports to children with disabilities and their families. All participants are invited to dress in the apparel of their culture.

To register for the conference contact PEAK Parent Center (719-531-9400) to receive an application form, or register online using a credit card at <http://www.peakparent.org>.

##

PLUK Logo contest for Kids

PLUK's tutor program, "Building Bridges," is holding a logo contest for kids ages 5 - 8. Please submit your kid's artwork to Brenda Jackson at 516 N. 32nd St., Billings, MT 59101 or email to <mailto:bjackson@pluk.org>. You can include up to three entries. Please make sure the artwork is signed. Artwork needs to be related to the title of the program and will be featured on our web page. Originals will be returned if requested.

##

Insurance appeals and writing letters of medical necessity

Sample letters of medical necessity:

<http://www.doctorbach.com/letters/>

<http://www.lifestandusa.com/samplesmain.htm>

Insurance: Do You Know What You Need to Know?

http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~ncodh/Articles/Insurance_article.html

WHAT SHOULD BE IN A LETTER OF MEDICAL NECESSITY?

<http://www.resna.org/taproject/policy/initiatives/mednec.html>

Proven Appeal Tactics: Increase Pay-up by Successfully Appealing Claim Denials

<http://www.appealsolutions.com/tal/appeal-claim-denials.htm>

Letters of Medical Necessity - From understanding who is making the funding decision to painting the best picture of the beneficiary's need.

http://www.wheelchairnet.org/WCN_ProdServ/Docs/TeamRehab/RR_98/9802art1.PDF

Your Guide to the Appeals Process

<http://www.patientadvocate.org/index.php?p=13>

Having Insurance Problems?

http://www.lyme.org/resources/insurance_brochure.html

Insurance Problems

<http://www.alsa-or.org/legal/InsuranceProblems>

##

A Guide to Testing Accommodations

Spring is often standardized test season, for ideas on how to include students with special needs successfully in testing, visit:

<http://news.fen.com/article/0,1120,23-28416,00.html?wtIAC=Id0224>

##

The Power of Love Benefit for Special Olympics in Billings April 4

On April 4, 11:00am to 4:00pm at the Billings Heights Carquest, 1203 Main Street, there will be a Fire Truck Pull Competition and Barbeque. Form a 10 person team and pick up entry forms at all Carquests or call Duane at 252-2000.

##



Like to help **PLUK**? Go shopping!

That's right, go head and buy something for yourself, your family, business, etc. — from Amazon.com, eBay, Dell or any of the internet's most popular shopping sites. But first join by visiting this link: <http://www.iGive.com/PLUK>. Every time you shop at one of the over 430 name-brand stores in the Mall at iGive.com, we'll receive a donation of up to 25% of each purchase you make, at no cost to you.

Remember, donating to **PLUK** won't cost you a thing. But we'll miss out on a lot of extra dough, if you don't join. So visit <http://www.iGive.com/PLUK> now. Membership is free and your privacy is guaranteed.

Through April 30, 2003 we'll receive a \$5 Free Donation for each new member who registers at iGive and shops. Joining and shopping is easy! Visit <http://www.iGive.com/PLUK> now!

##

Selected Sources:

Rocky Mountain Access, **March 2003**

Rocky Mountain Disability & Business Technical Assistance Center (DBTAC)

<http://www.ada-infonet.org>

Monday Morning in Washington, D.C. from The Inclusion Research Institute

<http://www.inclusionresearch.org>

Lisa Simmons, The Ideal Lives Project, Author, Consultant, & Disability Researcher

<http://www.ideallives.com>

##

This information has been sent from:

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