



PLUK eNews June 7-11, 2004
Vol 2 Num 48

Welcome to the weekly PLUK eNews!

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.

There are no great limits to growth because there are no limits of human intelligence, imagination, and wonder. -- Ronald Reagan

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##

Medic Alert Provides Options

The Medic Alert Foundation International provides emergency identification for nearly four million members worldwide. The easily recognizable bracelets and pendants include the member's PIN, any known medical conditions, and contact numbers (including a 24-hour

emergency response line). A short list of medical conditions common to Medic Alert members includes; Alzheimer's disease, asthma, autism, diabetes, drug allergies, epilepsy, food allergies, latex allergies, heart disease, and implanted medical devices. Some members do not have medical conditions and use the Medic Alert as an identification service.

According to Valerie Burgan, Outreach Consultant for the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind, Medic Alert has practical applications, "Emergency personnel are trained to look for the Medic Alert tag, would find it quickly, and know what to do. There would be very little lost time while they try to determine what's wrong. A person who is ordinarily verbal, and would not use a picture card system, might have trouble in a crisis situation and be unable to give coherent information."

For parents and family members of people with chronic illnesses, disabilities, or medical conditions Medic Alert offers options, says Burgan, "I have talked with the MedicAlert folks, and their services have been used for people with autism, cognitive delays, communication delays, etc. The Medic Alert tag can say something like: 'Call (a home number) or (the Medic Alert number)' Medic Alert will maintain a file with as much information as you'd like. You can request that they list several different numbers, or recommend the person be taken to the ER, police dept., etc. They can also have information about the person's condition, communication modes, etc."

The downside to this highly accessible service? Cost and access. Medic Alert is not considered a "covered entity" under HIPPA regulations, and is not bound by the HIPPA guidelines—this makes emergency access easier, but is a calculated risk managed by Medic Alert International's "strict standards for the management of Member-provided health care information, which we have maintained since 1956." New members pay a \$35 dollar enrollment fee and \$20 dollars annually thereafter. If you cannot afford the membership fees, consider the sponsored membership; contact the Medic Alert Program Development Manager at 800-228-6222 ext. 2412 or (209) 669-2458 (Fax), email: cmalekos@medicalert.org.

For more information about Medic Alert, please visit <http://www.medicalert.org/>.

##

Child, Family and Community Advocacy, June 21-25

http://www.dcs.wisc.edu/pda/hhi/child_advocacy.htm

The University of Wisconsin offers a unique opportunity this summer to learn how to advocate for children, families, and your communities.

Spend a week on the vibrant and beautiful UW-Madison campus while earning 30 hours of professional continuing education approved by the Association of Social Work Boards for social workers, the National Board of Certified Counselors, and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction for Equivalency Clock Hours. Learn how to bring about positive change for children and families in your communities back home.

FULL SCHOLARSHIPS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!! Contact Lynet Uttal at luttal@wisc.edu.

##

Challenger's Ready to Take the Field in Billings

The Challenger Little League, for disabled players 5-18 years old, is set to play ball.

When: Every Tuesday, 6:00 PM

Where: All Access Field, Behind Rose Park School on the alley

Games will be played every Tuesday at 6 p.m. and the season ends August 3, 2004, with a picnic.

Contact: Sarita Lundin at 655-1568

##

The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation Fellowship Programs 2005

Parent Public Policy Fellowship Program 2005

Parents or close family members of a child with intellectual and developmental disabilities (mental retardation) are invited to submit applications for a one-year fellowship in Washington, DC, to learn how legislation is initiated, developed and passed by Congress or how programs are administered and regulations promulgated 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 to benefit solely the candidate's own child. For application details see the announcement at <http://www.jpkf.org>. The deadline is September 1. Address questions to Jill Fosse, 301-565-5476. Salaried experience in the field is NOT a requirement.

Professional Public Policy Fellowship Program 2005

Mid-career professionals in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities are invited to submit 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) developmental of family support services.

For application details see the announcement at <http://www.jpkf.org>. The deadline is September 1. Address questions to Jill Fosse, 301-565-5476.

##

Parents Wanted for Survey

IRIS Media, Inc. creates research-based educational materials for teachers, families and adults with developmental disabilities. They are currently looking for parents of adult children with cognitive or intellectual disabilities to participate in a research project on future planning. Parents will receive planning materials to evaluate and can earn up to \$100 for their participation. For more information, parents can phone Lisa Cassidy toll free at 877-343-4747, ext. 204; can email her at lisa@lookiris.com; or can check the website at <http://www.lookiris.com/concern.html>.

##

Fostering Change for Disabled Persons Subject of New Free Booklet

<http://www.unitedspinal.org/pages.php?catid=8&pageid=334&PHPSESSID=d15ca3920596d1ee3bda97569d4973e3>

The United Spinal Association, a national veterans service and disability rights group, has published a new pamphlet titled Taking Action, a step-by-step guide to becoming a self-advocate to encourage change for disabled individuals in a community. Single free copies of Taking Action can be ordered and downloaded at, or obtained by calling the Association's publications request line at 1-800-444-0120.

For 57 years, the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association pioneered advocacy for paralyzed veterans and others with mobility impairments. Our work has benefited all Americans with spinal cord injury and/or disease (SCI/D). Now we are changing our name

to the United Spinal Association. We will continue to serve our veteran members with our dedicated programs, while striving to assist a larger community of children and adults with disabilities. United Spinal Association is dedicated to enhancing the lives of individuals with spinal cord injury or disease by assuring quality health care, promoting research, advocating for civil rights and independence, educating the public about these issues and enlisting their help to achieve these fundamental goals. For more information about the programs of United Spinal, please visit <http://www.unitedspinal.org>.

##

Vacaville target of ADA sidewalk suit

By Warren Lutz

VACAVILLE -- A disabled rights group that sued the city of Sacramento - and won - for having bad sidewalks that gave disabled residents problems is now targeting Vacaville.

A class-action lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in March on behalf of Vacaville resident Gary Nystrom claims many of Vacaville's street corners have no curb ramps and those that do are poorly designed, creating hazards for the disabled.

And many existing curb ramps are designed poorly and many sidewalks and street crosswalks contain obstructions to people who use wheelchairs or ride in motorized scooters, Nystrom claims in his suit.

Read the complete article at:

<http://www.dailyrepublic.com/articles/2004/05/30/news/news2.txt>

##

Bush signs bill to create new agency for disabled

By Mike Branom, The Associated Press, Posted May 29 2004

ORLANDO· A new agency for the developmentally disabled will be created under a bill Gov. Jeb Bush signed into law Friday, taking over the services the Department of Children & Families now provides for 30,000 people.

The Agency for Persons With Disabilities will help people who have a variety of developmental disabilities, such as mental retardation, autism and cerebral palsy. It will provide services such as adult day care, education and assistance finding jobs and homes in their communities.

All are now part of a \$1.1 billion program DCF manages. Gov. Jeb Bush proposed the new agency to deal exclusively with the disabled.

"It's a very monumental occasion. It's something that we advocates in the field have had as a hope and a dream for a number of years now," said John Hall, executive director of the Association for Retarded Citizens of Florida.

Read the complete article at: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/florida/sfl-fdisabled29may29,0,2433239.story?coll=sfla-news-florida>

##

School asthma program improves health and grades

Last Updated: 2004-05-31 7:00:33 -0400 (Reuters Health)

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - A comprehensive school-based asthma management program improved health status and school performance of children with asthma, particularly those with persistent disease, according to a new study.

The findings, which appear in the medical journal *Chest*, are based on a study of 835 asthmatic children in grades 2 through 5 in 14 schools in low-income communities in Detroit, Michigan.

School-based asthma programs, "can help children with asthma experience fewer symptoms and do better at school," Dr. Noreen M. Clark from the University of Michigan School of Public Health told Reuters Health.

To read the complete article, go to <http://www.reutershealth.com/en/index.html>.

##

Resources from the American Academy of Pediatrics

For families of children with disabilities and chronic illness, trips to doctors often become excursions to one specialist after another. The American Academy of Pediatrics now offers fact sheets (in Adobe PDF format) explaining several of the medical subspecialties that parents may encounter. These fact sheets can be found at

<http://www.aap.org/family/pedspecfactsheets.htm>.

##

Car Seat Safety and Children with Special Needs

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) also offers several resource guides covering car seat safety for children with disabilities, including "Car Seats for Children With Special Needs—Transporting Older Children" available to print from

http://www.medem.com/medlb/article_detailb_for_printer.cfm?article_ID=ZZZBQZUEJ3D&sub_cat=1 and "Special Needs Car Safety Seats for Specific Conditions" at

http://www.medem.com/medlb/article_detailb_for_printer.cfm?article_ID=ZZZFWCTDJ3D&sub_cat=1.

For more AAP car seat guides, visit <http://www.aap.org/healthtopics/carseatsafety.cfm>.

For other resources from the AAP, please visit <http://www.aap.org/>.

##

Training/Workshops/Meetings/Conferences in Montana::

Life Skills Groups Starting Monday June 7, Billings

What: The Montana Foster Care Independence Program's next session of Life Skills Groups, for youth ages 15-19 years.

Topics: Employment, Money Management, Apartment Living, Cooking, etc.

When: Monday June 7, 2004, 3:30-5pm. Groups run for six weeks.

Where: First Steps House, 204 S. 29th

Contact: Paige Koster, 259-2558

##

Facing Autism, June 7, Miles City

Facing Autism, June 8, Glendive

Facing Autism, June 9, Wolf Point

by Lynne Hamilton

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

##

Sensory Adventure Camp—June 12, Billings

Sponsored by Physical Therapy in Motion, STEP, and ECI.

Who: Children with Sensory Processing Disorders and a supervising adult.

When: June 12, 2004

Ages 0-5 years, from 9am to 11:30am

Ages 6 and up, from 1pm to 3:30pm

Where: Rimrock Early Childhood Center (Corner of 13th and Rimrock Road, in Billings. Old Rimrock School campus)

What: (Not intended as occupational therapy.) Let your child experience a multisensory environment with diverse, themed stations, and learn how to create sensory experiences at home. Each child should be accompanied by an adult and should wear clothing that he/she is comfortable in. Expect to get very messy.

Cost: \$40 dollars, tuition is nonrefundable.

Contact: Kally Miller, 247-3800 ext. 3864, for additional information and to sign up. An application will be mailed to you.

##

Reading Literacy/Math Competency: Assessment & Prevention of Learning Disabilities, June 13-15, Billings

<http://www.pluk.org/masp04.pdf>

The Montana Association of School Psychologists' Summer Institute 2004 will be held at the Mansfield Health Education Center in Billings on June 13-15, 2004. Download the brochure at the link above for information on the presenters, agenda, credit, and registration.

##

Transition Institute, June 14-15, Missoula

This two day conference is designed to provide increased knowledge and strategies for providing information about services and partnerships in the areas of housing, employment, and education to assist at-risk students who are transitioning from high school.

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

##

Power Mobility Camp 2004, June 14-18, Great Falls

Power Mobility Camp 2004 - Will take place in Great Falls, MT from June 14-18, 2004. This camp provides an opportunity for individuals of any age to try power mobility. Interested persons can contact Mary O'Connell, PT at 1-800-732-0323 or 406-243-5688. Sponsored by the Montana Adaptive Equipment Program.

##

Montana Behavior Institute, June 14-18, Bozeman

Contact: <http://www.montana.edu/cs/mbi>

##

Community Lifespan Respite Training, June 15, Billings

Community Lifespan Respite is a collaborative inter-agency program administered through STEP to provide respite (short, temporary care) to children and adults with disabilities, healthcare concerns, special needs and to those at risk of abuse and neglect.

The primary purpose of respite is to provide relief from demands of ongoing care, thereby reducing stress, preventing abuse and neglect and enhancing family preservation and support.

The goal of CLR is to ensure all families have access to some form of respite service. CLR does not provide the respite itself or employ providers, but is a point of contact and resource for families in need.

CLR has three major components:

- Information, referral and education for families
- Provider recruitment, screening and monthly trainings
- Financial assistance information and other resources available

CLR provides trainings that are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from Noon — 1pm, at the STEP office at 1501 14h St. West, Suite 210. For those attending the trainings we provide a light lunch. We try to offer a wide variety of topics for the trainings. The trainings are free and all we ask is that you RSVP so we are prepared with the correct number of materials and right amount of food. The upcoming trainings that are scheduled are:

- June 15, 2004— Nancy Meyers from STEP on Safety and Universal Precautions

For further information please contact, Tami Haan, Lifespan Respite Coordinator at 248-2055.

##

MSDB Summer Skills Program, June 20-26 & July 11-17

The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI), Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind (MSDB), and the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind Foundation will co-sponsor summer programs at MSDB. The programs will target communication, social interaction, independent living skills and use of technology for students between the ages of 9-14 (7 and 8 year olds will be considered on a case-by-case basis for the deaf camp only) who have hearing impairments or deafness, and the ages of 9-16 who have blindness or visual impairments. The dates this year are June 20th through the 26th for deaf or hearing impaired students and July 11th through the 17th for visually blind or impaired children.

The week-long programs for both deaf and blind students are provided at no cost to the student for room, board and transportation. Transportation to and from the program will be reimbursed at state rates.

For more information call 800-882-6732 or visit <http://www.sdb.state.mt.us>.

##

Assistive Technology - Matching Student Needs to Available Resources, June 21-24, & July 19-22, MSU-Billings

Course No.: SPED 493-400 or SPED 593-400

This workshop introduces IEP Team members to a student centered decision-making process used to identify individual student need for assistive technology. Many IEP teams are unsure how to address the issue of assistive technology in an IEP. Using case studies from their own situation, participants will 1) define assistive technology and IEP requirements 2) identify local and national resources 3) be introduced to the student centered decision-making process 4) match individual student need to appropriate technology 5) identify the different types of non-tech, low tech and high tech solutions 6) learn the difference between assistive technology and instructional technology. Groups of IEP team members and general educators are encouraged to attend. OPI renewal units are available.

You can register at <http://www.msubillings.edu/outreach>

For information, contact Ms. Terry Lankutis, 406/388-7831 or LankutisT@aol.com.

##

Davis Learning Strategies Introduction and Lab workshop, June 21-22, Kalispell

Elsie Johnson, associate member of Kalispell PLUK board announces a Davis Learning Strategies Introduction and Lab workshop here in Montana saving attendees the cost of traveling to Reading Research Council in California.

Davis Learning Strategies goal is to give K-3 classroom teachers a way to develop accomplished readers with life long skills in 'how to learn'. Core Strategies include Davis Focusing Skills, Symbol Mastery, and Reading Exercises. Would you like to reach all the children regardless of their learning style, manage your classroom more effectively, have methods easy to implement and flexible, meet early intervention reading needs the prevent special ed referrals?

Contact Elsie Johnson of Learning Options at elsie@thelearningoptions.com or 1.800.276.3138 for more information or visit the web site at <http://www.thelearningoptions.com>

##

Loving Touch Certified Infant Massage Instructor CIMI Training, July 16-18, Bozeman

Friday, Saturday, Sunday 8:00am - 4:30 pm

Location: Healthworks Institute, Bozeman, Mt

The International Loving Touch Foundation, Inc. invites you to further your knowledge and education by becoming a Certified Infant Massage Instructor (CIMI). Participants will be certified to teach parents to massage their newborns and children. This 3-day training is presented through lecture, audiovisuals, discussion, demonstration, and hands-on participation with dolls and through a virtual parent-infant lab.

The CIMI program is specifically designed for Nurses, Massage Therapists, Early Interventionists Specialists, Occupational and physical Therapists, Childbirth Educators, Child Life Specialists, Social Workers and other health care professionals who work with young families.

Register on line at: <http://www.lovingtouch.com>

##

Montana Youth Leadership Forum, July 19-23, Billings

<http://www.msubillings.edu/mtcd/mylf/>

The Montana Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF) for Students with Disabilities is a unique career leadership-training program for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors with disabilities. By serving as delegates from their communities at a four-day event on the campus of Montana State University - Billings (July 19-23, 2004), young people with disabilities will cultivate leadership, citizenship and social skills.

##

Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Update, July 26, Helena

CF occurs in 1 in 2,500 births in Montana. Advances in medications and treatments have dramatically improved the quality of life as well as increasing life expectancy. Topics will include: genetics, nutrition, physical therapy, personal stories.

RSVP before June 28th by calling 800-762-9891

When: Monday, July 26

Where: Montana Association of Counties, 2715 Skyway Dr, Helena

Time: 9am – 4pm
Cost: \$10 (includes lunch)
Call BJ Archambault at 406/444-0984 for more information

##

Using Digital Photos & Videos to Enhance Learning & to Document Student Progress A Field Study Course, July 26-29, Yellowstone Park

Course No.: EDCI 493-417 or EDCI 593-417

In this course participants will learn to use video and digital photos to enhance learning and as a tool for documenting student progress. Examples of documentation in a variety of settings will be discussed from gifted students, to students with severe learning disabilities and students with severe physical and cognitive challenges. Within the context of Yellowstone National Park, the workshop will simulate a classroom setting to 1) demonstrate the necessity to create lessons which meet the diverse learning styles present in all classrooms 2) give instruction and practice on using digital video and still camera equipment 3) learn new ways to apply this technology as a teaching and learning tool 4) give instruction and practice on importing digital media into a computer 5) create dynamic activities utilizing a variety of educational computer applications which import video and pictures. Groups of educators are encouraged to attend. OPI renewal units are available.

You can register at <http://www.msubillings.edu/outreach>

For information contact Ms. Terry Lankutis at 406/388-7831 or LankutisT@aol.com

##

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

by Debi Heiberger-Wilson, Miles City at MCC

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

##

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

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

##

S'Cool Moves, August 16-18, Billings

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

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

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

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

##

AIMSweb Training Seminar, August 19-20, Billings

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

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

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

Visit

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

##

Bright Solutions for Dyslexia, August 26, Hardin

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

Speaker: Susan Barton, Founder, Bright Solutions for Dyslexia

Date: Thursday, August 26, 2004

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

Subject: Dyslexia: Symptoms, Causes and Solutions

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

Cost: FREE

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

Lunch will be provided

Reservations are required by August 18.

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

Phone: 408-559-3652 x8, E-mail anna@brightsolutions.us.

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

##

Quality of Life Montana Realtor Run, August 28, Billings

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

FEE: \$15

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

PURPOSE: To raise funds to help the YMCA

FOR MORE INFO: Call 248-7145

##

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

'Let the Light In: Teach a Child'

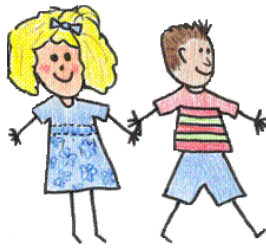
Registration information will be coming to MEA-MFT's k-12 local presidents after Labor Day.

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

##

Training/Workshops/Conferences outside Montana::

Intermountain Special Study Institute, June 7-10, Idaho



Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho, will hold its Intermountain Special Study Institute on Deafness, June 7-10, in Pocatello, Idaho. This institute is an excellent opportunity for teaching and related services personnel to share knowledge, as well as to learn effective teaching strategies from recognized professionals in the field of deafness. The Office of Public Instruction will again be providing a limited number of stipends to pay for the registration fees of teachers of the deaf, regular education teachers and speech-language pathologists who are providing services to students who are deaf or hearing impaired in the public schools in Montana. Renewal units, as well as ASHA CEUs will be available to participants. Personnel who wish to apply for a stipend should contact Marilyn Pearson at mpearson@state.mt.us.

Go to <http://www.isu.edu/issi> for more information on the institute.

##

Making the GRADE: Improving Access to E-Learning, June 9, Webcast

Robert L. Todd and Curtis D. Edmonds will present this Web cast on Wednesday, June 9, 2004 from 1:00-2:30pm Mountain.

Robert L. Todd is a Research Scientist and Information Architect at the Georgia Institute of Technology's Center for Assistive Technology and Environmental Access. He is the project director of the Georgia Tech Research on Accessible Distance Education (GRADE) project and the assistivetech.net project, a national assistive technology web resource. Curtis D. Edmonds is the Education and Technology Specialist for the Southeast Disability and Technical Assistance Center. He is responsible for coordinating efforts to improve access to information technology for students with disabilities throughout the eight-state Southeast region.

The Georgia Research in Accessible Distance Education (GRADE) project launched a new, free, online tutorial at <http://www.accesslearning.net/> that provides information about making distance learning accessible to all students. This Web cast will highlight the resources of the tutorial and provide information on how IT professionals can increase accessibility on their campuses.

To link to this Web cast and download accompanying materials visit:
<http://www.ilru.org/online/calendar.html>

##

COLLABORATIVE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE, June 10-12, Colorado

COLLABORATIVE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE... of the Rockies will be held June 10 -12, 2004 in Westminster, Colorado. Assistive Technology Partners, at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and the Colorado Department of Education SWAAAC teams are proud to announce the upcoming merger of their conferences. The new venue, the Collaborative Assistive Technology Conference of the Rockies, will be the largest assistive technology conference in the Rocky Mountain Region. With over 50 sessions geared toward every age and disability, there is something for everybody! For more information, contact Maureen or Sherri at ATP/SWAAAC, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, 1245 E. Colfax, Suite 200, Denver, CO 80218, 303-315-1280, TTY 303-837-8964.

##

Access For All: Building, Funding and Improving Community Transportation, June 14-15, Seattle WA



June 14-15, 2004 - Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Seattle, WA
The Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) and the University of New Hampshire Institute on

Disability are sponsoring Access For All. This two-day conference, which will focus on building, funding and improving community transportation, will provide information on what you can do to further expand transportation services in your community. Special emphasis will be placed on expanding transportation options for persons with disabilities.

This conference is being held in conjunction with the annual Community Transportation Association EXPO, June 13-18. For more information on the EXPO, access: <http://www.ctaa.org/expo/>. During the Access For All conference:

- Share ways to develop federal, state and local investment to increase accessible transportation services.
- Hear from colleagues who have developed models for community-based transportation planning.
- Learn ways to elevate the issue of transportation on a broad range of community agendas.
- Further hone your leadership skills for building effective transportation partnerships.
- Take home resources that will support you in expanding transportation in your community.

For registration, agenda and available scholarships, visit: <http://www.ctaa.org/expo/2004/accessforall.asp>.

##



JUNE 20 - 22, 2004 "BYE-BYE BULLIES: UNDER THE MIDNIGHT SUN IN 2004", Alaska

This anti-bullying conference will be held at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts in Anchorage AK. For more information and to get on the conference mailing list please call or e-mail John Hoover (320-308-4091) (jhh Hoover@stcloudstate.edu). Please include surface and electronic mailing addresses.

##

Child, Family and Community Advocacy, June 21-25, Wisconsin



http://www.dcs.wisc.edu/pda/hhi/child_advocacy.htm

The University of Wisconsin offers a unique opportunity this summer to learn how to advocate for children, families, and your communities.

Spend a week on the vibrant and beautiful UW-Madison campus while earning 30 hours of professional continuing education approved by the Association of Social Work Boards for social workers, the National Board of Certified Counselors, and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction for Equivalency Clock Hours. Learn how to bring about positive change for children and families in your communities back home.

FULL SCHOLARSHIPS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!! Contact Lynet Uttal at luttal@wisc.edu.

##

RESNA 27th Annual Conference, June 18-22, Florida

Join us at the Rosen Center Hotel in Orlando, Florida to attend RESNA's 27th International Conference on Technology & Disability: Research, Design, Practice & Policy, the premier conference for people interested in technology and disability.

For more information, go to

<http://www.resna.org/Conference/2004Conference/Conference2004.php>



##

JUNE 23 - 27, 2004 "DEVELOPING LOCAL SYSTEMS OF CARE FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCES AND THEIR FAMILIES: EARLY INTERVENTION" TRAINING INSTITUTE, San Francisco

Sponsored by the National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health and held at the Hilton San Francisco, San Francisco, CA. For more information go to

<http://gucchd.georgetown.edu/institutes.html>

##

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AG Bell) in Anaheim, CA, June 25-29, 2004

This biennial event offers attendees five days of unique learning experiences featuring the latest information on hearing loss, education and early intervention models, and hearing technology.

- Discover new ideas and gain skills at more than 100 short courses, concurrent educational sessions, and poster presentations on deafness and spoken language.
- Meet new and old friends at the world's largest gathering of parents of children who are deaf and hard of hearing, adults with hearing loss, and education and medical professionals.
- Explore the AG Bell Exhibit Hall and attend product demonstrations with a wide range of industry representatives.
- Join the fun at Special Events such as the Association Banquet, Association Luncheon, Family Dance, and AG Bell Night at Disney.

Attendees who register by March 25 will receive the early registration rate of \$225.00 for members, \$325.00 for nonmembers.

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



##

JUNE 27 - JULY 2, 2004 "MY FUTURE, MY LIFE" TRANSITION SUMMER CAMP FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, Wisconsin

Sponsored by the U of WI - Whitewater Center for Students with Disabilities. For more information go to http://www.uww.edu/StdRscs/csd/my_future_my_life.php

##

Technology in Education, June 28 – July 1, Colorado

TIE IS COMING...The 18th Annual Colorado Technology In Education (TIE) Conference is scheduled for June 28th - July 1st. Join 1200+ Elementary and Secondary Teachers, Librarians, Information Literacy Specialists, Administrators, and Technologists for 4 days of HANDS-ON training with Windows, Macintosh, Palms, GPS, Digital Cameras and other

education technologies. Join 80+ Exhibitors with displays and presentations on the latest hardware and software available for K-12 classrooms. University credit is available through the UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO. Keynote speaker is David Warlick, speaking on "Redefining Literacy for the 21st Century." Registration Forms and Information are available at: <http://www.tie-online.org/2004/>.

##

Disability Law Resource Project (DLRP) at ILRU Webcasts: June 30 – July 28

<http://www.ilru.org/online/>

Please join The Disability Law Resource Project (DLRP) at ILRU for a three-part Web cast series on Title I of the ADA.

Part II: Wednesday, June 30, 2004, 2:00 PM Central: Smart Disability--Related Employment Policies - James Passamano, Beth Sufian

Part III: Wednesday, July 28, 2004 2:00 PM Central: Challenging Accommodation Issues: Ask the Job Accommodation Experts - Linda Batiste and other JAN Consultants

<http://www.ilru.org/online/calendar.html>

##

People on the Move: Using All Transportation Options, July 15-16, Madison WI

Easter Seals Project Action is again sponsoring this free train-the-trainer initiative to expand community transportation options for passengers with disabilities. This two day, train the trainer, bus familiarization program is a perfect tool for transit personnel, human service providers, school personnel, individuals who use community transportation, and advocates who support community change. There are a limited number of seats available for three remaining sessions in Madison, WI, Brooklyn, NY, and Charleston, SC. (July 15-16 in Madison, Wis., Oct. 7-8 in Brooklyn, N.Y., and Dec. 2-3 in Charleston, S.C.) For more information as well as to fill out an application, access: <http://www.projectaction.org> and click on the link to "Trainings & Conferences."

##

Enhancing Young Children's Learning Through Objects and the Arts, July 18 – 21, Gallaudet University

Contact: Deborah Krichbaum

deborah.krichbaum@gallaudet.edu

Learn a new twist on tried-and-true methods to enhance learning for hearing impaired, special needs or typical preschoolers. This active-learning workshop uses everyday objects to create a bridge between what children already know and new experiences, using visual arts, creative movement, and children's literature. This hands-on, multi-sensory technique is appropriate for a variety of settings. The four-day workshop includes daily sessions in Washington's famous Smithsonian museums and is offered through a partnership with the Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center .

The *Learning Through Objects and the Arts* workshop runs from Sunday afternoon, July 18 through Wednesday, July 21

<http://clast.gallaudet.edu/summer/special/enhancing.html>



Participants will explore objects from community collections as well as from museums.

##

JULY 24 - 27, 2004 "LEARNING, LIVING, LEADING: YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES CONTINUING THE LEGACY" 2004 NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, Washington DC

This conference will be held in Washington, D.C.
<http://www.nyln.org/apply/2004conference.html>



##

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/>

##

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

##

How you can help!::



Birthday Time?

Does your child have a birthday coming up? Are you dreading the decorating, food preparation and cleanup? If so, Contact Bill at Montana Candy Bar & Deli at 294-2327. Montana Candy Bar & Deli offers birthday parties at their store located at 111 South 24th Street West in the Rimrock Mini Mall.

They will do the decorating, provide lunch, ice cream and activities for the kids giving you an opportunity to sit back, relax and enjoy the party for a change. Be sure to take your camera for great photo of all the activities.

AND PLUK will receive a portion of the proceeds!

##

Get your Albertson Community Partners card!



PLUK has joined Albertsons' Community Partners Card Program. This program is designed to help non-profit organizations raise funds needed for their programs. A percentage of your grocery total will be donated to PLUK. All that is needed is to show your Community Partners card each time you make a purchase at Albertsons. It does not cost you anything.

If you are interested in assisting PLUK in raising funds this way, please contact Bernice at 255-0540 to get a Community Partners card.

##

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.umn.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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- 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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