

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.

**The greatest revolution in our generation is the discovery that human beings, by changing the inner attitudes of their minds, can change the outer aspects of their lives.
–William James**

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Kids at Heart Gala, May 13



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

Benefit Concert for PLUK—May 20, Kalispell



Celebrate the Power and the Legend
of America's First Journey West with
ROB QUIST
and
JACK GLADSTONE
In Their Highly-Acclaimed New Multi-Media Production



ODYSSEY WEST

**An Original Musical and Visual Narrative
Commemorating the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition**

Flathead Valley PLUK presents:

Rob Quist and the Great Northern Band with Jack Gladstone in concert, present their newest collaboration May 20th at 7pm at the Kalispell Christian Center. Quist and Gladstone, two of the West's most celebrated entertainers and songwriters, have united in an unforgettable new show, *Odyssey West*, commemorating Lewis and Clark's epic journey into the western frontier.

Jack Gladstone and Rob Quist bring the West to life with the rich historical content of their original songs and narratives, presented with dramatic live footage, as well as haunting photographic and artistic images of the Old and New West.

Celebrate Our Heritage while supporting local children and adults with disabilities. Proceeds also benefit Special Friends Advocacy. Ticket purchases call 406 756-6159.

<http://www.robquist.com/promopage.htm>

Schweitzer signs Braille bill

By ROB CHANEY, Missoulian

MISSOULA - Kayla Legare's fingers could read what Gov. Brian Schweitzer's eyes couldn't see when he signed the Braille version of House Bill 438 into law Monday morning at Hellgate Elementary School.

The 17-year-old Helena student and business owner zipped through the legalese in the bill's introduction as quickly as any lawyer, feeling the bumps on the page just as a sighted person scans the ink on this page.

The new law will make it easier for students coming after her to reach the same proficiency in Braille reading through the public school system.

Read the article at: <http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?id=1&display=rednews/2005/05/03/build/state/65-braille-bill.inc>

OPI, MSDB, and MSDB-Foundation Team Up for Summer Programs

(Courtesy of MSDB)

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 weeklong programs 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.

CRITERIA FOR PRIORITIZED SELECTION

1. Student identified as having blindness, deafness, visual or hearing impairments,
2. Student enrolled full time in a Montana public school,
3. Student has a current IEP that identifies skill development in one of the areas identified above.

If you have questions regarding summer programs, please call MSDB at 771-6000 and ask for information concerning the summer skills program.

Utah snubs 'No Child' act

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY - Gov. Jon Huntsman signed a measure Monday defying the Bush administration's No Child Left Behind Act despite a warning from the federal education secretary that it could cost \$76 million in federal aid.

The bill represents the strongest stand against the federal law among 15 states considering anti-No Child Left Behind legislation. Utah is an overwhelmingly Republican state that strongly supported President Bush.

The legislation, passed during a special session of the Legislature last month, gives Utah's education standards priority over federal requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act. It lets education officials ignore provisions of federal law that conflict with the state's program.

Read the complete article at:

<http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?id=1&display=rednews/2005/05/03/build/nation/80-utah-nochild.inc>

National Council on Disability Seeks Americans with Disabilities Act Impact Testimony By May 15, 2005

(From NCD)

WASHINGTON The National Council on Disability (NCD) is collecting written testimony from people with disabilities, their families, and their advocates on the impact the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 has had on their lives.

NCD is an independent federal agency charged with making recommendations to the President and Congress to enhance the quality of life for all Americans with disabilities and their families. In 1986, NCD first proposed and then drafted the original Americans with Disabilities Act. The ADA was hailed as a major civil rights law guaranteeing equal opportunity for Americans with disabilities to participate more fully in their communities, to have greater access to goods and services, and to enjoy more employment opportunities. Testimony is sought regarding the extent to which the ADA has achieved its goals of equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for people with disabilities.

The information received will be added to a body of data currently being assembled from a variety of sources to be analyzed and transmitted to the President and Congress in a report to be published in fall 2005.

Testimony is needed regarding:

- **Telecommunications:** Has the ADA had an impact on the ability of people who have hearing and/or speech impairments to communicate by telephone?
- **Employment:** Has the ADA improved employment opportunities and job retention for people with disabilities?
- **Public Services:** Are goods and services provided by local and state agencies more accessible to people with disabilities because of the ADA?
- **Public Accommodations Operated by Private Entities:** Are goods and services provided by businesses more accessible to people with disabilities because of the ADA?
- **General comments on the ADA**

Please send written comments on or before May 15, 2005, to Julie Carroll, National Council on Disability, 1331 F Street, NW, Suite 850, Washington, DC 20004 or jcarroll@ncd.gov. For more information, contact Mark Quigley or Julie Carroll at 202-272-2004.

Adaptive Art Tools From Dick Blick Art Materials

(Courtesy of Dick Blick Art Materials)

Since 1911, Dick Blick has been the premier art supply company for millions of professionals, teachers, and students. Visit the website and check out some of the best adaptive art supplies for artists with disabilities at

<http://www.dickblick.com/categories/specialneeds/>.

True Accessibility: Ubuntu Linux Open Source Software Shatters Preconceived Notions

(Courtesy of Canonical Ltd.)

"Ubuntu" is an ancient African word, meaning "humanity to others." Ubuntu also means "I am what I am because of who we all are." The Ubuntu Linux distribution brings the spirit of Ubuntu to the software world.

Ubuntu is a complete Linux-based operating system, freely available with both community and professional support.

The Ubuntu community is built on the ideas enshrined in the Ubuntu Manifesto: that software should be available free of charge, that software tools should be usable by people in their local language and despite any disabilities, and that people should have the freedom to customise and alter their software in whatever way they see fit.

These freedoms make Ubuntu fundamentally different from traditional proprietary software: not only are the tools you need available free of charge, you have the right to modify your software until it works the way you want it to.

The team behind Ubuntu makes the following public commitment to its users:

- **Ubuntu will always be free of charge**, and there is no extra fee for the "enterprise edition," we make our very best work available to everyone on the same Free terms.

- Ubuntu includes the **very best in translations and accessibility infrastructure** that the Free Software community has to offer, to make Ubuntu usable by as many people as possible.
- Ubuntu is released regularly and predictably; a **new release is made every six months**. You can use the current stable release or the current development release. Each release is supported with security updates for at least 18 months.
- Ubuntu is entirely **committed to the principles of free and open source software development**; we encourage people to use free and open source software, improve it and pass it on.

Ubuntu is suitable for both desktop and server use. The current Ubuntu release supports Intel x86 (IBM-compatible PC), AMD64 (Hammer) and PowerPC (Apple iBook and Powerbook, G4 and G5) architectures.

Ubuntu includes more than 1,000 pieces of software, starting with the Linux kernel version 2.6 and Gnome 2.10, and covering every standard desktop application from word processing and spreadsheet applications to internet access applications, web server software, email software, programming languages and tools and of course several games.

Learn more about the revolutionary Ubuntu Linux software at <http://www.ubuntu.org/>.

Specific Behaviors Seen In Infants Can Predict Autism, New Research Shows

(From Pregnancy & Baby Magazine)

Canadian researchers have become the first to pinpoint specific behavioral signs in infants as young as 12 months that can predict, with remarkable accuracy, whether a child will develop autism.

The preliminary findings, published this month in the *International Journal of Developmental Neuroscience*, were taken from an ongoing study of 200 Canadian infants, the largest study of its kind in the world. The infants, many of whom have been followed from birth to 24 months, are younger siblings of children who have been diagnosed with autism.

Read about the study at <http://pregnancyandbaby.com/read/articles/5443.htm>.

Colorado—Blind Mom Sues Over Legal Roadblock

(From Rocky Mountain News)

Blind mom sues over legal roadblock

Daughter, 15, stuck in neutral due to law in driving case

By Hector Gutierrez, Rocky Mountain News, May 3, 2005

A 15-year-old girl who got her minor's instruction permit in October has yet to take to the road.

Juliana Barber's mother is blind and doesn't qualify to supervise her daughter when she drives because of her disability.

Marcia Barber, Juliana's mom, thought she had found a solution by asking her 80-year-old grandfather, who has a valid driver's license, to be in the car when her daughter drives.

The problem, Colorado motor vehicle officials told the Colorado Springs family, is that Juliana's grandfather is not a legal guardian, and state statute requires that a 15-year-old student with a permit be supervised by a licensed parent, stepparent or guardian.

Juliana's mother says she is being discriminated against because of her disability and has sued the Colorado Department of Revenue in U.S. District Court. The revenue department oversees the motor vehicles division.

Marcia Barber's 13-year-old daughter, Madeline, is named as a plaintiff because the family fears that when she turns 15 and obtains her minor's permit, she also will be restricted from driving.

Read the entire article at

http://www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/local/article/0,1299,DRMN_15_3747279,00.html.

Illness, disability affects entire family

PUBLISHED: April 24, 2005, By Linda May

Things can be tough for siblings of disabled children. In our mother's last days, my sister and I had a chance to have heart-to-heart talks, and she confessed how she felt about the issue of Mother and I always doing things together.

"Things?"

I remember getting polio, going to hospitals -- mostly with Mother -- having surgeries, getting casts cut off, getting fitted with braces, shopping for ugly high-top brown shoes and having them fitted with hardware for the braces, having x-rays and getting blood drawn.

Read the entire article at: http://www.macombdaily.com/stories/042405/loc_lindamay001.shtml.

Breakthrough For Kids With Epilepsy: Surgery Reduces Seizures And Increases IQ

A study on 50 preschool-aged children with epilepsy who underwent surgical treatment showed significant improvements on overall cognitive development and left many seizure-free. The article is published in the journal *Epilepsia*.

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Read the article at: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2005/04/050423190852.htm>.

No Child Left Behind brings more testing, but not more money to Bozeman schools

By GAIL SCHONTZLER Chronicle Staff Writer

The joke used to be that Bozeman was like Lake Woebegone.

When school test scores came out each year, the former school superintendent liked to say that all the children were above average.

Times have changed. Since Congress passed the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, above average isn't good enough.

Read the entire article at: <http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/articles/2005/04/24/news/01impact.txt>

Promise of lowering costs for treating autism - Case Western Reserve University study

12 Apr 2005

Parents of autistic children can spend as much as \$50,000 a year on therapies for their children. But a new research study from Case Western Reserve University's Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences shows promise of providing effective treatment for autism and other developmental disorders at a far lower cost.

Read the entire article at: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=22709>

Mediated Learning Curriculum for children 2-7 years old

The Mediated Learning Curriculum is a developmentally appropriate model designed specifically to support inclusive programs serving children with disabilities together with their typically developing peers.

- o For children ages 2 years to 7 years-old
- o 200 full days of activities
- o Over 980 pages of ideas and activities on one CD

Visit their web site at: <http://www.wlearning.com/mediated.htm>.

Schools To Appeal Autism Case To Supreme Court, But Also Work Toward Settlement

posted April 26, 2005

The County School Board voted Tuesday morning to appeals an autism lawsuit that has cost the schools some \$2.3 million thus far on to the United States Supreme Court.

Read the entire article at: http://www.chattanoogan.com/articles/article_66001.asp

Parent Advocacy: What You Should Do . . . and Not Do , by Leslie Seid Margolis, Esq.

What Parents Should Do

1. Prepare for Meetings

You should treat the IEP meeting as if it is the first step towards a due process hearing by preparing for the meeting and building a record. If you do this, you make it less likely that you will end up at a due process hearing. If you do end up at a hearing, you will be in a stronger position.

To read the rest of Leslie's suggestions, go to: <http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/advo.do.dont.margolis.htm>

When Parents & Schools Disagree , by Ruth Heitin

I often tell my clients that if my own parents were alive, they would never understand what I do for a living.

I am an independent educational consultant, and as a private professional I work for parents in seeking appropriate educational services for their children. Far more often than I prefer, I disagree with the schools - something my parents and their generation saw as heresy.

To read the rest of Ruth's article, go to: <http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/advo.disagree.heiten.htm>.

Advocate Pat Howey Talks about Reasonable Expectations, Power Struggles, and Perspectives

Why Can't We Trust the System To Do "What's Right"?

Parent: "We should be able to trust the system to do what's right for our kids."

Pat: In theory, this sounds good. But when you are dealing with a child with disabilities, there will always be disagreements. You simply will not get agreement from the number of participants who are required to be in these team meetings.

Schools are in the decision-making process for the short-term. As a parent, you are in it for the long-term.

TO read the rest of Pat's article, go to: http://www.wrightslaw.com/advoc/tips/howey_advice.htm

What You Need to Know Before Filing a Complaint , by Pat Howey, Advocate

I rarely file complaints and even more rarely advise parents to file complaints. Why?

Because in most cases, there is no real legitimate remedy, even when the school is found to be in violation.

Countless excited parents and advocates have called to tell me that they "won" a complaint. My usual response is, "What did you 'get'"?

After a few seconds of silence, they explain that the school was ordered to change what they were doing and must provide documentation to the state that they have completed the required changes.

Read the rest of Pat's article at: <http://wrightslaw.com/info/advo.complaint.howey.htm>

What is the Children's Legal Advocacy Program? of the AG Bell Foundation

The Children's Legal Advocacy Program (CLA Program) provides legal representation and technical assistance to families of children who are deaf and hard of hearing seeking early intervention services and appropriate educational placements. Launched in 2001, the CLA Program focuses on preserving the rights of children with hearing loss who use oral communication and auditory learning in their educational environment.

For more information, visit http://www.agbell.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?p=CLA_Program

"We're Going to Teach 'Em All", by Dr. Julie Elliot

Framed by federal disabilities legislation and thrust ahead by the imperatives of high stakes testing and No Child Left Behind, testing accommodations, including the use of assistive technology, have become an uneasy part of the American educational landscape. Recently the Department of Education increased to 3%, the percentage of special education students in a district who may be tested using alternate assessments, and have their scores counted toward meeting the federal mandate of showing "adequate yearly progress (AYP)."

Yet, a schism in approach exists among practitioners, between those who believe in a liberal granting of accommodations to parents who request them and others who grant them only after sound, research-based instructional alternatives have been adequately explored. This schism reflects an overarching philosophical conflict that strongly impacts special education students in an era when the achievement of AYP is the focus of general education strategy, a strategy that can frequently consign special education students to near invisibility when high stakes test scores are computed.

For more information, visit <http://www.fctd.info/resources/newsletters/displayNewsletter.php?newsletterID=10019>

Hearing disability no longer carries the stigma

Progress: A Utahn serves a role model for beating the handicap

By Julie DeHerrera, The Salt Lake Tribune

Jennifer Steiner can now add "communication ambassador" to a résumé that includes Miss Washington ('88-89), piano teacher, wife and mother.

Steiner, 35, was honored by the Utah Speech-Language-Hearing Association (USHA) for her perseverance in battling a progressive hearing loss, a condition that stems from her premature birth.

With that honor, she acted as a witness as Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr. signed a proclamation Thursday declaring May as "Better Speech and Hearing Month" and told her that he was "inspired by her story."

Read the entire article at: http://www.sltrib.com/ci_2695100?rss

Meddling parents ruin own health

By Sue Shellenbarger, Wall Street Journal

The fact that overinvolved parents can cause problems for their kids is well-known. Now, new research shows they can drive themselves nuts, too.

In one of the first studies of this mental-health issue among parents, researchers found that parents who base their own self-worth on their children's accomplishments – as measured by their answers to such questions as, "My daughter's failure can make me feel ashamed" – have worse mental health than those who base their self-worth on other factors. Often called "helicopter parents" (they hover), these overinvolved moms and dads reported more sadness, crying and negative beliefs about themselves and less joy, contentment and life satisfaction, says the study of 408 parents, released April 7 at a conference of the Society for Research in Child Development in Atlanta.

Read the entire article at: <http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/journalgazette/living/11423870.htm>

Study: Negativity Often Tied to Down Syndrome Diagnoses

By Jonathan Finer, Washington Post Staff Writer, Friday, April 29, 2005; Page A03

BOSTON -- When the technician examining an ultrasound image of her belly abruptly got up and walked out of the room during a prenatal appointment six years ago, Beth Allard told her husband she knew something was wrong.

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Minutes later, an obstetrician at the Boston hospital confirmed the first-time mother's fears, explaining that the pictures showed signs of Down syndrome.

Then, Allard recalled, the doctor began to describe what to expect.

"It could just be hanging off of you, drooling," the physician said, contorting her face into a saggy, expressionless imitation of what a child might look like with the constellation of physical and mental symptoms that characterize the syndrome, which occurs in about one in 1,000 newborns.

"We felt hopeless and incredibly scared," Allard, 42, said in an interview. "We didn't know what this was or what to do. They told us we had a few weeks to decide whether to keep the baby."

Such negative depictions of Down syndrome by health professionals who do prenatal screening are common, according to a survey of nearly 3,000 parents of children with the condition, published last month in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. A majority reported that the obstetricians who gave them the diagnosis had focused on the hardships ahead and ignored "the positive potential of people with Down syndrome."

Read the entire article at:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/04/28/AR2005042801437.html>

Educational Graphic Novels for all abilities

Gossamer Books develops educational graphic novels that help make learning history fun for all ages.

Gossamer Books' novels are written in an exciting graphic novel format helping students to learn about historical figures and events.

Each book has been carefully designed to meet the standards of the US Department of Education and makes for exceptional teaching aids for learners of all abilities.

This delightful series is written in a unique graphic book format that can be appreciated by people of all reading levels, ages and cultures.

For more information, visit: <http://www.gossamerbooks.com/index.aspx>

Gateway to Educational Materials

The Gateway to Educational Materials is a Consortium effort sponsored by the US Department of Education to provide educators with quick and easy access to thousands of educational resources found on various federal, state, university, non-profit, and commercial Internet sites.

Visit the site at: <http://thegateway.org/>

Presidential Freedom Scholarships

The Presidential Freedom Scholarships promote student service and civic engagement. These scholarships, funded in part by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency, recognize high school students for outstanding leadership in service to their community and neighbors.

High school students across the nation are solving the problems in their communities, demonstrating compassion for others, and servicing those who need support. The President has called upon Americans to serve their communities and the nation. Many students have answered that call to service. Outstanding high school students are eligible for recognition through a Presidential Freedom Scholarship.

<http://www.cns.gov/scholarships/>

The blind leading the blind

With pressure and guidance from the visually impaired, web designers are slowly improving internet access, writes Alex James

Friday April 22, 2005

Next time you sit in front of a computer, think of all the things you can use it for: surfing the net, writing documents, finding information, chatting to people ... everything short of washing up. When you switch it on, try doing all this with your eyes shut.

Read the complete article at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/online/news/0,12597,1466742,00.html>

Tutoring Aid Is of Concern at Hearing

By SUSAN SAULNY, Published: April 27, 2005

WASHINGTON, April 26 - Lawmakers expressed concern on Tuesday over the lack of information by which to judge the effectiveness of a federally financed tutoring program that is experiencing explosive growth under the No Child Left Behind law.

At the first Congressional hearing on the three-year-old tutoring program, members of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce peppered witnesses with questions about the program, known as supplemental educational services. But there is little data on the new industry.

Read the complete article at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/04/27/politics/27tutor.html?ex=1272254400&en=10206e7e910d46e3&ei=5088&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss>

Brain Implant Offers Hope for Severely Depressed

by Michelle Trudeau

All Things Considered, May 2, 2005 · For about 10 percent of people with severe depression, no available treatments work -- not anti-depressant medicines, not psychotherapy, not even electroshock therapy. But now a revolutionary treatment that entails brain surgery shows preliminary promise in treating intractable depression.

Read the complete article at: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4627438&sourceCode=RSS>

Foundation helps fund hearing care

AUDIANT is a new program of Northwest Hearing care, an affiliate of the Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight & Hearing, (NLFSH). The AUDIENT program was established as a hearing care alliance bringing together suppliers, hearing health care professionals, and related groups with the common goal of providing access to quality hearing health care for persons currently without adequate financial resources.

<http://www.audientalliance.org/index.htm>

Summer Camp Funding for children with hearing impairments

Summer camp experiences rival school experiences for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Camps can encourage friendships, as well as self-discovery for children with hearing loss. Day or residential summer camps can provide children who are deaf and hard of hearing (ages 8 – 12) with new and exciting opportunities to socialize and learn new skills through interaction with other peers and mentors who are deaf and hard of hearing. AG Bell believes that the summer camp experience is important for the social and educational development of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Through this belief, AG Bell is pleased to award opportunities for parents/guardians who are AG Bell members to apply for camp funding in the amount of \$500.00 per child.

Find out more at: http://www.agbell.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?p=Parents_SC

The NWEA Research Report on NCLB

The Impact of the No Child Left Behind Act on Student Achievement and Growth: 2005 Edition is now ready for your review.

A national research project recently released by the Northwest Evaluation Association indicates that student achievement has improved since No Child Left Behind (NCLB) was implemented, but student growth has declined slightly. If change in achievement of the magnitude seen so far continues, it won't bring schools close to the requirement of 100 percent proficiency by 2014. The study also evaluated achievement gaps among ethnic groups.

Access the report and executive summary at: <http://www.nwea.org/research/nclbstudy.asp>

Genetic counselor helps expectant parents face the unexpected

By: Linda Halstead-Acharya, Billings Gazette, Mont.

Feb. 27--Susan Landgren's job can be a roller coaster ride. On any given day, she could face tears of grief or tears of relief.

Landgren is a genetic counselor at the Fetal Diagnostic Center in the Yellowstone Medical Center. She's the person expectant parents turn to when abnormal test results threaten to turn their once-perfect pregnancy into any parent's nightmare.

"That's when I get them, in between, in a kind of shock," she said.

"You've not only lost what until today has been an easygoing pregnancy, but the whole future has suddenly changed. You can't go back. It's a kind of loss of innocence."

The low points in Landgren's day come when she has to tell a couple that their unborn child carries a genetic abnormality. The high points come when further testing disproves the first results or when a fetus thrives in spite of problems.

Read the article at: <http://www.ndss.org/content.cfm?fuseaction=NwsEvt.Article&article=1143>

Information from the National Mental Health Association on Children's Mental Health Issues

o Antidepressant Medication and Children: Tips for Parents

- o Anxiety Disorders
- o Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- o Autism
- o Back to School
 - Tips for Parents
 - Tips for Kids
 - Tips for Teens
 - Is Your Child Ready
- o Bipolar Disorder in Children
- o Bullying & What To Do About It
- o Bullying and Gay Youth
- o Conduct Disorder
- o Depression and Children
- o Learning Disabilities
- o Schizophrenia in Children
- o Talking to Kids about Fear and Violence
- o Talking to Kids about School Safety
- o What Every Child Needs for Good Mental Health

View their fact sheets at: <http://www.nmha.org/infoctr/factsheets/index.cfm#top>

Immune system, blood altered in autism -studies

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Children with autism show different immune system responses from children without the condition, and these might be measured in the blood for a possible screening test, U.S. researchers reported on Thursday.

Two studies presented to a conference on autism help support other research that suggests subtle differences in the immune function of children with autism.

Read the article at: http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/nm/20050505/hl_nm/autism_dc

Newly Discovered Genetic Disease Sheds Light On Body's Water Balance

Two infant boys whose bodies were overloaded with excess fluid have led UCSF pediatricians to the discovery of a new genetic disease. In the process, they have discovered a rare type of mutation where different substitutions in a single amino acid cause two different, opposite genetic disorders.

The new disorder, called Nephrogenic Syndrome of Inappropriate Antidiuresis (NSIAD), is described in the May 5 issue of The New England Journal of Medicine.

"This discovery gives better insights into treating these patients and potentially many others," said Stephen Gitelman, MD, principal author of the study and professor of clinical pediatrics at the University of California, San Francisco. "It sheds new light on the mechanisms that the body uses to maintain fluid homeostasis -- the correct balance of fluids needed for health and life."

Read the article at: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2005/05/050504225354.htm>

Jeepers Creepers, Bionic Peepers

By Cyrus Farivar

Scientists are helping blind people see again, one pixel at a time. If all goes well, an artificial retina could be commercially available within three years.

Artificial retinas have been successfully implanted in six patients, allowing them to see light and detect motion, researchers announced at the 2005 annual meeting of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Read the article at: <http://www.wired.com/news/medtech/0,1286,67429,00.html?tw=rss.TOP>

Vacations for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

For 25 years, Sprout has provided adults with special needs exciting vacation opportunities throughout the world. From relaxing weekend escapes to week-long adventures of travel and discovery, Sprout has a vacation to please everyone.

For information, visit <http://gosprout.org/001.html>

Events/Conferences in Montana::

Region 1 CSPD—Managing Multiple Priorities, May 10. Helena

Sponsored by Region 1 CSPD

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

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

Input Sought from Healthcare Providers and Client Advocates at PASSPORT Summits, May 10, Havre



As the PASSPORT to Health program enters its twelfth year of successfully managing the delivery of health care to Montana's Medicaid clients, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) is planning summits to determine if the current operation of the PASSPORT to Health program is the most effective way to meet its objectives.

The Department stresses that attendees should look at the program in a truly comprehensive way; therefore, no idea is off the table for consideration. "Change to the PASSPORT program, whether slight or radical, may be in order," said Mary Angela Collins, Managed Care Bureau Chief. "These summits will provide a forum for providers to identify parts of the program they feel are ineffective or outdated. All we ask is that ideas fit within our goals for managed care."

PASSPORT to Health's objectives include fostering a medical home between providers and clients, which promotes appropriate care and reduces costs, as well as assuring adequate access to primary care.

One-day facilitated summits are planned for locations across the state:

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

A cross-section of PASSPORT stakeholders are invited, including: PASSPORT providers, specialists, and other non-PCPs, representatives from billing companies, hospitals, FQHCs, RHCs, the tribal health community, and client advocates.

Implemented in 1993, the PASSPORT program has been successful in saving over \$20,000,000 annually. These savings allow the program to provide services to people who may not have otherwise received them, and help maintain provider reimbursement rates.

In addition to meeting its financial objectives, the PASSPORT program has been well received by 80% of its PCPs and clients.

If you have ideas to offer, and would like to participate in one of the summits, contact PASSPORT Program Officer Niki Scoffield at (406) 444-4148 or niscoffield@mt.gov. For a copy of the agenda and more details, visit Montana Medicaid's website at www.mtmedicaid.org.

" True Vision Goes Beyond Sight " MAB 2005 State Convention and Low Vision Symposium, May 13-15, Helena

(From MAB)

We would like to welcome you to the City of Helena and the 2005 MAB State Convention " True Vision Goes Beyond Sight." The Capital City Chapter is hosting this year's convention. We are looking forward to seeing you here in Helena.

This year we are trying something new. During Friday morning and afternoon, we will be having a free public Symposium with panel speakers discussing and answering questions concerning low vision and eye-related diseases. Some sessions will be repeated during the day so that you will be able to attend most all of the sessions without missing a topic.

Please contact Jim Hopkins at 1-406-442-2144 or bigjimhopkins@earthlink.net for more information

BraveHearts Grief Support Group, May 17, Billings

BraveHearts is a grief support group for children, teens, and families. The group meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at the Mayflower Congregational Church. Every meeting includes refreshments, fun activities, and story time. Registration is required for this free program. Please call Amy at 247-3300 for more information and to register.

Meeting Schedule:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| May 17 | Tree of Life (Family Trees) |
| June 7 | Memories (A Year to Remember) |
| June 21 | Memory Box (Be sure to bring keepsakes . . . photos, cards, music, etc. to put in the box.) |

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Teleconference, May 17, Great Falls, Billings, Lame Deer

Date: May 17, 2005, 9:00 AM - noon

Where: Great Falls, VisionNet classroom, 1309 NW Bypass

Teleconference sites: Lame Deer, Billings
Presenters: Jill Plumage, Fort Belknap Reservation FAS Coordinator
Information/registration: <http://www.pluk.org/training/FAS.htm>

Financial Planning for Families Teleconference, May 19, Billings

Date: May 19, 2005, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Where: Billings, Mansfield Center
Teleconference sites: (none at this time)
Presenters: Bruce Larson, Jason Harkins, & parent panel
Information/registration: <http://www.pluk.org/training/Financial.htm>

Understanding Asperger's Syndrome, May 20, Billings, May 23, Missoula

(From PESI Healthcare)

This intensive full-day seminar will provide participants with a general overview of autism spectrum disorders (ASD), followed by an in-depth focus on the most recent addition to ASD, Asperger's Syndrome. Participants will develop a thorough understanding of the features, characteristics and learning styles associated with Asperger's Syndrome. Numerous practical, "proven-to-work" intervention strategies will be given, as well as effective methods of programming to meet the unique learning, thinking, and processing differences of children and adolescents with Asperger's Syndrome. Particular focus on issues related to the behavioral challenges and subsequent intervention strategies unique to this population, will also be explored. CEUs are available.

Seminar speaker Susan L. Stokes, M.A., CCC-SLP, is the Autism Coordinator for Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) 6 and the First Step Autism Program, an early intervention program for students with autism spectrum disorders. She has specialized in the area of autism spectrum disorders as both a speech/language pathologist and autism consultant for over 20 years. Susan has attended numerous national and international trainings and conferences relating to the field of autism, as well as presented at many state and national workshops and conferences. Susan is the author of *Autism: Interventions and Strategies for Success*, a publication written for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, including 6 articles regarding autism spectrum disorders available at www.cesa7.k12.wi.us.

Stokes' everyday experiences in working with children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders will give participants a practical and humor-filled understanding of this very unique population. Participants will leave with information that can be directly applied to the children and adolescents that they support with Asperger's Syndrome, including numerous "easy-to-use" intervention strategies. The instructional style for this seminar includes a combination of lecture, group activities and multi-media presentations to meet the learning needs of all participants.

Learner objectives:

- Differentiate between Asperger's Syndrome and the other autism spectrum disorders, according to the DSM-IV: Revised.
- Describe the unique features, characteristics and learning styles associated with Asperger's Syndrome.
- Identify key components necessary for providing an appropriate program to meet the needs of children and adolescents with Asperger's Syndrome.
- Demonstrate various intervention strategies to meet the unique learning, thinking and processing needs of children and adolescents with Asperger's Syndrome.
- Understand the foundation for behavioral challenges exhibited by children and adolescents with Asperger's Syndrome.
- Describe appropriate behavioral intervention strategies for children and adolescents with Asperger's Syndrome.

Program purpose: to provide the knowledge, skills and intervention strategies necessary to better support children and adolescents with Autism and Asperger's.

Registration rates vary (\$154 to \$183.95). For more information, or to register online visit PESI Healthcare at http://ssl.pesihealthcare.com/iebms/coe/coe_p1_all.aspx?oc=10&cc=COE&typeid=MT1 and choose the location (Billings or Missoula) that suits you.

The 299 Club—Support for Parents of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, May 20, Billings

The number 299 comes from the first portion of the diagnostic code used to identify Autism Spectrum Disorders. The 299 Club is a parent-to-parent support group designed to offer information sharing, education, and support "to build our community, one piece at a time."

- Explore Innovative Approaches to Autism
- Browse the Resource Library
- Become a Parent Mentor

- Join the "Sunshine Group"
- Check Conference Listings
- Learn from Guest Speakers
- Help Fundraising Activities
- Relax with Moms' Morning Coffee Chat
- Visit the Kids' Gathering
- Enjoy a Christmas Party

WHEN: 3RD Friday, every month

WHERE: Scottish Rite Language Clinic (514 14TH ST W)

CONTACT: Jaime Moran, 406-256-8007 or Jennifer Closson, 406-655-3234



Financial Planning for Families Teleconference, June 2, Missoula, Butte

Date: June 2, 2005, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Where: Missoula, Ruby's Convention Center

Teleconference site: Butte

Presenters: Nancy Gibson, Chris Siegler, & parent panel

Information/Registration: <http://www.pluk.org/training/Financial.htm>

LDA OF MONTANA ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING, June 4, Billings

(From LDA of Montana)

We are reorganizing the Learning Disabilities Association of Montana! After years of service to this organization, Rosie Wathen has asked to step down from her position of leadership. Barbra Lefler has asked for help with arrangements for an organizational meeting of people in Montana interested in re-activating LDA of Montana. Ms. Lefler will arrive in Billings from the national headquarters in Pittsburg to help us organize.

The meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2005 from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM at the Mansfield Health Educational Center. Lunch will be provided. We will be electing new leadership and developing strategies for the kind of organization that we want in Montana. Everyone is welcome. New board members and officers are expected to stay and attend the entire meeting.

Help shape the future of your LDA! Your input is welcome, spread the word and join us!

For more information, contact Mark Taylor, LDA of Montana, at (406) 259-3110, or mark@learningclinic.com.

Region 3 CSPD: REWARDS Decoding Program, June 6, Billings

Presented by Gail Adams

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 multisyllabic decoding program that has been well documented as an effective remedial strategy for students in grades 4-12.

Register online at <http://www.msubillings.edu/mcdregister>.

Two-Day Picture Exchange Communication System Training Workshop, June 6 & 7, Great Falls

Presented by Christine Cavarretta, BCBA & Michela Figini-Myers, BCABA, Holiday Inn- Great Falls, 1.3 ASHA CEUs

For registration information, visit us online at <http://www.pecs.com> or call toll free 888-732-7462. For general information, contact Judy Barrett at jbarrett@pecs.com or call 302-368-2515. If you are interested in sending 5 or more people, please contact us regarding group discounts.

2nd Annual Montana Institute on Educational Technology, June 6-10, Great Falls

This event combines topical seminars on classroom technologies, best practices, applications and more.

An Administrator / Counselor track has been added this year. Four (4) short workshops will be offered on Tuesday, June 7 covering topics such as online learning, dual enrollment, gender equity and more. Please see insert for more information and how to register.

Credit and CEU's: All workshops are eligible for the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) Renewal Units. 2 Graduate Credits are available, but require that participants enroll in all five days of the institute as well as an additional assignment. Participants wishing to receive college credit will be required to pay tuition/fee costs.

Location: Montana State University-Great Falls College of Technology

Registration: \$75 per day or \$200 for full institute; fee includes lunch and course materials. RITE Project Partners and Central Montana Tech Prep Consortium Members will receive registration fee waivers.

For more information or to register, visit <http://outreach.msugf.edu/MIET/>.

Impacts of Childhood Disability on Families, June 10-11, Billings



In a long-awaited conference opportunity, parents and caregivers are invited to join national presenter and author, psychologist Ken Moses, PhD, for a two-day conference exploring childhood disability and its impact on families and caregivers. The conference—sponsored by St. Vincent's Healthcare (and in cooperation with Billings Public Schools, STEP, and ECI)—will be held at the Mansfield Health Education Center. CEUs are available and free childcare will be offered during the Saturday session. Space is limited please register early.

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

Family Learning Weekend for the Visually Impaired, Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind, June 10-12, MDSB, Great Falls

A FREE three-day weekend in Great Falls at MSDB is designed specifically for families with children who are visually impaired. This weekend is packed with ideas. A nationally renowned keynote speaker, Judith Lesner from the National Association of Parents of the Visually Impaired (NAPVI), will be speaking to families about the importance of parent advocacy. She will present with her son, Jacob Lesner-Buxton, who will be addressing the current issues in the education of the blind. Both Judith and Jacob are experienced will be working with our parents to design a Montana chapter of NAPVI. For more information, please contact MSDB at 1-800-882-6732 or Barb Rolf, Outreach Vision Consultant at (406) 251-5674.

The Power of Early Childhood Relationships in Shaping a Lifetime of Health and Resilience, June 11, Kalispell

(Courtesy of The Nurturing Center)

Dr. Bruce Perry (Senior Fellow, Child Trauma Academy and longtime clinician, teacher and researcher) will present "The Power of Early Childhood Relationships in Shaping a Lifetime of Health and Resilience" at the West Coast Hotel in Kalispell. This workshop is recommended for medical professionals, social service and educational professionals, child care professionals, foster parents, family members and other interested individuals.

Dr. Perry will:

- Provide an overview of the key principles of neurodevelopment crucial for understanding the role of experience in defining functional and physical organization of the brain
- Describe emerging clinical and research findings concerning maltreated children that suggest the negative impact of abuse, neglect, and trauma on brain development.
- Outline the clinical implications of a neurodevelopmental approach to child maltreatment.

Registration rates vary (\$40, \$75). CEUs are available. For more information and a registration form, please contact The Nurturing Center at (406) 756-1414, Toll Free 1-800-204-0644, or email info@nurturingcenter.org. Registration forms are due by June 1st.

MASP Summer Institute, June 12-14, Billings

Jack M. Fletcher, PhD (professor, Dept. of Pediatrics at University of Texas Health Sciences Center-Houston, Assoc. Director Center for Academic and Reading Skills (CARS)), will present "Neuropsychology of Developmental Disorders." Explore the origins of brain dysfunction, review the behavior systems model, discover the current concepts behind the behavior-brain relationship, and investigate learning disabilities identification, intervention, and research.

The Institute will be held from Sunday June 12 through Tuesday June 14, 2005, at the Mansfield Health Education Center in Billings. CEUs are available. Fees vary (\$110-\$145)

Download the MASP SI Brochure at http://www.pluk.org/MASP_SumInst_2005.pdf.

Walk F.A.R. for NAAR Autism Walk—June 12, Great Falls

To date, NAAR has committed \$21.1 million to fund 211 autism research projects and fellowships worldwide - more than any other non-governmental organization. NAAR has been able to make these investments, in large part, through the success of Walk F.A.R. for NAAR, the signature fundraising and autism awareness event of NAAR. Each year, walks throughout the USA, Canada and England attract thousands of walkers and raise millions for research.

Great Falls Walk (<http://www.autismwalk.org/greatfalls>)

Help spread the word about the Montana Walk F.A.R. for NAAR event. Download the event flyer at http://www.autismwalk.org/site/DocServer/Great_Falls_Walk_Flyer_FINAL.pdf?docID=705. Want to build a Walk F.A.R. team, check out http://www.autismwalk.org/site/PageServer?pagename=fundraising_tips.

Find out more about the Walk F.A.R. for NAAR Events at
<http://www.autismwalk.org/site/PageServer?pagename=homepage>.

Interested? Want to Learn More?

Penny Martin--Local Volunteer Leadership--406.771.3998 or j.martin@bresnan.net

Scott R. Moore--Pacific Northwest Regional Director

National Alliance for Autism Research - 1370 Stewart Street - Seattle WA 98109

206.464.5182 smoore@naar.org <http://www.autismwalk.org> or <http://www.naar.org>

Power Mobility Camp, June 13-17, Billings

Located at MSU-Billings campus, the purpose of the camp is to allow any individual an opportunity to try power mobility. Several sessions are encouraged for evaluation. For more information, please call Mary O'Connell, PT, ATP at 1-800-732-0323 or 406-243-5688. People of all ages, with any disability, are welcome.

Special Education in Montana Teleconference, June 16, Missoula

Date: June 16, 2005, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Where: Billings, Mansfield Center

Teleconference sites: (none at this time)

Presenter: Kathy Manley Coburn

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

Region 3 CSPD: Discipline and the Difficult Child, August 16, Billings

Presented by Gene Bedley

In this session, you will discover the importance of how you define your children. You will learn proven strategies for working with young children who are angry, difficult, or challenging. Highly practical solutions and strategies will be shared to help your students develop more responsibility and self-discipline at a young age. Ideas will also be shared for discussing difficult behavior with the child's parents.

You'll learn how to:

- Apply specific strategies that will help your difficult children make better choices
- Strengthen your young children's responsible and cooperative behavior within your program
- Organize your classrooms around the seven core ethical values that promote respect and responsibility
- Develop classroom management strategies to meet the fifteen needs of your difficult young children
- Help your preschool through second grade students accept responsibility for their choices
- Increase the work ethic in your young students
- Utilize music to strengthen student character in your classroom
- Help your troubled students achieve daily success in your classroom
- Encourage the development of problem solving strategies
- Intervene and calm down the angry young child

Register online at <http://www.msubillings.edu/mcdregister>.

Online Training/Workshops/Events::

Disability Law Resource Project (DLRP) Webcast May 18

(From DLRP)

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

PRESENTER:

Troy R. Justesen, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) in the U.S. Department of Education will present this Web cast on Wednesday, May 18, 2005, from 3:00-4:30pm Eastern; 2:00 Central; 1:00 Mountain; 12:00 Pacific; 11:00 Alaska; 9:00 Hawaii.

As the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) in the U.S. Department of Education (DOE), Troy Justesen serves as the principal adviser to the Assistant Secretary of OSERS on all departmental matters related to special education and rehabilitative services. Please submit questions for the presenter ahead of time to webcast@ilru.org.

SUMMARY:

IDEA 2004 becomes effective July 1, 2005. In this webcast, Dr. Justesen will provide an update on the development of the implementing regulations for IDEA 2004. He will outline the next steps in the process as well as opportunities for the public to provide comment. Additionally, he will address some key issues raised during the comment period to help us

understand some key changes introduced in this latest version of IDEA as well as what those changes may mean for students, parents, and schools.

To link to these webcasts, and download accompanying materials, visit <http://www.ilru.org/html/training/webcasts/calendar.html>.

For instructions on how to access a webcast, visit <http://www.ilru.org/html/training/webcasts/instructions.html>. Please check this site ahead of time to test and ensure your computer is configured and updated to participate in the webcast.

For technical assistance, please check out our FAQs (frequently asked questions) at: <http://www.ilru.org/html/training/webcasts/FAQ.html> or contact a Webcast team member at webcast@ilru.org or 713/520-0232 (v/tty).

Upcoming Cyberchats from the Genetic Alliance

Genetic Alliance increases the capacity of genetic advocacy groups to achieve their missions and leverages the voices of millions of individuals and families living with genetic conditions.

- o May 9: Microarray technologies - Thane Kriener & Katie Buck, Affymetrix
- o May 16: Pharmacogenomics and Personalized medicine - Patrick Terry, Genomic Health
- o May 23: Genetic Counseling- Barbara Biesecker, National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)

Visit http://www.geneticalliance.org/ws_display.asp?filter=tools_email_lists for more information.

ILRU webcast calendar

The ILRU (Independent Living Research Utilization) program is a national center for information, training, research, and technical assistance in independent living. Its goal is to expand the body of knowledge in independent living and to improve utilization of results of research programs and demonstration projects in this field.

- o Wednesday, May 11, 2:00 PM Central
U.S. Department of Justice & Regulations Regarding the Revised ADA Accessibility Guidelines - John L. Wodatch, Chief of the Disability Rights Section, Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice
- o Wednesday, May 18, 2:00 PM Central
IDEA 2004 - Troy R. Justesen, U.S. Department of Education
- o Monday, June 13
Part One: E.D.G.A.R. & MORE... Federal Grant Holders Guide to Understanding Financial & Administrative Regulations - Gayle Palumbo, presenter; Bob Michaels, moderator
- o Wednesday, June 15, 2:00 PM Central
Part Two: E.D.G.A.R. & MORE... Federal Grant Holders Guide to Understanding Financial & Administrative Regulations - Gayle Palumbo, presenter; Bob Michaels, moderator
- o Wednesday, June 22, 2:00 PM Central Transportation - Marilyn Golden
- o Wednesday, July 13, 2:00 PM Central
The History and the Future of the ADA - Lex Frieden

For more information, visit <http://www.ilru.org/html/training/webcasts/calendar.html>.

Events/Workshops/Conferences outside Montana::

National ADA Symposium, May 17-19, Overland Park, KS

(From Monday Morning in Washington, DC)

The National ADA Symposium is the most comprehensive and effective event available on the Americans with Disabilities Act and disability related issues. It is designed to meet the specific needs and interests of professionals who are involved in interpreting and implementing the American with Disabilities Act's guidelines and regulations. Experts directly involved in interpreting, regulating and implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act provide the training. The Symposium brings together presenters from the key agencies involved with the ADA including the U.S. Dept. of Justice, the EEOC, Dept. of Education, Dept. of Labor and the U.S. Access Board. These presenters provide dynamic training that participants can put to use in their professions.

For more information, including online registration, go to <http://www.adaupdate.org/Symposium.html>

Autism One Conference, May 26-29, Chicago IL

As always, Autism One 2005 features four major tracks to help parents and professionals make the most informed choices and decisions, they are: Biomedical Treatments; Behavior / Communication / Education Therapies; Complementary/Alternative Treatments; Government/Legal/Personal Issues. Each track offers three days of presentations focusing on particular treatments, research, and/or issues of that field. All presentations are open on a walk-in



basis—conference registration covers them all.

Learn about the most effective treatments and therapies, how to obtain services and how to deal effectively with schools. Learn what to expect in future for the fields of medicine, education, government, and law.

Registration rates: \$99-\$295. Register online at <https://www.exporeg.com/autismone/>. Questions or registration concerns, email Registration@AutismOne.org. For more information, visit <http://autismone.org/homepage.cfm>.

IDEA Public Meetings, June 6, San Antonio

John H. Hager, assistant secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), U.S. Department of Education, is pleased to share with you the schedule of a series of public meetings to be held during calendar year 2005 to receive comments on the proposed rules to implement programs under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.

Schedule:

- Monday, June 6, 2005
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
San Antonio, TX
- Friday, June 17, 2005
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Nashville, TN
- Wednesday, June 22, 2005
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Sacramento, CA
- Friday, June 24, 2005
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Las Vegas, NV
- Monday, June 27, 2005
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
New York, NY
- Wednesday, June 29, 2005
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Chicago, IL
- Tuesday, July 12, 2005
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Washington, DC

People on the Move Sessions, June 8-9, Salt Lake City, UT

The People On The Move program consists of two days of instruction for travel trainers, teachers, job coaches, bus operators, transportation coordinators, independent living specialists and others who assist people with disabilities in their use of public and private transportation so that they can go to school, jobs and other community destinations.

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

- June 8-9, 2005: Salt Lake City, Utah (May 27)
- September 7-8, 2005: Boston, Mass. (Aug. 3)
- November 14-15, 2005: New Orleans, La. (Oct. 3)

The Collaborative Assistive Technology Conference of the Rockies, June 9-11, Westminster, CO

Attendees will learn about local and national perspectives on state-of-the-art assistive technology devices and services. Don't miss the largest assistive technology conference in the Rocky Mountain Region, with attendance estimated at over 600. With over 70 sessions geared toward every age and disability, there is something for everybody! Presenters are among the most respected in their fields. The goal of the conference is to enhance the quality of life for individuals with disabilities through the appropriate selection and use of assistive technology. Anyone with an interest in assistive technology devices and services is welcome. Breakout sessions will focus on funding issues and legislation, education, employment, hands-on assistive technology training and the design and development of low-tech adaptive devices.

This conference is designed for people with disabilities and their families, special educators, teachers, government agency representatives, occupational & physical therapists, speech-language pathologists, public health administrators, legislators, rehabilitation counselors, employers, insurers, and people who need up-to-the-minute information about technology devices and services.

If you use or recommend assistive technology now - or you're planning to take advantage of all that technology can offer—this conference will give you the "inside track." With 70+ sessions covering all aspects of assistive technology, you'll have the opportunity to take a walk along today's technology landscape and 'surf' what tomorrow's technology will offer. With local and national presenters, this conference is your hands-on route to new insights and information, including:

Today's Assistive Technology Devices and Services

- Future Trends
- Changes in Legislation
- Case Studies
- Innovative Technology Applications
- Funding Strategies and Procedures
- Technology Assessment

Access a registration form at <http://www.uchsc.edu/atp/conf2005/conf2005reg.htm>.

National Leadership Summit on Improving Results: Policy and Practice Implications for Secondary and Postsecondary Education and Employment for Youth with Disabilities, June 14-15, Washington, DC

(From Monday Morning in Washington, D.C.)



In response to the need to improve high school experiences and post school outcomes for youth with disabilities, National Center on Secondary Education and Transition (NCSET) hosted its first National Leadership Summit on Improving Results for Youth in September 2003. More than 250 participants attended, including state agency leaders; policymakers; professionals representing general education, special education, career and technical education, workforce development, vocational rehabilitation, and other agencies; parents; and youth with disabilities.

In order to continue the national conversation which occurred at the 2003 Summit, NCSET in partnership with federal agencies and national organizations will co-host a second National Leadership Summit on Improving Results for Youth in Washington, DC in June 14-15, 2005.

The goal of this event is to convene state-level teams of policymakers to examine the progress made in the implementation of the strategic action plans developed at the 2003 Summit, and to further build state/territory capacity to improve high school experiences that lead to successful post school outcomes for all youth.

Access <http://www.ncset.org/summit05/> for more information and registration.

From Roots to Wings: Guiding Youth With Disabilities to Employment, RSA's First National Transition Conference, June 16-17, Washington, DC

(From Monday Morning in Washington, D.C.)

[Note, this conference follows the 2005 National Leadership Summit on Improving Results for Youth.]

The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), State VR agencies, State educational agencies, youth leadership organizations, consumer organizations, and other stakeholder groups are planning a national conference that will offer learning experiences and networking opportunities for State VR agency and State education agency staff at both the state and local levels. This conference will bring together VR and education policymakers and practitioners, as well as personnel from collaborating agencies that work with transitioning youth with disabilities.

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

"Making Connections, Strengthening Communities" 14th Annual CTC Conference, June 17-19, Cleveland, OH

(Courtesy of CTCNet)

The Community Technology Center Network's major event is "the largest national gathering of community technology organizations, programs, and experts." The goal for the 2005 conference is to "to chart the progression of the community technology movement from a small grassroots effort, focused on technology access, to a growing national and international field of practice harnessing technology to meet human and social needs." According to CTCNet, the Annual Conference "is a gathering of our member organizations, leaders in the field, and others in related fields interested in creating equitable participation in information technology. CTCNet members receive a discounted registration rate and repeatedly cite this conference as one of the most important services CTCNet offers."

For registration rates and more information, visit the CTCNet website at <http://www.ctcnet.org/conf/2005/attending/registration.asp05>.

National Down Syndrome Conference—Imagine, July 7-10, Chicago



(From NDSS)

The NDSS National Conference is the country's premier conference on Down Syndrome. The 2005 conference, "Imagine," will bring together parents, family members, professionals, teens and adults with Down syndrome, and siblings from across the country for education, networking, celebration and much more. This year's conference invites attendees to imagine the possibilities for the Down syndrome community – and how together we can make that potential a reality. The 2005 NDSS National Conference is presented in collaboration with the National Association for Down Syndrome, which serves the Chicago metropolitan area.

Why Should You Attend "Imagine"?

- Actively participate in helping to shape the vision of the future for people with Down syndrome.
- Learn best practices in education, health care, employment, community living and inclusion.
- Attend the Festival of the Arts 2005, featuring the many talents of people with Down syndrome.
- Learn from and meet top experts from around the country.
- Find out about the newest products, programs and services in the exhibit hall.
- Acquire the most up-to-date information on education, research and advocacy.
- Network with more than 900 conference participants.
- Learn about resources for babies, children, adolescents and adults with Down syndrome.
- Meet and network with hundreds of affiliate leaders from across the U.S.

Who Should Attend?

- Parents and family members
- Individuals with Down syndrome
- Siblings of individuals with Down syndrome
- Parent group leaders and advocates
- Educators and early intervention specialists
- Physicians, nurses and genetic counselors
- Psychologists, social workers and counselors
- Speech-language, physical and occupational therapists
-

Register online at <https://programs.regweb.com/resourceone/ndss05/register/>. Registration costs vary: \$125-\$275. For more information, visit <http://www.ndss.org/content.cfm?fuseaction=NwsEvt.EvtConfNC>.

National Early Childhood Inclusion conference, August 3-5, Chapel Hill NC

The Institute Goals

- o To learn about research findings and resources to guide inclusive policy and practice
- o To develop better collaborative relationships and cross-agency systems to support early childhood inclusion
- o To gain awareness of strategies and models to support inclusive services
- o To have the opportunity to meet, learn from and problem solve with peers

For more information, visit <http://www.nectac.org/~meetings/InclusionMtg2005/mtghomepage.asp>

2005 National Association for Rural Mental Health (NARMH) Annual Conference, August 4-6, Honolulu

(Courtesy of NARMH)

The presentation tracts for this year's conference stretch beyond the customary and traditional mental health program areas, extending explicitly into the areas of dual diagnosis and forensic mental health services, with an emphasis on culturally based deliveries of care. The conference is fostering this effort to create greater dialogue among participants from the many sectors that touch people in need of mental health and substance abuse care and treatment, and to aide in dissolving some of the barriers to collaboration and integrated service development and delivery.

NARMH 2005 Conference Tracts:

- Systems Design and Management
- Child / Adolescent Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
- Adult Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program/Services
- State of the Art, New Bio-Medical Advances and Ethics
- Junior Rural Researchers Review

Register online <http://www.narmh.org/pages/05cofra.html> before June 15, 2005 for the best rates.
Registration costs vary from \$185 to \$460 dollars. Conference details are available at www.narmh.org or by calling (320) 202-1820.

Selected Sources::

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

PLUK eNews is published by:



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