



Welcome to PLUK's electronic newsletter!

We are proud to present news of interest for Montana families of children with disabilities and special health care needs, and for the professionals and educators who serve them; however, it does not constitute an endorsement.

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***I've Lost My Mind! Please Let Me Know if You Find It!,  
Teleconference, September 8***

How to CARE for Yourself While CARING about Others

Topics to be covered:

- Life Stressors

- Negative Effects of Stress
- How to Relieve Stress

Time: 2:30-3:00pm

Date: September 8, 2004

Who Should Attend:

- People who care about individuals with disabilities or special needs.
- Anyone interested in reducing his/her stress.

Presenters: Sandy Taylor and Bobbie Thurston

How this Conference Call Works:

1. By September 7, call PLUK's main office to register @ 1-800-222-7585 or 255-0540. Or Email [plukinfo@pluk.org](mailto:plukinfo@pluk.org) with your name, address, and phone number.
2. You will be given a toll free number and an access code for the conference call. Any materials you need will be accessible via the Internet or mailed to you before the conference call.
3. Space is limited to 11 lines. However, you can have groups of people on one line if you have a conference phone.

### **Founders Day Celebration, September 8, Billings**

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

### **Free Children's Tickets Available to the NILE Rodeo, October 13, Billings**

PLUK has a limited number of children's tickets for the NILE Rodeo on October 13. Call Bernice at the PLUK office 255-0540 if you are interested.

### **Parent Scholarships available to BJ Wise workshop on "Closing the Achievement Gap In Reading- A Step by Step Process" at the MCASE Fall Conference, September 28, Helena**

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

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

Parents may register through the PLUK office for a limited number of scholarships. Call Sheryl at 800-222-7585.

Contact Julie Sykes at [samjs@sammt.org](mailto:samjs@sammt.org) for registration information.

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

### **"Blue Coupon Book" Now on Sale in Billings**

PLUK is selling the Billings Area Preferred Savings Guide commonly call the "blue coupon book." The books sell for \$20.00 each and contain 285 coupons for fast food, area restaurants, stores, hotels, car washes, oil changes, etc. Buy one for yourself and extras for gifts.

If you are interested in purchasing a coupon book please contact Bernice at 255-0540.

### **New Support Group Starting in Missoula September 28**

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

The name stands for "Helping Other Parents of Emotionally and Behaviorally Challenged Children". We are beginning with our first support group meeting Tuesday, Sept. 28, from 6:30-8:30 pm at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, at the corner of Reserve and Sunset Lane.

### **Brain Injury Association Conference, September 24-25, Butte**

BIAM cordially invites you to attend this year's state conference. We are very fortunate to have several well-regarded professionals presenting a wide variety of topics this year.

For information, visit: <http://www.biamt.org/conference/conferenceInfo.html>.

### **"Freedom Machines" to air on Montana PBS September 14 at 9:00 PM**

Freedom Machines takes a look at the concept of disability through the enabling lens of technology. The hour-long documentary weaves together stories of a group of unforgettable people, whose talents are made visible in part by their use of assistive technologies. In showing what is possible when people have access to life enhancing tools, Freedom Machines challenges viewers to question and redefine traditional assumptions of the very meaning of disability.

[http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2004/freedommachines/resources\\_guide.php](http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2004/freedommachines/resources_guide.php)

<http://www.freedommachines.com/>

### **SEPTEMBER 7 MARKS NATIONAL AD/HD AWARENESS DAY**

#### ***U.S. SENATE RECOGNIZES AD/HD AS A MAJOR PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN***

Tuesday, September 7, will mark the inaugural AD/HD Awareness Day, highlighting the significant impact of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder on millions of American children, families and adults.

In a resolution (S.370), introduced by Senator Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) and co-sponsored by Senator Richard Durbin (D-Ill.), the U.S. Senate recognized AD/HD as a major public health concern and encouraged the federal government to raise public awareness about AD/HD and to improve access to mental health services for children and adults with the illness.

AD/HD is a neurobiological disorder that affects an estimated 3 to 7 percent of school-age children and an estimated 4 percent of adults across racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups. While the exact cause of the disorder is unknown, studies indicate that AD/HD runs in families and suggest that genetic inheritance is an important risk factor. AD/HD is characterized by impulsivity, inattention, and in some cases, hyperactivity.

### **Steps to Success: Communicating with Your Child's School**

Developed by the CADRE and its partner the National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY), this resource offers specific communication skills that may be helpful to parents as they develop and maintain partnerships with their child's school. A Spanish language version of the document will be available soon.

*Click here to read or print the English version of the document:*

<http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/success.cfm>.

### **Travel Web sites agree to be more accessible to blind**

*By Michael Gormley / Associated Press*

ALBANY, N.Y. -- In one of the first enforcement actions of the Americans with Disabilities Act on the Internet, two major travel services have agreed to make sites more accessible to the blind and visually impaired.

Priceline.com and Ramada.com have agreed to changes that will allow users with "screen reader software" and other technology to navigate and listen to the text throughout their Web sites, according to New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer.

Although the software and other devices, including a vibrating mouse that lets the blind "feel" boxes and images on the computer screen, have been available for years, Web sites must have specific coding that allows the equipment to operate, Spitzer said.

"This is a precedent-setting decision," said Carl Augusto, president and CEO of the American Foundation for the Blind. "We hope it's going to be influencing other companies throughout the United States so that the 10 million blind and visually impaired people can fully participate in our society at all levels."

"It's the right thing to do, and it's good business," said Augusto, who is visually impaired.

Spitzer's settlement follows investigations over the last two years to determine if Web sites conform to the federal act and state law that require all "places of public accommodation" and all "goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations" be accessible to the disabled.

Read the complete article at: <http://www.detnews.com/2004/technology/0408/22/technology-247803.htm>.

### **The Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health, and Society Hearing on Genetic Discrimination, October 18, 2004**

The issue of genetic discrimination is a high priority for the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health, and Society (SACGHS). In an effort to raise awareness about the problem, the Committee is seeking public comments from individuals who:

- Have experienced genetic discrimination in health insurance or in employment.
- Fear the potential impact of genetic discrimination on either health insurance or employment.
- Have paid out-of-pocket for services to exclude genetic information from medical records.

Are health care providers and have had patients experience genetic discrimination; express concern about genetic discrimination; or taken steps to avoid genetic discrimination (for example, not undergoing genetic testing or keeping the results out of a medical record).

SACGHS will be holding a hearing on October 18, 2004, to gather information from members of the public about the scope and nature of genetic discrimination. The Committee is particularly interested in learning about cases of genetic discrimination that are based on predictive genetic information, pre-symptomatic genetic disease, or carrier status.

President Bush has called for Federal legislation to prohibit genetic discrimination in health insurance and employment. In October 2003, the Senate unanimously passed the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, and advocates are pressing for action in the House of Representatives. In July 2004, the House Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations of the Committee on Education and the Workforce held a hearing on the issue of genetic discrimination. In spite of broad bipartisan support for the legislation, there is opposition and it appears to be preventing further progress in the House. The fear of genetic discrimination and its adverse consequences is well-documented and regarded by many as sufficient justification for Federal legislation. However, opponents argue that there is insufficient evidence that genetic discrimination is occurring and thus legislation is not warranted at this time. SACGHS hopes that the information gathered during the hearing will help address the concerns of the bill's opponents.

SACGHS was established to serve as a forum for deliberation on the ethical, legal and social issues at the intersection of genetics, health and society and to advise the Secretary of Health and Human Services about these issues. For more information about the Committee and its meetings, as well as copies of the Committee's correspondence with the Secretary on this issue, please visit <http://www4.od.nih.gov/oba/SACGHS.HTM>.

Please send your written comments to SACGHS by September 17, 2004, in care of Amanda Sarata at [sarataa@od.nih.gov](mailto:sarataa@od.nih.gov) or by fax to 301-496-9839.

### **EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK**

MSU-Billings 2 credit course, SPED 493-593

Instructor: Ms. Terry Lankutis [LankutisT@aol.com](mailto:LankutisT@aol.com) (406) 388-7831

Location: MSU-Billings Campus, Billings, MT

Dates: October 8-9, November 5-6, November 12-13

Registration Information: [cpsinfo@msubillings.edu](mailto:cpsinfo@msubillings.edu) (406) 896-5890

Prerequisites: none

*Course description*

This course 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. By implementing this process, teams find they reach consensus, save money and struggling students find more success in the general education classes. Using case studies from their own situation, participants will:

- 1) Learn the difference between assistive technology and instructional technology
- 2) Be introduced to the student centered decision-making process
- 3) Define assistive technology and IEP requirements
- 4) Identify local and national resources

- 5) Match individual student need to appropriate technology
  - 6) Identify different types of non-tech, low tech and high tech as possible solutions for a target student
- Groups of IEP team members and general educators are encouraged to attend. OPI renewal units are also available.

### **DEMAND ON SPECIAL EDUCATION IS GROWING**

In an era when special education is one of the fastest-growing areas in school budgets nationwide, new questions arise about the responsibilities of classroom teachers: To what extent should schools take steps to help children with social and emotional disabilities, particularly when children demonstrate strong academic capacities? Which of these kids belong in special ed and which just need extra help -- from counseling to greater supervision on the playground? These have become important questions as budgets tighten in schools across the country and the diagnosis of learning disabilities soars in both number and variety, reports Sara Miller. "Special education is making us rethink what education is," says Perry Zirkel, an education law specialist at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania. Many educators agree that education expands beyond books, he says, but opinions differ across districts on where the line should be drawn. "Is it just reading, writing, and arithmetic? Or [should education be] interpreted more broadly to include interaction with others and social skills?" One thing is clear: The number of children in the United States who qualify for special education is up nearly 40 percent in the past decade: Some 6.5 million children between ages 3 and 21 have been diagnosed with special needs - and cost at least twice as much as other kids to educate. Of some \$50 billion (and rising) spent on special ed annually, the federal government contributes only about 18 percent. Although national numbers haven't been tallied, special education spending is the fastest growing expenditure for schools, says Bruce Hunter of the American Association of School Administrators. When special education laws were created in the 1970s, "we had no idea what we were getting into," he says. Some experts, indeed, worry about "mission creep," with an ever-expanding list of mental impairments.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2004/0824/p01s03-ussc.html>

### **TEEN THRILLER TAKES STANDARDIZED TESTING TO THE LIMITS**

When novelist Edward Bloor set out to write a chiller for young adults, he decided to include a murderous poltergeist. Then he added a really scary touch. The poltergeist lives in a magnet school where the only thing the students do, day after day, class after class, is take standardized tests. It's the spookiest fictional school setting since Carrie made a mess out of the prom. Bloor sees his third novel, "Story Time," as not just a traditional teen thriller but also a social satire, targeting the fixation of politicians, educators, parents and students on standardized test scores. "I just thought it would be humorous to take things to the nth degree -- but then, I have an extreme sense of humor," he says. Perhaps. But he's not alone. The hopes and fears of many students, from grade-schoolers on up, are so intertwined with standardized testing that references to it have crept out of headlines and PTA meetings and into the province of popular culture. Novels, movies and television shows are full of young characters grappling with issues related to test scores, writes Michael McLeod.

<http://www.kentucky.com/mld/kentucky/entertainment/books/9428737.htm>

### **UPDATE ON NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND**

As educators prepare for the 2004-05 school year, states are releasing report cards, as required by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), that list schools meeting (or failing to meet) Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) requirements. The report cards -- which are causing celebration in some localities and consternation in others -- are bringing to the forefront some of the ongoing issues inherent in creating a nationwide high-stakes accountability system.

<http://www.ascd.org/cms/index.cfm?TheViewID=2599&reid=sb>

### **New Decision! Parents Reimbursed for ABA & Private Preschool**

<http://www.wrightslaw.com/law/caselaw/04/10th.kb.nebo.htm>

K. B. is a young child with autism. Nebo School District (UT) offered to place K. B. in a "hybrid" program at Park View Special Education Preschool. The district also agreed to provide speech and occupational therapy and pay for 8-15 hours of ABA therapy a week.

The parents argued that K.B. required at least 40 hours of ABA therapy a week. The parents provided ABA therapy, an aide, and placed their child in a mainstream private preschool where she made good

progress. The parents requested a special education due process hearing, seeking reimbursement for the costs of her special education program.

Another issue in *K. B. v. Nebo School District* involved the impartiality of hearing officers. At that time, hearing officers in Utah could be retired school district employees, current school district employees, and school board attorneys. In *K.B.s* case, the hearing officer was employed by another school district.

The substantive IDEA claim was that *K.B.* was denied a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE). The procedural IDEA claim was that *K.B.* was denied an impartial due process hearing because the hearing officer was biased.

In addition to ruling on the parents' reimbursement requests and procedural issues, the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit includes a detailed discussion of LRE requirements. Read *L.B. and J.B. ex rel. K.B. v. Nebo School District*.

### **Intensive Early Intervention & Autism**

Autism is a developmental disorder that affects the child's ability to communicate ideas and feelings, use imagination, and establish relationships with others. No single behavior characterizes autism and no single known cause is responsible for its onset. Currently there is no cure.

All available research strongly suggests that intensive early intervention makes a critical difference to children with autistic spectrum disorders. Without early identification and diagnosis, children with autism are unlikely to learn the skills they need to benefit from education.

- The National Research Council analyzed intervention models for young children with autistic disorders and concluded that intensive early intervention "makes a clinically significant difference for many children. Children who had early intervention had better outcomes." Current Interventions in Autism: A Brief Analysis (2 pages)  
<http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/autism.methods.compare.pdf>
- Autism, Early Intervention & Special Ed: FAQs, articles, legal resources, recommended books, free publications, and a short list of information and support groups.  
<http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/autism.index.htm>
- Download Dozens of Free Pubs about autism, early intervention, behavior & discipline, high-stakes tests, IEPs, transition, reading, bullying & harassment, high-stakes testing, learning disabilities & dyslexia, retention and social promotion, and more.  
[http://www.wrightslaw.com/links/free\\_pubs.htm](http://www.wrightslaw.com/links/free_pubs.htm)

### **The award-winning "I Can Soar" video available on NCTI web site**

*I Can Soar* is a 26-minute video that showcases how assistive technology has been integrated successfully into the lives of four children with disabilities. Learn more about Angie, Aaron, Stacey, and Sean by visiting [http://www.nationaltechcenter.org/resources/I\\_Can\\_Soar/default.asp](http://www.nationaltechcenter.org/resources/I_Can_Soar/default.asp).

### **"Get Educated about the Presidential Candidates and Vote!"**

Get EDUCATED on disability issues and policies of Republican President Bush and Democratic Presidential nominee John Kerry. What will they do for us in the four years ahead?

1. Go to Republican President Bush's official web site  
<http://www.georgewbush.com> or by typing Bush & Cheney 2004 in your search engine.
  - a) Click on health care at top of page
  - b) Read the section titled Created a Prescription Drug Benefit under Medicare
  - c) Read the section titled Strengthened Medicaid and SCHIP
  
2. Go to Democratic Presidential Nominee Kerry's official web site  
<http://www.johnkerry.com/index.html> or by typing in John Kerry and John Edwards in your search engine.
  - a) Under Get Informed on the left side, Click on Communities
  - b) Click on American's With Disabilities for Kerry/Edwards
  - c) Under Plan for America on the left side, Click on Health Care. Review Health Care For All.
  - d) Under Plan for America click on Education. Scroll down to Meet Our Responsibilities To Our Schools and review "ensure that No Child Left Behind works (etc.)"
  - e) Under Plan For America click on Civil Rights. Scroll down to "Ensure Equality For Americans With Disabilities"

## PARTICIPATE IN ONLINE SURVEY ON TECHNOLOGY USE FOR PERSONS WITH COGNITIVE DISABILITIES

The Beach Center on Disability in Kansas has developed an online survey at <https://www.psychdata.com/surveys.asp?SID=6813> to find out how people with developmental disabilities use technology, including computers, cell phones, and other information technology. The survey also asks direct support professionals about the training they currently receive or may need to support technology use. The survey is funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research and the American Association on Mental Retardation is a partner on this initiative. For more information, contact Susan Palmer at (785) 864-0270 or [spalmer@ku.edu](mailto:spalmer@ku.edu).

## SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE AMERICAN JOURNAL ON MENTAL RETARDATION EXAMINES IMPACT OF AGING ON FAMILY CAREGIVERS

Throughout the world, families are the major providers of care for adults with developmental disabilities and statistics show that with growing life expectancy, many of these adults are either living with elderly family members or are outliving their parents. The latest issue of the American Journal on Mental Retardation (AJMR) examines major issues in how the aging process affects families and the health and social service system in Australia, the United States, Israel, and Ireland.

To read a list of articles appearing in the special issue, visit <http://aamr.allenpress.com/aamronline/?request=get-toc&issn=0895-8017&volume=109&issue=5>.

To read an introduction by Dr. Tamar Heller, editor of the special issue of AJMR, visit [http://www.aamr.org/Reading\\_Room/pdf/HellerintroAug04AJMR.pdf](http://www.aamr.org/Reading_Room/pdf/HellerintroAug04AJMR.pdf).

In other family news, November has been designated as the National Family Caregivers month. Read how you can get involved at <http://www.nfcacares.org/>.

## ***PLUK trainings and activities planned for 2004-05***

PLUK associate boards around the state are sponsoring a number of trainings and activities this coming year. Mark your calendar if you are interested in participating.

Go to <http://www.pluk.org/training> for more detailed information and registration.

### *Statewide Interactive Videoconferences*

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

### *Other Training Activities*

- September 28, "Closing the Achievement Gap In Reading- A Step by Step Process," with BJ Wise, Helena  
Sponsored by MCASE in collaboration with PLUK  
*Contact Julie Sykes at [samjs@sammt.org](mailto:samjs@sammt.org) for registration information.*
- October 4, all-day workshop on "Staying Cool When Our Buttons are Pushed," with Doug Cochran Roberts, Billings
- October 14, all-day workshop on "Bullying: What We Know and What We Can Do," with Marlene Snyder, Missoula
- October 18, all-day workshop on "Special Education Law and Practice," with Kathleen Manley Coburn, Kalispell
- November 1, all-day workshop on "Staying Cool When Our Buttons are Pushed," with Doug Cochran Roberts, Kalispell
- November 3, all-day workshop on Assistive Technology with Roger Holt, Bozeman
- November 10, all-day workshop on Assistive Technology with Roger Holt, Great Falls

### *Other Community Activities*

- September 8, Founders Day Celebration, 6:00pm, Mansfield Center, Billings  
contact the PLUK office to register, 406/255-0540.
- September 22, Legislative Forum, MSU-Billings Student Union Ballroom  
Sponsored by the Billings Disabilities Services Coalition. To register phone Sheryl at the PLUK office, 406/255-0540. Around 20 candidates have signed up to participate.
- October 3-9, Theater Experience for Kids, Kalispell, contact Stephanie Luehr at 406/756-6159  
Sponsored by the Flathead Valley Associate Board.

- October 8 Comedy Improv Dinner and Auction, contact Val Burgan at 406/771-6011 Sponsored by the Great Falls Associate Board.
- October 26, Magical Tymes party, Missoula, contact Deborah Hayes Hyde at 406/543-8405 in conjunction with Missoula Children's Theatre production of Beauty and the Beast. Sponsored by the Missoula Associate Board.
- February 19, 2005, Sports & Recreation Festival, Rocky Mountain College Athletic Building, Billings. Contact Dennis Moore at the PLUK office, 406/255-0540. Sponsored by the Billings Associate Board.
- May 13, 2005, Kids at Heart Gala with a performance by the *Mid Life Chryslers*, Sheraton-Billings, call Dennis Moore at the PLUK office, 406/255-0540 Sponsored by the Billings Associate Board.

## **Training/Workshops/Meetings/Conferences in Montana::**

### **CONTRACTED LITERARY/ENGLISH BRAILLE, September 6 – December 13**

As part of our on-going effort to assist school districts in better meeting the needs of their sensory impaired students the following course will be offered both on-site at the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind, as well as through an on-line, distance education platform, WebTrain.

CONTRACTED LITERARY/ENGLISH BRAILLE, which maybe be taken for 1 semester credit through MSU-Northern, will begin September 6<sup>th</sup>, meeting every Monday from 3:15-4:15 through December 13th.† Pam Boespflug, Supervising Teacher at MSDB is the instructor.

There is no cost to register for this class however the cost for (1) one graduate or undergraduate credit is \$100.† If you are taking the course at an off-site location the "on-line charges" for accessing the course are \$135. To register for this course or to find out more about it please contact Pam Boespflug at the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind, 406/771-6083 or email to [pboespflug@sdb.state.mt.us](mailto:pboespflug@sdb.state.mt.us).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **What's New from IntelliTools, September 14, Polson**

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

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

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

### **Free Community Information Presentation: Beyond Labels: Treating Disorders at Their Roots, September 14, Bozeman**

Location: The Wingate Inn, 2305 Catron Street, Bozeman (near Costco)

Time: 6:30- 8:30 pm

Information: For more information, please contact Elizabeth Sage at (406) 570-0982 or contact the Institute by phone (206) 204-6000 or email [frontdesk@handle.org](mailto:frontdesk@handle.org). For information about The Wingate Inn, please visit <http://www.wingatebozeman.com>.

The HANDLE Institute provides an effective, non-drug alternative for identifying and treating most neurodevelopmental disorders across the lifespan. HANDLE incorporates research and techniques from many disciplines. It includes principles and perspectives from medicine, rehabilitation, psychology, education and nutrition. It is founded on an interactive, developmental model of human functioning. The institute offers clinical services, community information, and professional training programs.

<http://www.handle.org>

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

This two-day workshop is designed to give teams with all levels of experience, from novice to advanced, time to learn new features of the programs and practice using them to modify general education curriculum content to meet the needs of students with disabilities. Persons taking graduate

credit are required to attend the "What's New from IntelliTools" session and both Sessions I & II of the "Guided Practice using IntelliTools."

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

### **Out of the Darkness Walk, September 16, Billings**

The Out of the Darkness walk is planned for Thursday, Sept. 16, 2004, from 6:00 AM until 7:30 AM in downtown Billings. The purpose of this non-competitive event is to provide funds to support suicide prevention programs and to raise community awareness. This walk is a signature event of the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention held throughout the United States during September-October 2004. The walk is approximate 2.5 miles beginning at the Mansfield Center at 12 Avenue north and 30th Street. Each walker is encouraged to solicit sponsors totaling a minimum of \$150. To register in advance for the walk, please contact Alyce Compton at 406-257-0749 or register online at the website <http://OUTOFTHE DARKNESS.ORG>. Registration will also be available onsite at the south door of the Mansfield Center beginning at 6AM on September 16th. Sponsors are also needed. If you cannot participate in the walk, you are invited to be a sponsor through a monetary contribution of a check or money order payable to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

### **Medicaid Made Easy, September 16, Missoula**

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

Contact Nancy Marks at [admin@cspd.net](mailto:admin@cspd.net) for registration info or register with Sara Loewen at [sloewen@state.mt.us](mailto:sloewen@state.mt.us).

### **Introductory Course: Get a HANDLE on Neurodevelopmental Disorders, September 18-19, Bozeman**

Location: Epicenter Physical Therapy, 612 East Main Street, Suite C

Time: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Information: For more information, please contact Elizabeth Sage at (406) 570-0982 or contact the Institute by phone (206) 204-6000 or email [frontdesk@handle.org](mailto:frontdesk@handle.org)

Registration: Please contact the Institute at (206) 204-6000.

ADD/ADHD, brain injury, autism spectrum disorders, sensory integration disorders, learning disabilities, obsessive-compulsive disorders, cerebral palsy, anxiety disorders, learning disabilities, etc. are the labels often used to describe behavioral and academic challenges that many people face. HANDLE will help you see beyond these labels and gain an understanding of the underlying causes of these behaviors. This 12 hour introductory class will give you clear insights into the neurodevelopmental roots of many dysfunctions found in people of all ages, as well as leave you with practical ideas you can apply.

<http://www.handle.org>

### **Lifespan Respite Training, September 21, Billings**

Caregivers need a break for health and happiness. It is called respite. Trainings are held the third Tuesday of each month from noon to 1:00 PM at the STEP office, 1501 14<sup>th</sup> St W, Ste 210. Trainings are offered for free and include a light lunch, but you must RSVP to Tami Haan at 896-3031.

September 21 - "Boundaries," presented by Margaret English of Hospice

October 19 - "Autism Spectrum Disorders," by Jessica Rago and Lori Gaustad

November 16 - "Prevention of Elder Abuse"

### **Introduction to DynaVox Series 4 Seminar, September 23, Billings**

Tanya Rose Curtis of Augmentative Communication Solutions will present a half-day seminar on September 23 at Billings Clinic Room #3 from 3:00-7:00pm.

Introduction to DynaVox Series 4 training will provide an overview of the key hardware and software features of the DynaVox Series 4 products, the DV4, MT4, and the Page Editing Software. In addition, this training includes an overview of the hundreds of pre-made communication pages that the Series 4 products contain. These pages effectively address a wide range of physical, cognitive and language needs.

Contact Tanya at Aug Com Solutions, 800-853-0310 or [AUGCOMSOL@cs.com](mailto:AUGCOMSOL@cs.com).

### **Brain Injury Association Conference, September 24-25, Butte**

BIAM cordially invites you to attend this year's state conference. We are especially excited about the caliber of speakers we have this year and being able to offer CEUs to professionals. Our 3 headline speakers will be talking about substance abuse and brain injury, the use of pharmaceuticals and the effects on people with brain injuries, and Cognitive Behavior Therapy with the brain injured. We have a variety of additional presentations for professionals, survivors/thrivers and family members as well as other activities and entertainment for all.

For information, visit: <http://www.biamt.org/conference/conferenceInfo.html>.

### **Evergreen Spina Bifida meeting in Butte, September 25**

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

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

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

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

### **Strengthening the Adoptive Family, September 27, Helena**

Sponsored by Intermountain Children's Home and Services.

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

Conference topics include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Parents may register through the PLUK office for a limited number of scholarships. Call Sheryl at 800-222-7585.

Contact Julie Sykes at [samjs@sammt.org](mailto:samjs@sammt.org) for registration information.

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

### **New Support Group Starting in Missoula September 28**

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

The name stands for "Helping Other Parents of Emotionally and Behaviorally Challenged Children". We are beginning with our first support group meeting Tuesday, Sept. 28, from 6:30-8:30 pm at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, at the corner of Reserve and Sunset Lane.

### **EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK, October 8-9 & November 5-6**

MSU-Billings 2 credit course, SPED 493-593

Instructor: Ms. Terry Lankutis [LankutisT@aol.com](mailto:LankutisT@aol.com) (406) 388-7831

Location: MSU-Billings Campus, Billings, MT

Dates: October 8-9, November 5-6, November 12-13

Registration Information: [cpsinfo@msubillings.edu](mailto:cpsinfo@msubillings.edu) (406) 896-5890

Prerequisites: none

#### *Course description*

This course 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. By implementing this process, teams find they reach consensus, save money and struggling students find more success in the general education classes. Using case studies from their own situation, participants will

7) Learn the difference between assistive technology and instructional technology

8) Be introduced to the student centered decision-making process

9) Define assistive technology and IEP requirements

10) Identify local and national resources

11) Match individual student need to appropriate technology

12) Identify different types of non-tech, low tech and high tech as possible solutions for a target student

Groups of IEP team members and general educators are encouraged to attend. OPI renewal units are also available.

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

#### *Research-Based Strategies for Increasing Student Achievement*

Presenting research findings of 9 broad teaching strategies that positively affect on student learning.

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

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

#### *'Let the Light In: Teach a Child'*

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

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

### **"HOW ARE THE CHILDREN?" 2004 Statewide Early Childhood Conference, October 21-23, Hellgate Elementary School, Missoula**

This will be a three track conference for Early Care and Education Stakeholders, Parents, and K-3 Educators. An individual could earn as many as 23 hours of Training Credits, or Renewal Units, and some courses will be offering CEU's for those who desire college credits.

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

### **Parent Expo, October 23, Missoula**

Parent Expo is an annual conference in Missoula that offers parents and community members an opportunity to attend workshops that help them strengthen their parenting skills and create positive learning environments in the home and family. Workshops are given by trained professionals.

In fall 2004, Parent Expo will be held in cooperation with the 2004 Montana Early Childhood Conference, which is scheduled Oct. 21-23 at Hellgate Elementary School. Both conferences are sponsoring keynote speaker Robin Karr-Morse on Friday evening, Oct. 22, at the University Center Theater. Parent Expo will be held Saturday, Oct. 23, at Sentinel High School.

The event will include three "micro-keynotes" in the high school theater, along with 10-12 smaller workshops in various classrooms throughout the day.

Registrants who have paid to attend the early childhood conference can attend Parent Expo workshops on Saturday, Oct. 23, at no cost.

In addition, spouses or family members who are in Missoula can attend both Friday's keynote lecture and Saturday's Parent Expo workshops for just \$8 (or just \$6 if attending only workshops on Saturday).

Child care is provided at no cost onsite to parents who attend Parent Expo workshops on Saturday. Children must be preregistered. No child care is available at Friday's Keynote lecture. Lunch will be for sale onsite during the Parent Expo on Saturday, Oct. 23.

The Expo is sponsored by MCPS Adult & Continuing Education, Families First, The Parenting Place, and Women's Opportunity and Resource Development, Inc.

Registration materials, including a list of workshops, will be available on Monday, Sept. 27, by calling Missoula County Public Schools at 406-728-2400, ext. 1024. You can also access registration materials online (in late September) at <http://www.mcps.k12.mt.us>. Workshops are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

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

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

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

### **Focus on Decoding: REWARDS, November 29, Kalispell**

### **Focus on Decoding: REWARDS, November 30, Missoula**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Effective Reading Interventions, February 22, 2005, Missoula**

### **Effective Reading Interventions, February 23, 2005, Kalispell**

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

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

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

This presentation focuses on factors that contribute to the creation of a positive school climate for both students and staff. Dr Brooks discusses these factors by outlining the key dimensions of the mindset of effective educators and other professionals including an appreciation of: (a) empathy and exercises to promote empathy, (b) our own memories of school as guideposts for what we do today, (c) the lifelong

impact we have on children and adolescents, (d) the mindset of resilient youth, (e) the components of motivation, (f) the importance of a strength-based approach that identifies and reinforces each student's "islands of competence," and (g) specific interventions for fostering motivation, learning, self-discipline, self-esteem, cooperation, caring, hope, and resilience in students. Strategies will be shared for professionals and parents about how to strengthen their own "stress hardiness" so as to be less stressed and more effective in working with or raising these challenging youth.

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

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

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

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

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

Step Up to Writing is a writing program which makes a dramatic difference in student success. This two-day workshop is designed for teachers who want to help struggling students learn to communicate in an organized and effective manner. Participants will leave the workshop with a wealth of strategies which motivate students as they significantly increase their academic success.

The trainer, Neilia Solberg, B.A., is a Step Up to Writing consultant for Sopris West Educational Services. Included in her years of teaching are elementary school and staff development in the language arts and content reading. Recent experience in Academic Achievement plans across the curriculum and grade levels as well as expanded responsibilities in coordinating instruction development.

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

## ***Training/Workshops/Conferences outside Montana::***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COST: \$150 for the entire conference--all 22 webinars! (A reduced fee is available of \$100 per trainee for Agencies sponsoring groups of 10+ trainees). A limited number of scholarships are available where financial hardship is a factor. To complete a scholarship application please visit <http://www.disability->

[abuse.com/scholars.htm](http://abuse.com/scholars.htm) or for information please contact Online Training eLearning Director Tom Hanna at 607-275-9360 or [tph3@cornell.edu](mailto:tph3@cornell.edu). The deadline for scholarship applications is August 25, 2004.

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

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

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

When: September 14-16, 2004

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

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

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

### **Pathways to the Diploma, September 16, Teleconference**

*1:00-2:00 p.m. Central Time (8 a.m. Hawaii, 11 a.m. Pacific, 12 noon Mountain, 2 p.m. Eastern)*

New Mexico defines a pathway as a planned program of study (course, Individualized Education Program [IEP] goals, objectives, and benchmarks) designed to address the needs of individual students. Students receiving special education services are able to earn their high school diploma option by following one of three pathways: Standard, Career Readiness, and Ability Pathways. The Standard Pathway is based on meeting or surpassing requirements for graduation as identified in the New Mexico Standards of Excellence. The Career Readiness Standards Pathway is based on the State Board of Education's Career Readiness Standards with benchmarks as defined in the IEP. The Ability Pathway is based on meeting or surpassing IEP goals and objectives.

IEP teams may use a certificate with a follow-up plan of action when a student has completed high school and is on track for graduation, but the student still has transition needs. The certificate with a follow-up plan of action entitles the student to participate in graduation activities but does not end a student's entitlement to a free appropriate public education. Successful completion of the selected pathway earns the student a high school diploma and the right to participate equally in all graduation activities. Ms. Gronewold will explain each of these three pathways and their implications for students with disabilities.

*Presented by:*

Sue Gronewold, Education Administrator

Special Education Bureau, New Mexico Public Education Department

*Instructions for Participation*

Dialing In: Dial 1-703-639-1158 a few minutes before the call begins, and refer to the "NCSET Teleconference Call" if asked by the operator. During the call, if using a speakerphone, please press the mute button when listening. The only cost to you is the long distance fee to the 703 area code. You do not need to RSVP to participate in this call.

Complete information about the teleconference is available at <http://www.ncset.org/teleconferences/>.

### **Accessible Textbooks in Schools: A State and National Progress Report, September 23, Teleconference**

*11:00 AM-12:15 PM Mountain Time*

This teleconference will focus on current state and national initiatives to improve access to instructional materials for students with print disabilities.

Guest presenters, Steve Noble with the Kentucky Assistive Technology Service Network and Linnie Lee from the Kentucky Department of Education, will discuss Kentucky's roadmap to implementation of state legislation mandating the availability of accessible instructional materials in K-12 and post-secondary education settings. They will also touch on the differences between the Kentucky accessible materials legislation and that of other states around the country.

Guest presenter Skip Stahl with the National Center for Accessing the General Curriculum at CAST will comment on the recent landmark endorsement of the National Instructional Materials Accessibility

Standard (NIMAS) by the U.S. Department of Education. The voluntary standard will guide the production and electronic distribution of flexible digital instructional materials such as textbooks so they can be more easily converted to a variety of accessible formats, including Braille and text-to-speech.

The teleconference is free, but space is limited. Pre-registration for the teleconference is required by September 21, 2004. Register online at <http://www.pacer.org/workshops> or call the PACER Center at 952-838-9000 (voice); 952-838-0190 (TTY). Registered participants will be contacted via email or telephone with the teleconference call-in number and other necessary information. Captioning services will be provided by Caption Colorado. Please make accommodation requests at the time of registration.

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

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

### **Defeat Autism Now! fall conference, October 1-4, Los Angeles**

Attending the 14th Defeat Autism Now! (DAN!™) Conference in Los Angeles will assure you of three experiences. First, you will be exposed to world-renowned researchers and clinicians who are at the forefront of effective treatment interventions for children with autism. Second, you will hear success stories from parents and meet their recovered children, and finally, you will feel the positive spirit driving and uniting parents, practitioners and researchers in the DAN!™ movement. There is no better forum than a DAN!™ conference for a parent or clinician to gain the insights and acquire the skills needed to bring about significant change in each individual child affected by autism.

For more information, visit <http://www.danconference.com/fallindex.html>.

### **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND MENTAL RETARDATION, October 4-5, Denver CO**

"Enhancing the Quality of Life for People with Cognitive Disabilities through Technology," the 5th Annual Meeting of the Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities will be held from October 4-5 in Denver, Colorado. To learn more, visit <http://www.cu.edu/ColemanInstitute/2004conference.htm>

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

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

When: October 7-9, 2004

Where: Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL

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

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

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

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

### **Seizures & Epilepsy Education (S.E.E.), October 16-17, Idaho Falls, ID**

For persons with epilepsy, family members, and parents of children with epilepsy in Idaho, Montana, Utah, & Wyoming

Only one patient and family education program in the U.S. has been shown in a Class I study to result in long term medical, psychological, and social benefits for persons who attend. Seizures & Epilepsy Education (S.E.E.) began 21 years ago as a part of the UCLA Comprehensive Epilepsy Program. S.E.E. has since grown to be national and international in scope. Over 20,000 people have attended S.E.E. presentations in four countries.

For more information, call 800 397-3605 or visit <http://www.theseeprogram.com>.

### **Closing the Gap, October 21-23, Minneapolis MN**

Pre-conference sessions October 19-20

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Registration: \$295-\$430

Mail all registration details and payments to:

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

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

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

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

The conference is presently seeking proposals and intends addressing:

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

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

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

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

### **TASH Conference 2004, November 18-20, Reno NV**

The TASH conference is one of the largest and most progressive international conferences to focus on model, innovative, and effective strategies for achieving full inclusion of people with disabilities. This invigorating conference brings together some of the best hearts and



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

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

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

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

### **Third National Symposium on Dispute Resolution in Special Education, December 2-4, Washington DC**

CADRE will convene the Third National Symposium on Dispute Resolution in Special Education at the Academy for Educational Development in Washington, D.C. from December 2-4, 2004. As we get nearer to the event we'll provide you with additional details about the agenda and other logistics.

For some limited additional information, click here:

[http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/2004\\_conference.cfm](http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/2004_conference.cfm).

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

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

When: March 2-5, 2005

Where: Nugget Hotel, Reno

Registration: \$75-\$230

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

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

Research, Design, Practice, and Policy

Hyatt Regency, Atlanta, GA

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

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

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

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

## Selected Sources::

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

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

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

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