

Disability Advocacy Collaborative Bulletin

Disability Rights is a Civil Rights Issue

March, 2005

If you want something to appear in the next edition or have an article you would like us to include, please send it to me at jayne@kleinmanconsulting.com or Jayne Kleinman, 55 Corrigan Ave., Meriden, CT 06451, 203-238-9391.

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS AND REMOVALS: If you are not interested in receiving this information or you would like this information sent to a different e-mail address, please e-mail Jayne Kleinman at jayne@kleinmanconsulting.com with your request, or simply reply to this message.

This Bulletin is supported by a grant the Disability Advocacy Collaborative has received from the Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities. In-kind support is also being provided by the UConn Center on Disability.

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Calendar of Events

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|------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| 10:00 – 1:00 | Meeting of CT KASA (Kids as Self Advocates) | SERC Middletown/ Cromwell | CT Council on Developmental Disabilities | yvette.johnson@po.state.ct.us |
| Feb. 26 – March 2 | ADAPT National Action | Washington, DC | ADAPT | 512/442-0252 or 303/733-9324 |
| z | | | | |
| March 15 | Energy Assistance Still Available | | | See page 2 |
| Sat., March 19 10 am – 3 pm | 2005 Recreation Services Fair for Persons with Disabilities | Education Connection 355 Goshen Rd. Litchfield | Litchfield County Autism Spectrum and Educ. Connection | John Hudlaw, 860-489-2790. johnhudlaw@msn.com ymcd1@excite.com |
| June 3-4 | Moving through Life Changes, Self Determination | Farmington Marriott | DD Council, DMR, and FAVOR | Email: yvette.johnson@po.state.ct.us - (860) 418-8709 |
| July 25-28 | Youth Leadership Forum | UConn campus - Storrs | CT YLF | ctylf.org |

Energy Assistance Still Available

Applications have been taken since November 1, 2004 for the state’s Energy Assistance Program. The deadline for applying is March 15, 2005. Interested individuals should contact the nearest Community Action Agency, call Infoline (211), or call the Department of Social Services (DSS) Energy Line at 1-800-842-1132. The State has received an additional \$3 million from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, enabling DSS to increase the assistance benefit.

Update on the Disability Advocacy Collaborative

P.A.T.H.S. Plan for the Achievement of Transportation Coordination in Human Services.

The University of Connecticut A.J. Pappanikou Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Education, Research, and Service is pleased to announce they have received a grant from the Developmental Disabilities Council entitled P.A.T.H.S. : Plan for the Achievement of Transportation Coordination in Human Services.

The plan for the grant is to become transportation partners with other Organizations and individuals to ensure the interests of people with disabilities are represented in the DOT State Action Plan. ConnDOT is committed To designing and implementing a responsive, comprehensive, coordinated transportation system for people with low incomes, older adults and people with disabilities. ConnDOT has received a grant from United we Ride.

Regional forums will be held and a statewide Transportation Institute will be held at the end of the grant year with stakeholders including legislators involved. The ultimate goal will be to establish Technical Advisory Committees of people with disabilities in each of the five areas.

For more information or to become involved please contact Jayne J. Kleinman, MS, CRC, Transportation Project Facilitator, University of Connecticut A.J. Pappanikou Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Education, Research, and Service, 263 Farmington Avenue - MC 6222, Farmington, CT 06030-6222, phone: (860) 679-1575, fax: (860) 679-1571, TTY: (860) 679-1502, Toll free: (866) 623-1315

**THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ASSISTANCE
AND THE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2000**

The term "developmental disability" means a severe, chronic disability of an individual that:

- (A) is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
- (B) is manifested before the individual attains age 22;
- (C) is likely to continue indefinitely;
- (D) results in substantial functional limitations in 3 or more of the following areas of major life activity: (I) Self-care, (II) Receptive and expressive language, (III) Learning, (IV) Mobility, (V) Self-direction., (VI) Capacity for independent living. (VII) Economic self-sufficiency; and
- E) reflects the individual's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, individualized supports, or other forms of assistance that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.
- (F) INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN. An individual from birth to age 9, inclusive, who has a substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition, may be considered to have a developmental disability without meeting 3 or more of the criteria described in clauses (A) through (D), if the individual, without services and supports, has a high probability of meeting those criteria later in life.

United We Ride

United We Ride is an interagency Federal national initiative that supports States and their localities in developing coordinated human service delivery systems. In addition to State coordination grants, United We Ride provides State and local agencies a transportation-coordination and planning self-assessment tool, help along the way, technical assistance, and other resources to help their communities succeed. The Executive Order 13330 signed by President Bush on February 24, 2004, established the new Interagency Transportation Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility

Coordinating individual human service transportation programs makes the most efficient use of limited transportation resources by avoiding duplication caused by overlapping individual program efforts and encouraging the use and sharing of existing community resources. In communities where coordination is made a priority, citizens benefit from more extensive service, lower costs and easier access to transportation. Coordination can improve overall mobility within a community, particularly when human service agencies are each providing transportation to their own clients. It works by eliminating the inefficiencies within disparate operations and service patterns that often result from a multiplicity of providers. Greater efficiency helps to stretch the limited (and often insufficient) funding and personnel resources of these agencies. When appropriately applied, coordination can lead to significant reductions of operating costs (per trip) for transportation providers. People in need of transportation also profit from enhanced transportation and higher quality services when operations are coordinated.

According to the United We Ride Website coordinated transportation provides greater access to funds by: tapping a wider range of funding programs, accessing a greater variety of staff and facilities, and employing more specialized and skilled staff, More cost-effective use of resources is created through: productivity increases. , economies of scale, eliminating waste caused by duplicated efforts. and more centralized planning and management of resources. Greater productivities and efficiencies will: Fill service gaps within communities by offering services to additional geographic areas and individuals within existing budgets. Provide additional trips for community members, thus enhancing their quality of life. Generate cost savings to some participating agencies in special forms of coordinated transportation service. More centralized management of existing resources results in greater visibility for transportation services: To riders. To agencies needing trips for their clients. To the community. To funding sources. Reduced consumer confusion about how to access services. Clear lines of authority. More professional (comfortable, reliable, and safe) transportation services.

Project ACTION

Congress originally commissioned Easter Seals Project ACTION in 1988 as a research and demonstration project to improve access to public transportation for people with disabilities. With the passage of the ADA two years later, the goals expanded to help transportation operators implement the law's transportation provisions. In 1990, Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the civil-rights law that ensures individuals with disabilities access to employment, education, state and local government programs and services, businesses, telecommunications, and public transportation. The mission of **Project ACTION** is Accessible Community Transportation in Our Nation. America is home to more that 54 million people with disabilities who work, play, shop, vote, pursue an education, raise families, and volunteer in their communities.

Funded through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transportation Administration, Easter Seals Project ACTION promotes cooperation between the transportation industry and the disability community to increase mobility for people with disabilities under the ADA and beyond. They offer various resources, as well as training and technical assistance, in an effort to make the ADA work for everyone, everyday.

Easter Seals Project ACTION at 1-800-659-6428. Easter Seals Project ACTION's quarterly newsletter offers the latest information on accessible transportation for people with disabilities. This publication is also a great source for funding news, publications, research, and upcoming trainings and conferences. Call or email us to request your free print subscription to Easter Seals Project ACTION Update.

Medical Homes Legislative Forum

The UConn Center on Disabilities, the Connecticut Department of Public Health, and the Connecticut Commission on Children are sponsoring a Legislation Forum on the concept of "Medical Homes" on Wednesday, March 9 at the Legislative Office Building. Dr. Richard Roberts, Director of the Early Intervention Research Institute at Utah State University, is the featured speaker. The event will run from 10 am to noon. For additional information contact Ann Dandrow at the UConn Center on Disabilities at 860-679-1592 or adandrow@uchc.edu.

BUILDING CODE: Additional Public Hearing Scheduled

A public hearing on proposed changes to the State Building Code was held on Friday, February 18, 2005 during which written and oral public comment was given. A second public hearing has been scheduled for Friday, March 11 at 10 am in the Aldermanic Chambers of the New Haven City Hall, specifically to receive additional input from people with disabilities. Drafts of the documents are available on the DPS website: www.state.ct.us/dps/dfeps - follow the links to OSFM and OSBI.

Anyone needing further information should contact Elanah Sherman at P&A at 860-297-4322, or elanah.sherman@po.state.ct.us. Written testimony should be sent to Janet Ainsworth, Esq. - Department of Public Safety - 1111 Country Club Road - Middletown, CT 06457- or janet.ainsworth@po.state.ct.us.

SRV Events in March

The Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities and The Social Role Valorization (SRV) Implementation Project have announced the following events that will take place this month:

Protecting the Health and Lives of Hospital Patients, Especially Those Who Are Socially Devalued. This workshop explores the paradoxical reality that anyone who is hospitalized is exposed to grave dangers which jeopardize that person's health and safety. This is a reality for all ill people in the hospital, but is especially ominous for people who are members of a socially disadvantaged class. The workshop will offer practical information on measures for protecting hospital patients.

Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2005

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Advanced Issues in Protecting Hospital Patients. This workshop will help people in the role of "protector" of people with disabilities in hospitals to gain a deeper understanding of the

“quality of life” mindset, and to craft a more helpful mindset which upholds the value of human life. Having attended the workshop described above is a prerequisite for attending this presentation.

Date: Wednesday, March 30, 2005

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Registration for both events must be received by March 9, 2005. Presenters for the two workshops are: Jo Massarelli, Director of the SRV Implementation Project in Massachusetts and Joe Osburn, Director of the Indiana Safeguards Initiative. Both are associates of Dr. Wolf Wolfensberger and have considerable experience and involvement with hospitalized people with disabilities and their families. Both training events will be held at the Institute of Technical and Business Development, Central Connecticut State University, 185 Main Street, New Britain. Directions will be provided to registrants. The tuition for each event is \$15. Tuition includes handout material, parking, refreshments and lunch. Please make checks payable to CT Council on Developmental Disabilities and send your name, agency affiliation (if any), address, telephone and e-mail (if any) with a check to:

*CT Council on Developmental Disabilities
460 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106-1308*

A Supportive Housing Informational Hearing and Lobby Day

The Partnership for Strong Communities is hosting a supportive housing advocacy briefing at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 10, 2005 in Room 2C of the Legislative Office Building. Talking points and other materials will be available at the briefing which will be followed by an informational hearing from 11 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The hearing is being held by the Appropriations Committee. The Finance, Revenue and Bonding and Planning and Development Committees have been invited to attend.

Those planning to attend the briefing and hearing are encouraged to make appointments, anytime after 12:30 p.m., to meet with their legislators to talk about supportive housing and current advocacy efforts.

If you have any questions or need assistance making appointments with your legislators, please contact Kate Kelly at kate@ctpartnershiphousing.com or (860) 244-0066.

A Special Request

Francesca Martin is a doctoral student in mental health policy at the New School for Social Research in New York City. She is also working for a Connecticut agency that provides technical assistance to non-profits around the state to help them develop and operate supportive housing for persons and families that are homeless or at risk of

becoming homeless, with disabling health conditions (such as mental illness, and addictions). She is attempting to learn about the experiences of women who have been in public psychiatric hospitals (such as CVH, Fairfield Hills or Norwich) and then left and re-established themselves in community settings. She is interested in interviewing women who have had that experience. If anyone has any questions, or would like additional information, please contact her by cell phone at (203) 506-1657.

People on the Move

The following folks have moved into new positions, and we wish them all well: Kerri McAvay is the new Executive Director of the State Independent Living Council, Jayne Kleinman is the coordinator of a Transportation Grant funded by the DD Council and administered by the UConn Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Katie Martin has moved on to a position at Democracy Works, and May Terry has taken Katie's place as Coordinator of the Keep the Promise Coalition.

Waiting List Lawsuit Settled!

After two hours of testimony and debate - sometimes a little tense -- the DMR Waiting List Settlement Agreement was approved unanimously by the state legislature's Public Health Committee. It now goes to the full House and Senate for a vote where it should be approved easily. It will then go the Federal District Court for final action.

Arc/CT Executive Director Peg Dignoti shares her thoughts: "This has been a long, expensive, difficult road and we all are so hopeful that guaranteeing a minimum of 1,250 people real assistance over a 5-year period will make it all worthwhile! Former Governor Weicker once described being an advocate difficult work 'opening people's minds, hearts, and pocketbooks.' Maybe we've at least partially succeeded in living up to that definition. We hope you agree."

Special Ceremony at CVH

There is a cemetery on the grounds of Connecticut Valley Hospital where patients who died, and whose families did not claim their bodies, are buried. During this time, the patients were buried with headstones that contained no identifying information, only numbers, because of the shame and stigma felt by the families. Patient burials were discontinued in 1957, and since then the cemetery had become overgrown and unattended. Beginning in 1985, advocates focused on restoring the cemetery, and trying to find a way to honor and memorialize those persons buried there.

Approximately 6 years ago, a Middletown clergyman, Rev. John Hall, and other members of the Middletown religious community, in conjunction with the hospital administration, organized what has become an annual ceremony to remember and read

aloud the names of persons buried in the cemetery. Each year 100 more persons are so remembered. The ceremony will be held again this year on May 25th at 1:00 pm (rain date is May 26). This ceremony is open to the public.

Some Thoughts on President Bush's Budget Proposal

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities is a coalition of over 100 national consumer, provider, and advocacy organizations working together to advocate for national public policy that ensures the self determination, independence, empowerment, integration, and inclusion of the 54 million children and adults with disabilities living in the United States. Here is a recent statement from the CCD:

”During his first month in office, President George W. Bush said to Americans with disabilities, ‘Wherever any barrier stands between you and the full rights and dignity of citizenship, we must work to remove it, in the name of simple decency and simple justice.’

The administration's fiscal year 2006 budget breaks the promise of full citizenship. President Bush's budget and tax policy, emphasizing wealth over opportunity, simply fails to match his rhetoric.

Broken Promise: Medicaid--Breaking a 40-year promise to advance the health of our nation's most vulnerable citizens, the administration proposes the elimination of \$60 billion over ten years. The administration's position moves Medicaid funding closer to block grants to states, placing the health and well being of children and adults with disabilities at severe risk.

Broken Promise: Housing--The administration's budget proposal cuts the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 811 assisted housing program by 50% and completely eliminates HUD's 30-year pledge to produce accessible supportive housing for people with disabilities.

Broken Promise: Employment--Breaking one of the first promises of his presidency, the Bush administration's budget eliminates major employment programs at the Department of Education and significantly cuts funding for a Department of Labor employment program solely dedicated to people with disabilities.

Broken Promise: Education--Breaking the President's pledge to leave no child behind, the administration seeks only 50% of authorized funds to help schools and states implement the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)”.

Guide on Federal Funding Available

A guide to this year's federal funding opportunities for faith-based and community organizations has been developed by the federal Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The guide includes information on over 40 grants in the following areas: Community Development, At-Risk Children and Youth, Seniors, Health, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health programs. DHHS block and formula grant opportunities are listed in the Partnership Opportunities section. Also included is information on the Compassion Capital Fund, how to be a grant reviewer, how to make a

Freedom of Information request, and web resources for organizations interested in federal funding. Interested parties may download a copy of the 2005 Grant Opportunities Notebook in PDF format at www.hhs.gov/fbci. Click on the "New Information" tab in the yellow column (an Adobe Acrobat reader is required) or go directly to http://www.hhs.gov/fbci/CFBCI_M0374_GrantNotebook_FINAL.pdf.

For additional questions, please contact the DHHS at 202-358-3595.

Justice Department Settles Housing Case

On February 8, 2005 the US Justice Department announced that William E. Dansey, Jr. and Quality Built Inc., the developers of the Breezewood Condominiums and Hyde Park Apartments in Greenville, North Carolina, have agreed to pay \$800,000 to settle a federal lawsuit alleging that they discriminated against persons with disabilities.

The agreement, which still must be approved by Chief District Judge Terrence William Boyle, requires the defendants to pay \$700,000 to retrofit the Hyde Park and Breezewood complexes; pay \$70,000 to six families who were harmed by the lack of accessible features; and pay a \$30,000 civil penalty. The defendants must also comply with the Fair Housing Act, which requires new apartment complexes and condominiums with four or more units to include accessible common and public use areas.

VR Head Resigns!

On Tuesday, February 8, 2005, Joanne Wilson, Commissioner of the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), announced her resignation. Former RSA Commissioner Fredric Schroeder responds:

“During her tenure as Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), Dr. Wilson has shown herself to be an effective advocate for the public rehabilitation program and the people it serves. She brought to the position vision and leadership, qualities far too often absent in Washington. She believes that the strength of the vocational rehabilitation (VR) program lies in its ability to change lives, one at a time.

She knows this intellectually and personally. As a blind person herself, she faced the fears and insecurities common to people growing up with disabilities. So why did she resign?

On Monday, February 7, 2005, the Department of Education unveiled its plan to close the RSA regional offices. The same day, the Administration announced its intent to seek super waiver authority to allow the block granting of a number of employment related programs, including VR. The next day, Dr. Wilson resigned. It is my view that she believed these plans, if implemented, would mean the end of comprehensive employment services for people with disabilities throughout the nation and, as a person of conscience,

would not--could not--be a part of any plan that would harm people with disabilities.”

Raffle for Disability Rights: An ADAPT Fundraiser

Help ADAPT, WIN a round trip for two to Honolulu, Hawaii.

- * 7 days/6 nights - One room/double occupancy.
- * Travel between September 10th & November 15, 2005.
- * Leave from any major airport in the United States.
- * Drawing to be held April 23, 2005.

Raffle Tickets: \$5 Donation per ticket, 6 tickets for \$25

If you would like to purchase a ticket(s) or assist ADAPT in selling "Raffle for Disability Rights" tickets or just make a tax deductible donation contact The ADAPT Community: Bob Kafka bkafka@juno.com or 512/431-4085,

MICASSA Reintroduced

MICASSA (the Medicaid Community Attendant Services and Supports Act), has been reintroduced in the House as HR 910 and in the Senate as S 401. Advocates are encouraged to contact Senators Dodd and Lieberman as well as their Congressman and ask them to support the respective bills.

MiCASSA establishes a national program of community-based attendant services and supports for people with disabilities, regardless of age or disability. This bill would allow the dollars to follow the person, and allow eligible individuals, or their representatives, to choose where they would receive services and supports.

Disability and Illness:

“Introduction: Disability or illness can potentially impact any aspect of a person’s sexuality. People with a disability or living with an illness may wonder whether they can have children, if their partners will stay with them, if anyone will find them sexually desirable, or if they will ever enjoy sex again. Sexual-esteem or positive regard for and confidence in one’s ability to experience sexuality in a satisfying and enjoyable way may be shattered for a person with a disability. Many assume, incorrectly, that sexual intimacy is no longer possible due to sensation loss in the genitals. As a result, some may decide to ignore sexuality issues because they believe they no longer apply to them; others will seek out any opportunity to restore sexual-esteem. Questions, concerns, and feelings of anger about our sexuality are natural after disability or illness. Sexualhealth.com seeks to dispel myths about sexuality and provide the most accurate information about sexuality and disability or illness possible.

Topics: Rediscovering Sex After Disability/Illness/Trauma, Developmental Disabilities, Multiple Sclerosis or MS, Heart Disease or Cardiac Conditions, Spinal Cord Injury, Traumatic Brain Injury, Cancer Diabetes, Psychiatric Disabilities, Cerebral Palsy,. Autoimmune Disorders, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Back Pain, Arthritis, HIV and AIDS, and Spina Bifida / Myelomeningocele”

Go to [Sexual Health.com](http://SexualHealth.com) for more information

People with Disabilities Used in U.S. Medical Research

Thousands of institutionalized persons with disabilities were subject to medical experimental research. Go to <http://www.cbsnews.com/> for more information

JFA ARCHIVES. All JFA postings from 1995 to present are available at:
<http://www.aapd-dc.org/JFA/JFAabout.html>

Focus Groups on Barriers to Getting a Mammogram

The CT Women and Disability Network is teaming up with Qualidigm to hold focus groups targeting women with disabilities on the topic of breast cancer and mammography. The project is funded by the national Susan Komen Foundation. I'm writing to ask if your organization has events, newsletters, or online updates going out between now and May that you can help advertise the focus groups. Participants will be paid \$50 and receive help with transportation. We are preparing the flyer now which will have more information. For now I'm simply querying people in the disability community to see what types of opportunities exist to advertise our research project. Additionally, if your organization has a mailing list that you could help out with a mailing, that would be appreciated too. We do have funds to help defray postage. We look forward to any help you can provide. Please get back to me regarding upcoming opportunities and deadlines.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Christine Fortunato

Thanks to a grant from the Susan G. Komen Foundation, the Connecticut Women with Disabilities Network and Qualidigm are conducting a series of focus groups involving women across the disability spectrum over the age of 40 to discuss the barriers to getting a mammogram. Eligible volunteers who participate will receive \$50. group targets women who have cognitive or intellectual impairments. Contact them to learn about the next focus group at 860-613-3685.

Free Tax Guide on Disabilities

The parents of a child with a disability is entitled to many income tax deductions they might not be aware of, such as “Medical Expenses,” provided the expenses are made to alleviate their child’s mental or physical condition. For a free, complete list of what is

deductible, send a 37 cent stamped, self-addressed #10 envelope to the Connecticut Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities (CACLD)/Tax Guide, 25 Van Zant St., Suite 15-5, E. Norwalk, CT 06855. The CACLD is a regional, non-profit organization that supports individuals, families, and professionals by providing information, education, and consultation while promoting public awareness and understanding. CACLD's goal is to ensure access to the resources needed to help children and adults with learning disabilities and attention deficit disorders achieve their full potential.

AARP Tax-Aide is a service for people who need assistance with their taxes. **Cómo** recibir ayuda gratis con sus impuestos o ser voluntario con AARP Tax Aide. Have questions, concerns, or suggestions for AARP Tax-Aide? Email us at **taxaide@aarp.org**

Department of the Treasury

Internal Revenue Service

Publication 907

Cat. No. 15308H

Tax Highlights for Persons with Disabilities

For use in preparing

2004 Returns

Get forms and other information faster and easier by: Internet □ www.irs.gov FAX □ 703-368-9694 (from your fax machine)

Introduction

This publication gives you a brief introduction to certain parts of the tax law of particular interest to people with disabilities and those who care for people with disabilities.

It includes highlights about:

- Income,
- Itemized deductions,
- Tax credits,
- Household employees, and
- Business tax incentives.

You will find most of the information you need to complete your tax return in your form instruction booklet. If you need additional information, you may want to order a free tax publication. You may also want to take advantage of the other free tax help services that IRS provides. See *How To Get Tax Help*, at the end of this publication, for information about getting publications, forms, and free tax services.

From February 1 through April 15th each year, the AARP Tax-Aide program offers free one-on-one counseling, as well as assistance on the telephone and internet to help individuals prepare basic tax forms, including the 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ and other standard schedules. You can search by zip code to find AARP Tax-Aide site near you, or use the [advanced search](#).

Million Dollar Baby Controversy

Milliondollarbigot.org was started by Michael Reynolds, mike@uppity-disability.net, a longtime disability activist based in Maine.

This website also contains the original, exclusive op-ed column by John Hockenberry, "And the loser is." JFA mistakenly failed to provide proper attribution to Milliondollarbigot.org for the Hockenberry column when JFA disseminated the piece on February 20. JFA apologizes to the producers of Milliondollarbigot.org for JFA's oversight. Jonathan Young, JFA Moderator, AAPD

Report urges NCLB changes

The National Conference of State Legislatures concluded a 10-month study of NCLB by demanding Congress fully fund its mandates and by calling for the law to be changed to give states more flexibility in meeting its requirements. In response, the Education Department said NCLB was bringing "new hope and new opportunity" to American families and affirmed that the federal government would not reverse course. USA TODAY (2/24), The Washington Post (free registration) (2/24), The New York Times (free registration) (2/24) [E-mail this story](#)

N.O.D. new web provider

In an effort to provide improved service to our web audience, the N.O.D. Web Site has switched to a new web hosting provider. As a result, web addresses to internal pages on our site have changed.

On the other hand, our primary web address is still the same, i.e. www.nod.org, as well as the addresses to our main content pages, such as our Emergency Preparedness page at www.nod.org/emergency, our Community Involvement page at www.nod.org/community, or our Religious Participation page at www.nod.org/religion.

Now Hear This! NCOA Praises Commitment to Improving Nation's Hearing Health; Recognizes Newly Formed Network of Doctors as Important First Step

Of the 28 million Americans who suffer from some degree of hearing loss, only 6 million are being treated. NCOA is committed to improving the nation's hearing health and applauds the creation of The Hearing Health Network (HHN)[™], a newly formed partnership between family doctors and hearing-care professionals to improve and expand access to hearing health care in the United States.

NCOA president and CEO, James Firman, states that HHN[™] has the potential to greatly improve the nation's hearing health by including hearing testing in routine physicals.

"This way family doctors can identify more patients with hearing loss and refer them to a hearing care specialist for treatment. This is especially important," Firman notes, "since untreated hearing loss can lead to a host of problems, including depression, isolation, lack of involvement in activities and often a lot of friction inside the family."

NCOA has long understood the challenges and opportunities to hearing-loss detection, concluding in its landmark year 2000 study, "The Consequences of Untreated Hearing Loss in Older Persons," that seniors whose hearing loss is treated generally enjoy better relationships with their families, better self image, improved mental health, and greater independence and security.

Visit www.hhnusa.com for additional information about The Hearing Health Network™ and www.ncoa.org/content.cfm?sectionID=65&detail=788 for more details.

AUTISM – EDUCATOR’S GUIDE

<http://www.researchautism.org/educators.asp>

An Educator's Guide to Autism, the second book in the *Life Journey through Autism* series of resource guides published by the Organization for Autism Research (OAR), is now available. OAR, a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to apply research to the daily challenges that people living with autism and their families must face, is distributing the *Guides* free of charge to education professionals and parents of children with autism as part of their national autism education initiative. *An Educator's Guide to Autism* provides parents, teachers and education professionals with a six-step plan for teaching a child with autism in the general elementary classroom setting.

To request a hardcopy of *An Educator's Guide to Autism* or *A Parent's Guide to Research*, email <mailto:OAR@researchautism.org?subject=Educator'sGuideand> include your name and mailing address, or call 703-351-5031. The Guide can also be viewed online by visiting OAR's website, <http://www.researchautism.org/educators.asp> and clicking on the *Educator's Guide to Autism* cover.

* Results were released last week from a nationwide survey On emergency preparedness for people with disabilities conducted by Harris Interactive and commissioned by the National Organization on Disability through a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Harris surveyed emergency managers in states and large, mid-size, and small cities throughout the nation to determine the degree to which jurisdictions had taken into account the needs of people with disabilities in their emergency planning and to what extent they included people with disabilities in the planning process. Sixty-nine per cent said they had incorporated the needs of people with disabilities into their emergency plans. An additional 22% said they have a plan under development. Still, the survey found that among those who currently have preparedness plan in existence or under development, only 54% had plans for dealing with

schools for students with disabilities; 50% did not have a special needs registry that includes people with disabilities; 59% did not have plans for pediatric populations; and 76% did not have a paid expert to deal with emergency preparedness for people with disabilities. Among all respondents, 39% had not purchased specialized equipment; 36% said no special training had been offered, and 73% said no funding had been received to address emergency planning for people with disabilities. Additionally, only 42% said they had a public awareness campaign directed at providing emergency information to people with disabilities - with only 16% of those with a campaign making the plan available in accessible formats. The survey also indicated that small, and in some cases midsize, cities, include people with disabilities in their emergency plans to a lesser extent than do large cities do.

Please relay this Bulletin to your membership including those who do not have e-mail access. Make this available in large print, tape and for others who have difficulty accessing information. View and print this Bulletin in [RTF format](#) (compatible with most word processing software). Suggest your membership go to the library and go onto www.kleinmanconsulting.com to view or print a copy. If you would like to see previous issues of the Bulletin, read about the background of the Collaborative or if you would like to be added to the mailing list, you may also go to www.KleinmanConsulting.com.

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