



TARC NEWSLETTER

Oklahoma's leading information source on issues impacting the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families

August 2007

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ADA-Boom or Bust?

by John F. Gajda, TARC Executive Director

The 26th of July was the anniversary of the signing of the American's With Disabilities Act – the ADA. This year is the 17th anniversary.

It's hard to believe it's been 17 years since that famous scene of the signing of this bill on the lawn of the White House presided over by the first President Bush. That Bush is

gone and another has come. One of the disability advocacy leaders who stood out in the fight for the passage of the bill, and stood out in that signing ceremony in his ever-present western hat, is also

no longer with us in a much more finite way. Justin Dart passed away several years ago.

As usual on the anniversary of the ADA there have been a flurry of press releases and announcements, most proclaiming the wonders of the ADA for people with disabilities. Several have been included in this newsletter.

I say most, because there has been a swing in opinion in the disability advocacy community. Some advocates now argue that the status of these two gentlemen identified with the signing of the ADA is not all that has changed in the past 17 years. Many people now feel that the intent spirit and key principles of this heralded landmark legislation are also no longer with us. They make a case that 17 years of interpretations and court rulings have eroded what Congress intended when they passed the ADA.

So this year, along with the accolades for the ADA that traditionally mark the anniversary, Senator Tom Harkin, one of the original champions who sheperded the original act through congress introduced the ADA Restoration Act of 2007. Speaking from the floor of Congress, he called for the restoration of the intent and protections of the ADA that have

please see "ADA-Boom or Bust?" on pg. 2

"After 17 years of the ADA, this country is a much better place for people with disabilities."



TARC is committed to ensuring a high quality of life for Oklahomans with developmental disabilities through education, empowerment, support and advocacy. For additional information about TARC or to volunteer, contact us at:

16 East 16th Street, Suite 405, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119-4447

www.ddadvocacy.net tarc@ddadvocacy.net 918-582-8272/800-688-8272 918-582-3628(Fax)

ADA-Boom or Bust? from pg. 1

been eroded by court decisions. His comments are also included in this newsletter.

Overall, in many ways after 17 years of the ADA this country is a much better place for people with disabilities. The accolades proclaiming the progress are accurate. But so are the voices of caution. Court rulings have definitely lowered the bar set by the legislative champions like Harkin who passed the legislation 17 years ago. Unfortunately, it is also a bar that we are still reaching for. The court rulings block progress that would only bring us closer to achieving the vision of Harkin and many others

Court rulings aside, why are we still struggling after 17 years? I would suggest the promises of the ADA represented a major change in how many segments of society thought about people with disabilities. Such changes do not come about simply because a law is passed. Two years ago, in another commentary on the ADA, I wrote that the reason we struggled to implement the ADA is because our efforts have not yet affected the cultural shift required for our society to internalize the ideals and values contained in the ADA. I still believe that is true today.

After 17 years the ADA is still a work in progress. It has the potential to be an even bigger boom for people with disabilities. It also could prove to be a bust unless we all line up behind Senator Harkin to restore some of the potential shine envisioned on that July day in 1995. That is part of what we need to do.

Because cultural change comes slowly, all advocates for people with disabilities need to hang in for the long run. In addition to legislation to reinforce the original intent of the ADA, our goal should be to move our society toward a day when everyone lives the values embodied in the ADA because it is the right thing to do, not because they are required to by a law. Obviously, our work is not yet done.

Reports Released on Progress Since Enactment of ADA



At their July meeting in Chicago, the National Council on Disability (NCD) released two reports on the progress of people with disabilities since the 1990 enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The first report, *The Impact of the Americans with Disabilities Act: Assessing the Progress toward Achieving the Goals of the ADA*, reviews the impact the ADA has had on the lives of Americans with disabilities during the first sixteen years since its passage. The report focuses on the four major goals of the ADA—equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. A key finding is that progress toward the goal of economic self-sufficiency appears to be the goal having the least success.

The second report, *Implementation of the ADA: Challenges, Best Practices, and New Opportunities for Success*, highlights many strategies for ADA implementation that have been successful, as well as obstacles that are preventing ADA implementation. This report reflects the experiences and ideas of ADA stakeholders from around the country, including small and large businesses, employers, judges and legal professionals, governmental entities, and individuals with disabilities.

The reports can be found at: http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2007/implementation_07-26-07.htm and http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2007/ada_impact_07-26-07.htm.

Source: NCD



House and Senate Work to Restore ADA

On July 26th, the 17th anniversary of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), members of both the U.S. House and Senate took action to restore the intent and protections of the ADA, in response to court decisions which have reduced the coverage and scope of ADA protections against discrimination based on disability.

The House bill is H.R. 3195 by Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI). As introduced, H.R. 3195 had 144 cosponsors.

The Senate bill is S. 1881 by Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA). S. 1881 is assigned to the Senate committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP). Following are remarks of Sen. Harkin on introducing the ADA Restoration Act:

“Today, July 26, marks the 17th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, one of the landmark civil rights laws of the 20th century, and a long-overdue emancipation proclamation for the 50 million Americans with disabilities.

As chief sponsor of the ADA in the Senate, I take pride in the progress we have made as a Nation since 1990. We have removed most physical barriers to movement and access for the 50 million Americans with disabilities. We have required employers to provide reasonable accommodations so that people with disabilities can have equal opportunity in the workplace. We have advanced the 4 goals of the ADA, equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency.

But despite that progress, there is a problem. In recent years, the courts have ignored Congress’s clear intent as to who should be protected under the ADA. And the courts have narrowed the definition of who qualifies as an “individual with a disability.” As a consequence, millions of people we intended to be protected under the ADA, including people with epilepsy, diabetes, and cancer, are not protected any more. In a ruling just this spring, the 11th Circuit court even concluded that a person with mental retardation was not “disabled” under the ADA.

Looking back through the legislative history, it is abundantly clear that Congress intended that the protections in the ADA apply to all persons without regard to mitigating circumstances, such as taking medication or using an assistive device.

In the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee report Congress said:

‘Whether a person has a disability should be assessed without regard to the availability of mitigating measures, such as reasonable accommodations or auxiliary aids.’

The House Education and Labor Committee report says the same thing, and goes on to say:

‘For example, a person who is hard of hearing is substantially limited in the major life activity of hearing, even though the loss may be corrected through the use of a hearing aid. Likewise, persons with impairments, such as epilepsy or diabetes, which substantially limit a major life activity are covered under the definition of disability, even if the effects of the impairment are controlled by medication.’

Nonetheless, in a series of cases, the Supreme Court ignored Congressional intent. Together, these Supreme Court cases have created an absurd and unintended Catch 22. People with serious health conditions like epilepsy or diabetes who are fortunate to find treatments that make them more capable and independent, and more able to work, may find that they are no longer protected by the ADA. If these individuals are no longer covered under the ADA, then their requests for a reasonable accommodation at work can be denied, or they can be fired. On the other hand, if they stop taking their medication, they will be considered a person with a disability under the ADA, but they will be unable to do their job.

This is not just absurd, it is wrong. It flies in the face of clear, unambiguous Congressional intent. When we passed the law, there was common agreement on both sides of the aisle, and on the part of the White House, that the law was designed to protect any individual who is treated less favorably because of a current, past, or perceived disability.

This situation cries out for a modest, reasonable legislative fix, and that is exactly what we are doing, today, by introducing the ADA Restoration Act of 2007.

Our bill amends the definition of “disability” so that people who Congress originally intended to be protected from discrimination are covered under the ADA.

As with the original passage of the ADA in 1990, it is going to take time to hold hearings and build strong majorities. But I look forward to working to restore Congress’ original intent, and, once again, to ensure that Americans with disabilities are protected from discrimination.”

Source: Comments from Congressional Record



The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): 17 Years Later

When it was passed by the 101st Congress and signed by President George H.W. Bush in 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) had the stated intention of providing a “clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities.” Americans with disabilities looked forward to the day when the barriers would be gone that had always prevented access to full participation, inclusion, and equality of opportunity in America. On July 26, 2007, we celebrated the 17th anniversary of the enactment of the ADA.

In its 17 years of existence, the ADA has brought a host of changes in access to community activities, services, transportation, communication, and many other aspects of American life. And as people have sought the help of the courts to have their rights under the ADA upheld, there have been many lower court rulings and a few Supreme Court decisions that have clearly served to liberate people with disabilities (e.g. Supreme Court decisions in *Tennessee v. Lane*, *Martin v. PGA Tours*, and *Olmstead v. L.C.*).

Unfortunately, however, the ADA’s promise has gone unfulfilled for thousands of Americans with disabilities who want to work and who face discrimination that restricts their ability to do so. This is due to a host of lower court rulings and some significant Supreme Court rulings that have retreated from the core principles of the ADA, and that the “shameful wall of exclusion” has not “come tumbling down” after all.

17 years after the ADA was signed:

- ◆ The employment rate of people with disabilities has not improved. Up to 70% of people with disabilities of working age are unemployed, the same as in 1990.
- ◆ Two-thirds of people with disabilities who do not have a job indicate they would work if they could find employment.
- ◆ Courts decide in favor of employers and against people who charge workplace disability discrimination 97% of the time, often before the person has even had a chance to show that the employer treated them unfairly.

Why do the courts rule against people who charge discrimination in employment?

The courts have created an absurd Catch-22 for people who claim employment discrimination. The employer can say a person is “too disabled” to do the

job but not “disabled enough” to be protected by the law. The case is then thrown out of court, and the individual is never given the chance to prove he or she can do the job.

People with conditions like epilepsy, diabetes, HIV, cancer, hearing loss, or mental illness, for example, who manage their disabilities with medication, prosthetics, hearing aids, or other “mitigating measures” are viewed as “too functional” to have a disability and are denied the ADA’s protection from employment discrimination. Likewise, people who have been denied a job or fired because an employer mistakenly believed that they could not perform the job, or the employer just did not want “people like that” in the workplace, are also denied the ADA’s protection from employment discrimination.

How did we get to this point?

The U.S. Supreme Court has rendered damaging and far-reaching decisions. It began in 1999 when the high court heard the case of *Sutton v. United Airlines* in which twins with severe (if not corrected) vision impairments had unsuccessfully sought pilot jobs with United Airlines and felt they had been discriminated against when they were not hired. The court ruled that they were not actually disabled because their vision could be corrected by “mitigating measures,” – eyeglasses- discounting altogether their claim of discrimination. Since then, the Supreme Court has rendered a number of decisions that clearly placed the burden on the individual with a disability to prove her/his disability rather than proving that discrimination occurred.

Can Congress do anything?

Last year, in an effort to restore the ADA’s original intent, Congressmen Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI), Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and John Conyers (D-MI) introduced the Americans with Disabilities Act Restoration Act. This bill would have amended the ADA to bar discrimination against anyone “on the basis of disability,” a change from the act’s current wording which bars discrimination “against an individual with a disability,” the very wording that has been so narrowly construed by the courts and has often resulted in judges trying to decide whether someone actually has a disability that qualifies them for protection. A similar legislative “fix” is currently under consideration this year in both the House and the Senate.

Source: *Washington Watch*, Volume 5, Issue 5

Social Security Resources

The Social Security Administration's website, www.socialsecurity.gov,

provides valuable information for people with disabilities.

Information about the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability program can be found at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/notices/supplemental-security-income/> and information about Social Security disability is available at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/>. Electronic forms to help in applying for either program are available at: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability>.

Social Security Administration Commissioner Jo Anne B. Barnhart has announced that the final rule establishing a new disability determination process is on public display at the Office of the Federal Register. To learn more visit www.socialsecurity.gov/disability-new-approach.

Source: *Monday Morning in Washington*



Children with Special Needs and Special Occasions



Children with special needs and special occasions such as family reunions and gatherings can bring added stress into a family's life.

For ideas on setting boundaries, bringing reinforcements and tips on managing the stress, visit: <http://specialchildren.about.com/od/inthecommunity/a/holiday.htm?nl=1>.

 Visit us on the web at: www.ddadvocacy.net

TARC Offers New Support Group for Parents of Adult Children with Developmental Disabilities

TARC has introduced a new support group, *Families in Transition*. The group offers parents an opportunity to share the joys and challenges of parenting their adult children with developmental disabilities.

The group meets quarterly and the next meeting is August 15 at the Full Cup Cafe, 4634 E. 31st St. in Tulsa. Call Amie Farinella at TARC, 918-582-8272 for more information.

*Families
in Transition*

Employment Fact Sheets for Young Adults with Disabilities



The U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy recently released a series of new fact sheets for young adults with disabilities addressing subjects including workplace accommodations and when to share information about a disability with an employer. To view the fact sheets, visit:

- *The Why, When, What, and How of Disclosure in an Academic Setting, After High School*
www.dol.gov/odep/pubs/fact/wwwh.htm
- *Youth, Disclosure and the Workplace: Why, When, What, and How*
www.dol.gov/odep/pubs/fact/ydw.htm
- *Advising Youth with Disabilities on Disclosure: Tips for Service Providers*
www.dol.gov/odep/pubs/fact/advising.htm

Source: U.S. Department of Labor

Making Computers Easier to Use for People with Disabilities



Microsoft Corporation has created a free CD that informs people with disabilities of ways to make their personal computers easier to see, hear and use with accessibility settings and programs that are built into your Windows PC.

The free Microsoft Accessibility CD set includes:

- A Windows Vista accessibility demonstrations and tutorials CD featuring a video and eleven demonstrations of accessibility. See the new Ease of Access Center, Windows Speech Recognition, and Internet Explorer 7.
- An Accessibility Resources CD which features Windows XP accessibility demos and tutorials, accessibility solutions, tutorials and training, and resources for businesses. Learn about accessibility in Microsoft products such as Office and Internet Explorer.

To order the free CD set, visit <http://www.microsoft.com/enable/cd/default.aspx>.

Source: Microsoft Corporation

New DRS Commissioner Appointed



Steve Shelton of Edmond was recently appointed to the Commission for Rehabilitation Services. The commission is the governing board for the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), which serves over 180,000 Oklahomans with disabilities each year.

Shelton has not allowed blindness to prevent him from reaching his career objectives. "As a former client, I know how critical DRS's assistance is to thousands of Oklahomans with disabilities," Commissioner Shelton said.

For more information about the Department of Rehabilitation Services, call (800) 845-8476 or visit www.okrehab.org/.

Source: DRS

Choosing Child Care for a Child with Special Needs



Finding quality, affordable child care can be difficult for any parent. For parents of children with special needs, it can also be a very confusing and emotional experience. Examples of questions to ask child care providers when considering placing your child in their facility, what to look for on the tour, and the child's rights under the ADA are included in Rebecca Freshour's web article at www.connectforkids.org/node/5339.

Source: www.connectforkids.org

Technology Options for Children with Hearing Loss

Parents of children with hearing loss can find helpful information and resources in a publication produced for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services



(OSERS) by the Academy for Educational Development (AED). *Opening Doors: Technology and Communication Options for Children with Hearing Loss* provides background on early intervention, the use of technology and other supports available to children and their families. Visit http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/products/opening_doors/index.html for more information.

Source: U.S. Department of Education

Resource for Determining Medicaid Eligibility

The final guidelines on citizenship for Medicaid eligibility expand the types of documentation that can be used to establish citizenship and exempts certain groups from the requirement. For complete requirements, visit <http://www.disabilityinfo.gov/digov-public/public/DisplayPage.do?parentFolderId=138>.

Source: www.disabilityinfo.gov

2007 Progress Report Shows Steps Taken to Reduce Barriers for Americans with Disabilities



The White House has released the 2007 Progress Report on The President's New Freedom Initiative for People with Disabilities. Announced in February 2001, the New Freedom Initiative is President George W. Bush's plan to tear down barriers to full integration into American life that remain for many of the 54 million Americans with disabilities. This report highlights accomplishments of the Administration in implementing the President's vision and builds upon the reports issued in May 2002 and May 2004.

The full report is available at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/newfreedom/newfreedom-report-2007.html>. Highlights of the report include:

Increasing Access for People with Disabilities through Technology

In recognition of the power of assistive and universally designed technology to create greater access to the workplace, school, and community life for persons with disabilities, The Administration has:

- Empowered states to develop plans for acquisition of assistive technology through the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 Amendments, signed in October 2004;
- Streamlined accessibility standards for voting machines and other important technological advances;
- Provided grants to various agencies to develop and stimulate technological advances; and
- Advanced the President's Executive Order centralizing electronic information of use to the disability community at www.DisabilityInfo.gov.

Expanding Educational Opportunities for Youth with Disabilities

Agencies have responded to the President's direction and furthered his agenda in the following ways:

- The Department of Education has issued final regulations implementing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, established the Teacher Assistance Corps, monitored the first annual state

progress determinations under the IDEA, and launched various other initiatives;

- The Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights has promoted voluntary compliance with applicable civil rights laws relating to students with disabilities, including fostering classroom inclusion and limiting references to disability on report cards, and has also developed other civil rights initiatives.

Helping Integrate Americans with Disabilities into the Workforce

In an effort to include persons with disabilities into the workforce, the Administration has:

- Established new initiatives integrating the efforts of the Justice, Labor, Housing and Urban Development, and Veterans Affairs Departments in advancing training and employment for persons with disabilities;
- Released "Disability Employment 101" companion materials with the collaboration of the Justice and Education Departments;
- Begun implementation of the "Ticket to Work" program as part of the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income programs to eliminate work disincentives among persons with disabilities; and

Promoting Full Access to Community Life

New initiatives created to enable recipients to live in their communities include:

- Instituted the "Money Follows the Person" grant program through the Department of Health and Human Services, which includes \$1.75 billion to support states in building Medicaid programs that enable recipients to live in their communities;
- Issued an ADA checklist for polling places and administered the Voting Access for Individuals with Disabilities project; and
- Improved access to health care with the Medicare Prescription Drug Program, and sought to increase accessibility of health care for the elderly, minorities, and other at-risk populations, including people with disabilities.

Source: The White House



New Orleans Ensures Rebuilding Efforts Provide Equal Access for People with Disabilities

The United States Department Justice (DOJ) celebrated the 17th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) at an event in New Orleans, LA hosted by the Mayor's Advisory Council for Citizens with Disabilities.

At the event, Wan J. Kim, the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division, signed a Project Civic Access (PCA) agreement with the City of New Orleans setting out a plan to ensure equal access for people with disabilities to the city's emergency operations and other programs, services, activities and facilities.

Under the agreement, DOJ will provide an expert ADA architectural consultant at no cost to the city of New Orleans. The architectural consultant will assist the city in rebuilding in compliance with the architectural requirements of the ADA and New Orleans will be required to ensure equal access for people with disabilities to the City's emergency management operations. DOJ's civil rights division will provide the city with technical assistance to ensure that its Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) complies with ADA requirements.

Mr. Kim also announced the release of Chapter 7 of the ADA Best Practices Tool Kit that provides technical assistance for state and local government officials on steps they should take to achieve ADA compliance in their emergency management programs.

For more information, go the DOJ ADA Home Page at <http://www.ada.gov> or call the toll-free ADA information line at (800) 514-0301 or (800) 514-0383 (TTY).

Source: U.S. Department of Justice

Fact Sheet on School Experiences for Students With Autism



The National Center for Special Education Research at the Institute of Education Sciences has released a new fact sheet on the National Longitudinal Transition Study-2 (NLTS2), entitled *Facts From NLTS2: Secondary School Experiences of Students With Autism*. This fact sheet provides a national picture of the secondary school experiences of students with autism using data from the NLTS2.

This study has a nationally representative sample of more than 11,000 students with disabilities. Approximately 1,000 youth with autism are included in the sample. The fact sheet provides information on such topics as the courses taken, instructional settings, the nature of the curriculum and instruction, teacher perceptions, and the types of accommodations and supports provided for students with autism.

To view, download, and print the full report as a PDF file, please visit <http://ies.ed.gov/ncser/pubs/>.

Source: NCSE

State Health Data Available Online

New data is now available from the Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health on the percentage of children who access medical and dental care by state and region. Information is also available on the percentage of newborns receiving hearing and Cystic Fibrosis screenings. For more information, visit www.statehealthfacts.org.

Source: Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

Autism News Roundup

New Study Shows Half of Children With Autism Can Be Accurately Diagnosed at Close to One Year of Age

Researchers from the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore found that autism can be diagnosed at close to one year of age, which is the earliest the disorder has ever been diagnosed. The study, which evaluated social and communication development in autism spectrum disorders (ASD) from 14 to 36 months of age, revealed that approximately half of all children with autism can be diagnosed around the first birthday. The remaining half will be diagnosed later, and their development may unfold very differently than children whose ASD is diagnosable around the first birthday. Early diagnosis of the disorder allows for early intervention, which can make a major difference in helping children with autism reach their full potential.

Researchers examined social and communication development in infants at high and low risk for ASD starting at 14 months of age and ending at 30 or 36 months (a small minority of the children exited the study at 30 months). Half of the children with a final diagnosis of ASD made at 30 or 36 months of age had been diagnosed with the disorder at 14 months, and the other half were diagnosed after 14 months. Through repeated observation and the use of standardized tests of development, researchers identified, for the first time, disruptions in social, communication and play development that were indicative of ASD in 14-month olds. Multiple signs indicating these developmental disruptions appear simultaneously in children with the disorder.

Dr. Rebecca Landa, lead study author and director of Kennedy Krieger's Center for Autism and Related Disorders, and her colleagues identified the following signs of developmental disruptions for which parents and pediatricians should be watching:

- Abnormalities in initiating communication with others;

- Compromised ability to initiate and respond to opportunities to share experiences with others;
- Irregularities when playing with toys;
- Significantly reduced variety of sounds, words and gestures used to communicate;

“For a toddler with autism, only a limited set of circumstances – like when they see a favorite toy, or when they are tossed in the air – will lead to fleeting social engagement,” said Landa. “The fact that we can identify this at such a young age is

“The fact that we can identify this at such a young age is extremely exciting, because it gives us an opportunity to diagnose children with ASD very early on when intervention may have a great impact on development.”

extremely exciting, because it gives us an opportunity to diagnose children with ASD very early on when intervention may have a great impact on development.”

The current study reveals that autism often involves a progression, with the disorder claiming or presenting itself between 14 and 24 months of age. Some children with only mild delays at 14 months of age could go on to be diagnosed with ASD. Landa and her colleagues observed distinct differences in the developmental paths, or trajectories, of children with early versus later diagnosis of ASD. While some children developed very slowly and displayed social and communication abnormalities associated with ASD at 14 months of age, others showed only mild delays with a gradual onset of autism symptoms, culminating in the diagnosis of ASD by 36 months.

While there are currently no standardized, published criteria for diagnosing children with autism at or around one year of age, Landa's goal is to develop these criteria based on this and other autism studies currently underway at the Kennedy Krieger Institute. Landa and her colleagues at the Institute plan on releasing preliminary diagnostic criteria for very young children with autism in an upcoming report.

Source: Kennedy Krieger Institute



TULSA ADVOCATES FOR THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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The TARC newsletter is published monthly by the Tulsa Advocates for the Rights of Citizens With Developmental Disabilities, Inc., to inform readers about issues and legislative action that affect adults, children, their families, and the dedicated people who work with this challenging population. The contents do not necessarily represent the official position of TARC.

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HELP TARC HELP FAMILIES – BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

Free Trainings for Parents!



In collaboration with the Oklahoma Parent Training and Information Center, TARC is offering free trainings to parents of children in the special education system. Trainings are offered in communities across the state. Topics include:

- IDEA 2004
- Communication and Advocacy
- Part C (birth-3 services)
- Writing Individualized Education Programs (IEP)
- Transition to Adulthood

Visit www.oklahomarent.org for a full listing of training dates, topics, and locations or call Sherilyn Walton, 918-582-8272 for more information. Trainings are free, but RSVPs are requested.

Connections Asperger's Group

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, August 22 - 4:30 p.m.
Hardesty Library, 8316 E. 93rd St.

The "Connections" Asperger's Group is a social skills group for adolescents and young adults with Asperger's Syndrome. The group meets monthly. Contact Sherilyn or Amie at 918-582-8272 for more information.



Activities group for adults with developmental disabilities
Thursdays • 1:00-2:30 p.m.
McClure Recreation Center
7440 E. 7th Street in Tulsa
Contact: Amie, 918-582-8272



Hispanic Parents Support Group

El Grupo Hispano de Apoyo a Padres de Familia

Next Meeting: Monday, August 27
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Martin Regional Library, 2601 S. Garnett

For more information, call Zaida at 918-582-8272



Next Meeting:
Thursday, August 30
7:00-9:00 p.m.

Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church,
4102 E. 61st St., Room B-8
• No child care provided

The mission of the Moms & Dads Support Group is to nurture and support families whose children have a developmental disability, to encourage positive strategies in dealing with challenges, and to share in the joy of raising our children.

Contact: Sherilyn, 918-582-8272



TULSA PEOPLE FIRST

Next Meeting:
Tuesday, August 14

Bishop's Family Dining
11111 E. 41st St.
Dinner-5:30 p.m.
Meeting-6:30 p.m.

For more information, call Amie at 918-582-8272



For more information, contact Sherilyn, 918-582-8272.

Next Meeting:
Tuesday, August 21
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

SAPULPA

Support Group for Families of Children with Special Needs

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 21, 6:15 p.m.
Creek County Literacy Center, 15 N. Poplar
Childcare is not provided, but please take advantage of Sapulpa's great Respite Care Program!

For more information, contact Mindy Littlefield, 378-5632