



# TARC NEWSLETTER

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

## September 2007

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## Some Thoughts on Advocacy and the Nature of Advocates

by John F. Gajda, TARC Executive Director

At TARC we like to say we are in the advocacy business. We use the term advocacy frequently - almost casually – often referring to individuals as advocates.

Each year the TARC Advocacy Awards recognize outstanding advocates for people with disabilities. As the process to select the 17<sup>th</sup> annual award winners begins, I have been thinking about the nature of advocacy and the individuals we describe as advocates.

The dictionary defines an “advocate” as one who champions the cause of another. Seems simple enough. Many people, at one time or another, speak out on behalf of someone else. That makes them advocates. Doesn't it?

Perhaps, but I have read and thought a lot about advocacy through the years and have had the opportunity to witness many people who I believe are outstanding advocates. I have come to recognize that those who are most effective do much more than simply speaking out. They bring other qualities to their advocacy efforts that can produce more dramatic results.

My perspective on advocacy has been influenced by several leaders in the disability field. In my bookshelf I still have a small, well-worn monograph published by the Canadian Association for the Mentally Retarded in 1977 that I acquired early in my professional career that has been a core reference for me on advocacy. It is titled *A Multi-component Advocacy/Protection Schema* and was written by Wolf Wolfensberger who is better known for his work at Syracuse University. He has been a major influence on disability policy and practice in the United States and elsewhere through his development of Social Role Valorization. In this particular publication he talks about advocacy and tries to differentiate between run-of-the-mill efforts to speak out on behalf of others and what he considered true advocacy.

Wolfensberger wrote about the three essential qualities of what he considered true advocacy:

- First, he said it had a vigor and vehemence. He considered speaking for someone in inaudible whispers as conscious soothing at worst and

*please see “Advocates” on pg. 2*

Affiliated with



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)

## “Advocates,” from pg.1

prayer at best. He said that advocacy implies fervor and depth of feeling and calls for something more than what is routine.

- Second, he indicated that the essence of advocacy implies a distinct cost to the advocate. Even fervent advocacy is cheap advocacy, he cautioned, if it cost nothing more than a shout there, a little excitement here or a bit of traditional consideration and thoughtfulness.
- Finally he said that those advocating should be maximally free of conflict of interest. An advocate can't have anything to personally gain from their action.

Another leader in the field who influenced my thinking about advocacy was Dr. Elizabeth Boggs, a parent and internationally renowned policy advocate for people with developmental disabilities. She was one of those early activists who banded together in the early 1950's to found what is now The Arc of the U.S. I suspect that she wore the “Parent from Hell” designation, given by bureaucrats to those parent advocates who aggressively challenge the status quo, with pride. TARC has an old Chapter Affiliation Certificate signed by Elizabeth when she was the national president of the organization in 1954.

I remember sitting around with a group of other professionals under the trees at an inn in Vermont listening to Elizabeth Boggs talk about advocacy. As she shared stories of her decades of advocacy for people with disabilities, it became evident that she was a talking, acting, breathing example of what it meant to be an advocate. I remember her recollections from those early days and her recanting of strategy and process. From her recollections I have no doubt that she agreed with Wolfensberger's insistence that advocacy required a vigor and vehemence. But it was her categorization of advocates that I will always remember. She said that there were two stages that people go through in their advocacy career. In stage one, they speak out because they have something to gain for themselves or a family member. They go to service planning meetings, make calls, lobby for more money, etc. that they will personally benefit from. According to Elizabeth, most people she had worked alongside

were at this level. A small number evolve to a second stage. They were the advocates who spoke out because they were committed to improving the system. They went to rallies and hearings about special education when they didn't have school aged children. They wrote their legislators to support funds for programs their children did not receive services from. Their cause was disability rights. I relate this more evolved stage of advocacy that Elizabeth spoke of to the third essential quality from Wolfensberger's list of elements – true advocates can't have anything to personally gain from their action. Elizabeth stipulated that not all people evolved to this second stage of advocacy, but those who did had a more profound commitment to the cause and had a greater impact on the disability rights movement.

Both of these individuals have influenced how I view advocacy. They set some pretty tough standards for advocates but I consider their standards whenever I am tempted to accept something less in my own advocacy efforts.

I believe that the power of advocacy can make a difference in the lives of individuals in Oklahoma. TARC is committed to promoting the power of advocacy and we strongly encourage and support the ongoing advocacy activities on behalf of the people with developmental disabilities in Oklahoma.

Each year through the Advocacy Awards, TARC searches for those individuals who in the spirit of Wolf Wolfensberger and Elizabeth Boggs, speak up for people with developmental disabilities – or speak out about issues that affect their lives and their families' lives – and in so doing exhibit the spirit of true advocacy. These awards shine the spotlight on those successes that are essential to the ongoing process of creating and maintaining an effective community-based service system that meets the needs of people with disabilities.

In this edition of the TARC Newsletter, printed on pink paper, is the nomination form for the 2007 TARC Advocacy Awards. Help us to find the champions in our communities throughout Oklahoma whose advocacy for people with disabilities has aimed for these standards and as a result have made a difference. Return the form and nominate them for the recognition they deserve.

# The Arc Introduces Online Database to Match Families with Their Missing Family Member with a Disability



For decades, parents of children with disabilities were advised by professionals to institutionalize their child and in effect “forget you ever had them.” Of the more than 500,000 people in out-of-home residential settings, experts report that a high percentage have no regular contact with their family. States are gradually replacing their institutions with smaller, community-based residential settings that support family connections, but there has been no good way, until now, to actually help make that connection happen. As a result, most people in these settings have no families to help them make decisions, no one to call them on their birthday, no one to share holidays. Now, there is an opportunity for family members to reunite: The Arc’s FindFamily Registry.

No one really knows the impact that a “disappeared” relative has on them until they finally make contact. In Oregon, Jeff Daly recently documented the discovery of his sister Molly after a 47 year separation. In his documentary “Where’s Molly?,” ([www.wheresmolly.net](http://www.wheresmolly.net)) Daly did not realize that losing Molly when he was only six years old would effect him so profoundly, even as an adult. “When Molly went away, she was only 3 years old. When I found her she was about to have her 50th birthday. I can’t begin to describe the joy I felt in singing ‘Happy Birthday’ to her. Finding Molly made me a whole person again and Molly has enjoyed the love of a large extended family including my children and grandchildren.”

Daly’s story was highlighted on CNN in August to promote the Registry and illustrate the need for such a service. To view the story with videos, blog and ancillary material, visit: [http://](http://www.cnn.com/2007/HEALTH/08/01/wheres.molly/index.html)

[www.cnn.com/2007/HEALTH/08/01/wheres.molly/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2007/HEALTH/08/01/wheres.molly/index.html).

As the parent of an adult with intellectual disabilities, Sue Swenson, executive director of The Arc of the United States, knows a lot about family issues: “We know every family is different, every person is different – and every state is different, too. FindFamily can only go so far to help families connect. You will probably need to have an advocate or a lawyer to make a real connection happen. Sometimes a trusted friend or counselor can help too. We hope to help find missing loved ones, but reconnecting will almost

certainly not be easy. We know there will still be frustration ... and fear. We believe these will be balanced by joy ... and love.”

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**“In the Registry, people can easily give basic information on themselves and the people they’re looking for. We will contact them if we find a match!”**

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“In the Registry, people can easily give basic information on themselves and the people they’re looking for. We will contact them if we find a match,” said Elbert Johns, a member of The Arc staff. “We will make sure that the person with a disability either has the ability to give consent to release personal information, or is properly represented by a person who can. We’ll also make sure that the family member who is seeking contact has a legitimate reason for doing so.” Online searching of the Registry will not be offered.

As of mid-August, 166 families from 41 states and Kuwait have registered to find a lost family member, and 33 people with disabilities have registered as wanting to be found. To enter information in the FindFamily Registry, go to [www.thearcclink.org/findfamily](http://www.thearcclink.org/findfamily).

Source: The Arc

## Justice Department Reaches Settlement with YMCA Child Care Centers Over Policies Relating to Children with Autism



The Justice Department has announced a settlement agreement with the West End YMCA, headquartered in Ontario, Calif., that resolves an investigation into alleged discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The agreement covers associated YMCA branches in Ontario, Chino, Upland, and Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.

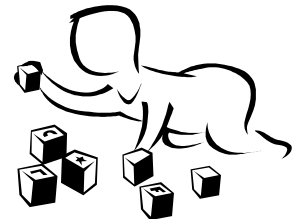
The underlying complaint filed with the Justice Department alleged that the West End YMCA terminated a child from its after-school child care program because the child has autism. Under the agreement, the West End YMCA will implement policies and procedures to ensure that children with disabilities are afforded a full and equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from YMCA child care programs. Procedures for requesting reasonable modifications to the child care program will be published in the organization's parent handbooks, and YMCA staff involved in child care decisions will be trained on ADA obligations in the child care setting. The West End YMCA also agreed to pay monetary damages to the complainant.

"Ensuring that children with disabilities, and their families, have equal access to reliable child care goes to the heart of the ADA's promises and protections," said Wan J. Kim, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division.

Under Title III of the ADA, private child care providers are prohibited from discriminating on the basis of disability, and must make reasonable modifications to policies, practices and procedures to afford individuals with disabilities the opportunity to participate and benefit from the child care services. Additional information about the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department is available at <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/>

Source: U.S. Department of Justice

## ADA 101: Parents' Basic Rights Regarding Child Care



There are many things to consider when placing a child with special needs with a child care provider, such as the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) child care laws, what questions to ask and what to look for when visiting a potential center or caregiver.

With the exception of child care centers run by religious entities, all child care providers, including small home based providers, must comply with Title III of the ADA laws. According to the Department of Justice website, the basic requirements of Title III are as follows:

- Centers cannot exclude children with disabilities from their programs unless their presence would pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others or require a fundamental alteration of the program.
- Centers have to make reasonable modifications to their policies and practices to integrate children, parents, and guardians with disabilities into their programs, unless doing so would constitute a fundamental alteration.
- Centers must provide appropriate auxiliary aides and services needed for effective communication with children or adults with disabilities, when doing so would not constitute an undue burden.
- Centers must generally make their facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. Existing facilities are subject to the readily achievable standard for barrier removal, while newly constructed facilities and any altered portions of existing facilities must be fully accessible.

Source: [www.connectforkids.org](http://www.connectforkids.org)



## Resources for Professionals

The Institute on Community

Integration at the University of Minnesota has released two reports for professionals working in the developmental disabilities field.

*Residential Services for Persons with Developmental Disabilities: Status and Trends Through 2006*, provides statistics by state for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006. The report includes long-term trends in residential services, settings, populations and expenditures for persons with developmental disabilities in state, non-state, and Medicaid-funded residential programs in the United States. Resident characteristics, movement and staffing patterns in large state residential facilities are also included.

*National Validation Study of Competencies for Frontline Supervisors and Direct Support Professionals* reports findings from a study examining organizational workforce outcomes; characteristics of and differences between managers, Frontline Supervisors (FLS) and Direct Support Professionals (DSPs); and workplace competencies, training needs, and timing of training for FLS and DSPs. Using survey methodologies, the study validated nationally the results of two comprehensive Minnesota analyses of competencies needed by DSPs and FLS, extending the existing analyses by sampling DSPs, FLSs, and managers in 77 agencies in five states.

Both reports are available online at <http://rtc.umn.edu/publications/>.

Source: Monday Morning in Washington

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## New Oral Health Resources Available



“A Look Back: Lessons in Family Activism and Recommendations to Address Today’s Oral Health Challenges for Children with Special Health Care Needs” discusses family activism in the care of children with disabilities and examines the successes and obstacles families have encountered from the 1970’s to the present regarding family centered care, availability of resources and health care services, and financing.

The article is available online at: [http://www.aapd.org/searcharticles/article.asp?ARTICLE\\_ID=2153](http://www.aapd.org/searcharticles/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=2153) and a fact sheet outlining points to remember when choosing a dental healthcare provider for your child with special needs is available at: <http://www.familyvoices.org/pub/general/BFDenHealthHandoutOct05.pdf>.

Source: Family Voices

## Health Statistics by State Available Online



Data from the Social Security Administration (SSA) on beneficiaries receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) as of December 2005 are now available by state and region, as is data from the Social Security Administration (SSA) on SSI recipients as of December 2006.

The distribution of SSI recipients by eligibility category and age are also available. For information on SSDI data, visit: <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparemaptable.jsp?ind=344&cat=6>; for information on SSI data, visit: <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparemaptable.jsp?ind=253&cat=4>.

Source: Monday Morning in Washington

# 17th Annual TARC Advocacy Awards Call for Nominations

TARC is accepting nominations for the 17th Annual Advocacy Awards, to be held **December 3** in Tulsa. Anyone can nominate advocates for recognition by following these simple steps:

- Complete both sides of the nomination form and mail or fax to TARC.
- Return nominations to TARC by 5:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, October 10**.
- Nominations are reviewed by a selection committee, which slates at least three nominees in each category, based on quality of advocacy described in the nomination.
- The selection committee reserves the right to withhold an award in any category in which an insufficient number of nominations are submitted.
- Award recipients are selected through a vote of the TARC membership. Ballots will be mailed to all members in good standing (dues paid) as of October 15, 2007.



## Certificate of Appreciation to

**Insert the name  
of your favorite  
advocate here!**

---

*For excellence in advocacy on behalf of  
individuals with developmental disabilities.*

# 2007 TARC Advocacy Awards Nomination Form

## Advocacy Award Categories

### ***Advocate - Board Member:***

Recognizes a member of the board of directors of any non-profit, community-based service provider who has gone beyond the interest of his or her agency to become an advocate for all people with disabilities. *Jennifer Miller & Michelle Wilkerson were the 2006 recipients.*

### ***Advocate - Case Manager:***

Recognizes the OKDHS/ DDS case manager who has surpassed job requirements to advocate for his or her clients. *Renee Butler was the 2006 recipient.*

### ***Advocate - Direct Care***

***Provider:*** Recognizes the direct contact staff person, working for a community provider, who has gone beyond job requirements to advocate for people with disabilities. *Jynell Cowett was the 2006 recipient for Direct Care Provider and Julie Hamby was the 2006 recipient for Direct Care Supervisor.*

### ***Advocate - Educator:***

Recognizes a public school educator who has promoted the inclusion of children

with disabilities in regular school settings. *Denise Graeff was the 2006 recipient.*

### ***Advocate - Professional Provider:***

Recognizes any professional such as a therapist or physician who advocates for people with disabilities beyond their professional responsibilities. *Maureen Knudson was the 2006 recipient.*

### ***Advocate - Volunteer:***

Recognizes the volunteer or group of volunteers who, in a program serving people with developmental disabilities, has gone beyond the call of duty to advocate. *The Sapulpa Fire Department was the 2006 recipient.*

***Elected Official:*** Recognizes an elected official who has effectively promoted better understanding and integration of people with disabilities in employment, education, and the community. *No award was presented in 2006.*

***Media Advocate:*** Recognizes the media professional who has effectively promoted better understanding and

integration of people with disabilities living in the community. *Leigh Woosley was the 2006 recipient.*

***Parent Advocate:*** Recognizes the parent(s) of a person with developmental disabilities who has been a voice for all people with disabilities. *Karen and Ron Wasson were the 2006 recipients.*

***Self-Advocate:*** Recognizes the self-advocate who has spoken out for all people with disabilities. *Teri Burnstein was the 2006 recipient.*

### ***Special Achievement in Advocacy:***

Recognizes the individual, business, or organization not included in other categories, which through a significant advocacy effort has improved the lives of people with disabilities. *Jerry Durbin was the 2006 recipient of a "Local Impact" award and Michael Chambers was the 2006 recipient of a "Statewide Impact" award.*

Nomination forms must be received by 5:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, October 10, 2007**. Mail the completed 2-page form to TARC, 16 E. 16th St. Ste. 405, Tulsa, OK 74119-4447, or fax to 918-582-3628.

# 2007 TARC Advocacy Awards Nomination Form

Please make duplicate copies of this form for each nomination and/or category. If you need extra space to answer these questions, please limit additional pages to two typed sheets. You may include a maximum of three letters of support for your nominee(s) and up to four other applicable attachments such as newspaper clippings, programs, etc., per nominee.

## *Select Category of Nominee* (For definitions, see "Advocacy Award Categories" on p. 2)

Individuals may not **win** an Advocacy Award in the same category more than once. Please do not nominate a past winner in a category they have previously won. Individuals **may be re-nominated** in a given category multiple times, so long as they have never won in that category. Individuals may win advocacy awards in more than one category, but no one person may win the same category more than once.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate - Board Member          | <input type="checkbox"/> Elected Official                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate - Case Manager          | <input type="checkbox"/> Media Advocate                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate - Direct Care Provider  | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent Advocate                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate - Educator              | <input type="checkbox"/> Self - Advocate                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate - Professional Provider | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Achievement in Advocacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate - Volunteer             |  |

### 1. What is the name, title, address, and telephone number of the nominee?

*(It is very important that this information is correct, especially the spelling of the nominee's name. If the nominee is an organization, please provide the name of the primary contact at that organization.)*

Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
city state zip

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
area code

### 2. Describe the projects or activities in which the nominee participated on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities.

- Form continues on back -

Questions? Call 800-688-8272 or 918-582-8272

**3. Describe the ways in which the nominee advocated for individuals with developmental disabilities.**

**4. Why is the nominee deserving of special recognition?**

**5. Use this space (or attach up to two pages) to make any additional comments.**

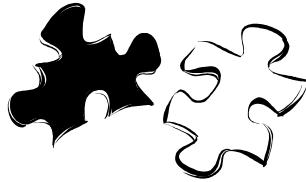
**6. Please list your (nominator) name, address and phone number.**

*Questions? Call 800-688-8272 or 918-582-8272*

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*All nomination forms become the property of TARC and will be kept confidential.*

# CMS Releases Promising Practices Reports for Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders



The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced the availability of three new promising practices reports that focus on Services for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs). Since 1999, CMS has developed an on-line repository of more than 75 Promising Practices in Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) to highlight State efforts to enable persons of any age who have a disability or long-term illness to live in the most integrated community setting appropriate to their individual support requirements and preferences, exercise meaningful choices, and obtain quality services.

The on-line *Promising Practices Reports* disseminate timely information on program and policy innovation. These reports on ASDs are part of the CMS' participation in the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC), created through the Combating Autism Act of 2006.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that about 1 in 150 children have an ASD, with males predominantly affected. ASDs are developmental disabilities that create impairments in social interaction and communication, and include unusual behaviors and interests. Individuals with ASDs have unusual ways of learning, paying attention, and reacting to different sensations. The abilities of children and adults with ASDs can vary, from gifted to challenged. An ASD typically begins before age three and lasts throughout an individual's lifetime.

New reports are available on the following innovative programs and policies:

## California - *Single Process for Diagnosis and Service Delivery*

Two multi-county regions in California established one-stop clinics to diagnose ASDs and coordinate service planning across the education and developmental disabilities systems. Both regions also established ongoing collaborative teams to

coordinate supports and improve the local service system for children with ASDs. An evaluation reported a four-month reduction in the average age of diagnosis.

## Connecticut- *Pilot Program for Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders*

Connecticut is operating a State-funded HCBS pilot program to help adults with ASDs gain skills to join the regular workforce. The program serves people with ASDs who do not qualify for the State's Medicaid HCBS waivers. This pilot program targets individuals who need continued supports to pursue employment opportunities and improve their independent living skills.

## Delaware - *Supported Employment for Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders*

Delaware has helped adults with ASDs work alongside people without disabilities, using both supported and competitive employment. The State emphasizes early transition planning for youth exiting the school system. It also provides additional hours of support for Medicaid waiver participants with challenging behaviors. Over 50 HCBS waiver participants with ASD who live in Delaware are employed in the community.

The new reports focusing on ASDs are available at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/promisingpractices/>

Source: Monday Morning in Washington

## Disabilities Speaker Series Set for October

*In celebration of October as Disabilities Awareness month, TARC will once again present the Disabilities Month Speaker Series. Topics will include:*

- Estate planning for your child with special needs
- Oklahoma's autism pilot and self-directed services
- Cultural competency for providers and staff
- What you can learn from your child with special needs

*Dates, times and locations for each talk will be announced in the October newsletter or visit [www.ddadvocacy.net](http://www.ddadvocacy.net) for more information!*

# Autism News Roundup

## As Autism Diagnoses Grow, So Do Number of Fad Treatments

SAN FRANCISCO – Ineffective or even dangerous fad treatments for autism, always a problem, seem to be growing more pervasive, according to researchers who studied the problem.

“Developmental disabilities like autism are a magnet for all kinds of unsupported or disproved therapies, and it has gotten worse as more children have been diagnosed with autism,” said James Mulick, professor of pediatrics and psychology at Ohio State University. “There’s no cure for autism, and many parents are willing to believe anything if they come to think it could help their child.”

Tracy Kettering, a doctoral student in special education at Ohio State, said a Google search for the phrase “autism treatment” yields more than 2.2 million matches. “You get hundreds of different types of therapies that come up, and many have quotes from parents that claim a particular therapy ‘cured’ their child, Kettering said. It’s no wonder that parents want to believe, but very few of these treatments have any evidence to support them.”

Some of the newer, more popular fad treatments for autism involve special diets or nutritional supplements. Megadoses of Vitamins C and B6 are popular, as well as supplements with fatty acids like omega-3s. A casein and/or gluten-free diet, which involves eliminating dairy and wheat products, has also gained favor with some parents.

And while some fads are simply ineffective, others can even be dangerous, Mulick said. Chelation therapy, which involves taking medicines to remove the heavy metal mercury from the body, has reportedly led to the death of at least one young boy receiving that treatment. Chelation therapy was also touted years ago as a new treatment against some forms of cancer but was eventually shown to have no helpful effect.

Many parents try multiple approaches, hoping at least one will help. Kettering said one survey she found suggests that the average parent of a child with autism has tried seven different therapies. “We’re not saying that all of these treatments don’t work or that they are all dangerous,” Kettering said. “But the research hasn’t been done to suggest that most of them are effective or even safe.”

Many of the treatments may have just enough basis in scientific fact to attract attention, even if the treatment itself is unproven. For instance, most scientists believe that many cases of autism are caused by genetic mutations, and some mutations can be caused by various chemicals that we encounter in our everyday lives, Mulick said. But still, there is no evidence that any particular chemical causes mutations that lead to autism, as some have claimed. “There’s a shred of truth in the rationale presented for some fad treatments, and that is enough for some people to go with,” he said.

Another reason that fad treatments persist has to do with the natural course of autism, Mulick said. Autism, like many conditions, has cycles in which symptoms get worse and then get better. Parents tend to search for treatments when symptoms are getting worse, and when their children get better – as they do in the normal course of disease – parents credit the new therapy. “It’s natural to have this bias that the therapy you’re trying has had some positive effect,” he said. “People want to believe.”

While other treatments are still being investigated, right now the only therapy that has been shown to have a long-term positive affect on autism is called Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention, Mulick said. EIBI is a highly structured approach to learning, in which children with autism are taught first to imitate their teachers. But this treatment is very time-consuming and labor intensive. It involves one-on-one behavioral treatment with the child for up to 40 hours a week for several years. “It’s expensive and difficult for many parents to use,” Mulick said. “That’s got to be one reason other treatments look attractive to them.”

Mulick said other treatments and therapies are being studied. However, it takes years to test treatments for autism because of the nature of the disease and problems with proving effectiveness. “Autism studies are a long, time-consuming, and expensive process,” Mulick said. “And some of the fad treatments being used today would never be approved for testing – they are just too dangerous.”

Source: Ohio State University



# TULSA ADVOCATES FOR THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

16 EAST 16th STREET SUITE 405  
TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74119-4447

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## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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.oklahomaparent.org](http://www.oklahomaparent.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, Sept. 26 - 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, Sept. 24**  
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, Sept. 27  
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, Sept. 11

Ryan's Steakhouse  
10934 E. 21st 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, September 18  
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

## SAPULPA

## Support Group for Families of Children with Special Needs

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 18, 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