



TARC NEWSLETTER

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

February 2008

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Looking Toward the Upcoming Legislative Session

by John F. Gajda, TARC Executive Director

Football season is over, hunting season has come and gone, but the legislative season is about to begin!

Just as deer season begins each year on the third Saturday of November, the legislative season begins on the first Monday of February when the Oklahoma Legislature convenes for its annual session. This year on Monday, February 4, our elected representatives will meet in Oklahoma City to officially begin the 2008 legislative session of the 51st Oklahoma Legislature.

The legislature will have new bills to consider but because this is the second session of the 51st legislature, some measures are carried over from last year and could still be considered. In the Senate, members will have 1,069 new Senate bills and 38 new resolutions to consider. In the House, members will have 1,205 new House bills and 67 new resolutions on the agenda. This is not a record number, but is still many more bills than can be given serious debate and it is expected that a much small number will make it out of committees for consideration on the floor by all members by the deadline toward the end of February. Possible action on carry over measures that are dormant because they failed to advance last year is always the wild card during the second session of a legislature and these bills need to be monitored for activity. A detailed review of the new measures will be included in the March edition of the TARC Newsletter.

Although the season is just beginning, some themes are already emerging. Most reports from initial agency budget committee hearings indicate that the consensus is that funding will be tight this year, although there is no agreement on exactly how tight. Actions during past legislative sessions continue to reduce available funds. It will not be a good year for expanded funding for services for people with disabilities. (Although neither was last year when, arguably, there was money available.) Unexpected changes in House leadership, with Representative Cargill resigning as speaker, could affect activity in that chamber.

The beginning of a new legislative season always holds promise for people with disabilities but the final tally won't be known until the season ends on the last Friday in May. Results depend on how we play the game.



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)

Regulatory Policymaking in the Bush Administration

Disability advocates often see legislation as the main vehicle to protect and advance the interests of people with disabilities, their families/caregivers, and service providers. There is, however, an equally important vehicle that tends to receive less attention from advocates – regulatory reform – which can be used for or against our interests.

As the Bush Administration winds down in its final year, it is seeking to accomplish through regulatory reform what it has not been able to achieve through legislation. One of the Administration's main objectives has been to cut costs for the \$346 billion federal/state Medicaid program. It has sought to do so by limiting program eligibility and reimbursement for services for the 50 million citizens with disabilities and/or low income enrolled in the program. The Administration states that it is seeking regulatory changes to the Medicaid program in order to curb abuses and to require states to pick up a greater share of the tab.

The Administration is taking this back-door regulatory reform approach to cost cutting because it is far easier than through legislative reform, because the federal legislative process is more transparent and better understood by the public than is the regulatory process.

Two particular proposed regulations have been the focus of our efforts:

1 – The so called “rehab option” regulation. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) that would amend the definition of Medicaid rehabilitation services to prohibit payment for habilitation services. The Administration is seeking to save \$2.2 billion over 5 years by cutting habilitation services.

CMS indicates that it will work with states to transition habilitation services to other authorities in the Medicaid program, such as the Home and Community Based waivers or the new Home and Community Based option. However, the problem with shifting these services to other authorities such as these is that services could then be capped and means tested, and states could be

allowed to maintain waiting lists. The proposed rule appears to prohibit people with “mental retardation and related conditions” from receiving any services through the rehabilitation option.

2 - The school based administrative and transportation costs regulation. This NPRM is the other Bush Administration Medicaid regulation of great concern to us. This proposed regulation restricts schools from being reimbursed for certain administrative and transportation costs for students with disabilities.

The Administration is seeking to save \$3.6 billion over 5 years by cutting these services. The vast majority of school systems affected by these cuts will have only one option – to reduce services to the children, since school systems don't have funding to replace the lost Medicaid dollars.

Fortunately, Congress has the authority to delay the implementation of regulations through a legally authorized postponement known as a “moratorium.” A moratorium buys Congress time to review the regulations closely and propose needed revisions through legislation before the regulations go into effect.

The Administration's regulatory policy making is not limited to the Medicaid program and it is being taken even further by federal agencies. There have been numerous instances of agencies inserting language into regulations that substantially impacts programs, drawing increasing ire from Congress.

“Too often, such program changes are tried with little or no regard for the hurt it will cause the recipients of services. In the matter of the two current proposed rules under consideration, both will have a devastating impact on children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities” said Paul Marchand, the Staff Director of The Arc and UCP Disability Policy Collaboration. “Parents and advocates must always remain diligent and active in protecting the services and supports we have worked so hard to achieve. Challenges like this surface all the time and we must never waver or be caught off guard.”

Source: Washington Watch, Volume 5, Issue 8

Social Security Administration Faces Hiring Freeze: Continues Work on Disability Backlog

The Social Security Administration (SSA) is operating with its lowest staffing level in over 30 years, has faced years of minimally increasing budgets, and is now facing a hiring freeze across the agency.

Even with the increased funding it received for Fiscal Year 2008, SSA will have limited resources to maintain its current level of services and drive down the hearings backlog. SSA must pay mandatory cost increases, such as rent and employee benefits, throughout SSA's 1,400 field and hearing offices. As some smaller office leases have come up for renewal in 2007, SSA has closed or consolidated 15 field offices.

The following measures are now in place in the hopes of increasing efficiency:

- **Issuance of a final rule on September 5, 2007 extending nationwide its Quick Disability Determination (QDD) process.** Under QDD, a predictive model analyzes specific elements of data within the electronic claims file to identify claims where there is a high potential that the claimant is disabled and where evidence of the person's allegations can be quickly and easily obtained.
- **Redefining "Aged" Cases.** "Aged" cases, defined as cases pending 1,000 days or more, will be redefined as cases pending for at least 900 days and will again attempt to resolve all of these cases by the end of the fiscal year.
- **Establishment of a National Hearing Center (NHC)** so that a centralized cadre of Administrative Law Judges (ALJs) can now use video hearing technology to hear cases in the most backlogged parts of the country.

"Our goal is to build upon this year's achievements and, with the support of Congress, continue to improve the service we provide to millions of disabled Americans," said SSA Commissioner Michael Astrue.

Source: Washington Watch, Volume 5, Issue 8

Students with Disabilities' Access to Accelerated Programs



Due to reports of schools and districts where qualified students with disabilities have been prevented from participating in accelerated programs, or in some cases, were required to give up services and accommodations in order to participate, the Office for Civil Rights reaffirmed its responsibility and commitment to uphold Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by entities of State and local government, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Section 504 and Title II require that qualified students with disabilities be given the same opportunities to compete for and benefit from accelerated programs and classes as are given to students without disabilities. To read more about the U.S. Department of Education's policy letter addressing the issue, visit <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-20071226.html>.

Source: Capitol Insider, Volume 13, Issue 2, published by the Disability Policy Collaboration

New Statistics for People with Disabilities in the Federal Workforce

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) recently released its report on the participation rate of people with targeted disabilities in the federal workforce. In addition to noting that the 2006 participation rate (0.94%) is the lowest in 20 years, the report also contains recommendations for improving the performance of the federal government in hiring people with targeted disabilities. To view the report visit www.eeoc.gov/federal/report/pwtd.html.

Source: EEOC

February 2008

NIH Develops Down Syndrome Research Plan



The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has developed a research plan to advance understanding of Down syndrome and speed development of new treatments for the condition, the most frequent genetic cause of mild to moderate mental retardation and associated medical problems. The plan sets research goals for the next 10 years that build upon earlier research advances fostered by the NIH.

“Through the years, the NIH research effort has led to increased understanding of Down syndrome,” said Elias

Zerhouni, M.D., director of the National Institutes of Health. “We are now poised to capitalize on these advances and improve the health of people with Down syndrome.”

Down syndrome occurs in 1 out of every 800 births in the United States. Down syndrome most frequently results from an extra copy of chromosome 21 in the body’s cells. In most cases, this extra chromosome comes from the mother. In some cases, forms of Down syndrome can result from just having an extra portion of chromosome 21. The chance of giving birth to a baby with Down syndrome increases as women age.

Infants with Down syndrome have certain characteristic physical features, such as short stature, distinctive facial features and are more likely to have health conditions like hearing loss, heart malformations, hypertension, digestive problems, and vision disorders. Although Down syndrome is the most common cause of mild to moderate intellectual disability, the condition occasionally is severe. People with Down syndrome are also much more likely to die from infections if left untreated.

The NIH’s National Institute of Child Health and Human Development convened a working group of NIH scientists. Through a public comment process, the scientists listened to

comments and suggestions from families of individuals with Down Syndrome, as well as from Down Syndrome research advocacy organizations. The NIH scientists then developed the research plan in collaboration with researchers in the national scientific community.

Among the research objectives identified as priorities over the next 10 years is the need for greater access to laboratory animals with the characteristics of Down syndrome. The plan cites the need for increased research on the medical,

cognitive, and behavioral conditions that occur in people with Down syndrome. These conditions include leukemia, heart disease, sleep apnea, seizure disorders, stomach disorders and mental health problems.

The working group also identified the need to study

whether aging has a greater impact on mental processes in people with Down syndrome than in people who do not have Down syndrome. As adults, individuals with Down syndrome age prematurely and may experience dementia, memory loss or impaired judgment similar to that experienced by Alzheimer’s disease patients. The plan summarizes current research efforts by the various NIH institutes studying Down syndrome.

The research plan on Down syndrome “is intended to provide the NIH, and its member Institutes and Centers, with guidelines for prioritizing and coordinating future research related to Down syndrome,” wrote the members of the NIH Down syndrome working group in the report. The working group is moving forward to implement plan objectives. The plan’s short-term objectives are expected to be accomplished within the next three years.

The report is available on the NICHD website, http://www.nichd.nih.gov/publications/pubs/upload/NIH_Downsyntaxome_plan.pdf.

Source: NIH

“The research plan on Down syndrome is intended to provide the NIH, and its member Institutes and Centers, with guidelines for prioritizing and coordinating future research related to Down syndrome.”

AAFP Launches New Advocacy Website

The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) has launched a web-based tool designed to recruit motivated consumers who will advocate for the family health issues they care about.

The new site, *The Family Health Advocate*, shares information on issues such as the cost of health insurance and patient-centered medical homes, providing links for consumers to contact their elected officials and tips for making effective contact. Consumers can sign up to receive action alerts on issues, as well as a monthly e-newsletter. For more information, visit <http://www.familyhealthadvocate.org>.

Source: Monday Morning in Washington



Two New Public Policy Advocacy Publications Released

With the 2008 Oklahoma legislative session beginning, now is the time when policymakers, advocates and concerned citizens have the greatest need for concise and reliable information about the issues facing our state.

Two new publications from the Alliance for Oklahoma's Future, available to read and download online, will help make sense of Oklahoma's rapidly changing legislative and budget landscape.

The *2008 Legislative and Budget Primer* is a playbook for this year's Legislative Session that provides invaluable information that includes:

- a comprehensive listing of officeholders and legislative leaders, as well as committee and subcommittee chairs in both the State House and State Senate;
- an explanation of the State Senate's historic Power-Sharing Agreement;
- a step-by-step explanation of all the stages in the legislative process;
- the basics of the budget process that determine how much money is available to be spent by the Legislature each year; and
- a preview of major funding commitments state legislative leaders will be facing this session.

Oklahoma's Fiscal Outlook lays out the state's short-term and long-term budget issues from the perspective of maintaining adequate resources to achieve our common goals. The Alliance has developed a full-scale presentation that examines both our short-term budget outlook and the longer-term factors that are contributing to a looming structural budget deficit. Information includes:

- how we raise and allocate tax dollars;
- trends in revenue collections and appropriations;
- options for addressing budget shortfalls and components of the structural budget deficit; and
- principles for adequate and fair tax policy

These publications can be easily downloaded as a PDF at the Alliance website, www.okbudgetalliance.org.

Source: The Alliance for Oklahoma's Future

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

Free Caregiving Seminar Offered

The Grace-Abilities Ministry of Grace Church in Broken Arrow is providing a free seminar to assist caregivers with information and resources to make care decisions for loved ones.

Representatives from state and local agencies and community advocacy groups will be present, including TARC, Ability Resources, LIFE Senior Services, and more. Free health screenings are also available.

Date: Saturday, March 15

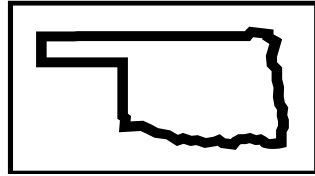
Time: 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Place: Grace Church Chapel (*use south parking area*)
9610 S. Garnett Road, Broken Arrow

No transportation, respite care, or childcare provided. RSVP preferred-visit www.gracetulsa.com and click on the "Grace Ability" icon to register. Registration is also available at the door.



Oklahoma Lawmakers to Consider Proposal to Mandate Insurance Coverage for Autism Treatment



A bill recently filed by Senator Jay Paul Gumm would mandate health insurance policies cover treatment for a disorder affecting nearly one in every 150 children.

Senate Bill 1537 would require insurance policies to cover health issues related to autistic disorders. National research shows that one in every 150 children will be diagnosed with some form of autism. Currently, 17 states have similar insurance mandates.

Gumm, a Democrat from Durant, said his bill – called “Nick’s Law” – would give more families in Oklahoma a chance to seek both diagnosis and treatment for an affliction that is growing at an alarming rate.

“Autism is as great as any health challenge a child and family would face,” the lawmaker said. “Health insurance policies should include protection from debilitating disorders like autism. Families facing autism should not have to worry whether an insurance company bureaucrat has determined it isn’t cost effective to cover diagnosis and treatment.”

Wayne Rohde – father of 10-year-old Nick and a member of a concerned group of parents and doctors called the Oklahoma Autism Coalition – said Oklahoma needs a legislative fix to help provide parents care that is needed.

Aggressive treatments can potentially give diagnosed autistic children aged 3 and younger a 50 percent chance of navigating through a mainstream public school system with limited assistance.

“Research shows us that early intervention is the key giving these children the best chance of fulfilling their God-given potential,” Gumm said. “Health insurance exists for challenges like this. No insured family should ever have to doubt whether they will get the help they expected when they bought insurance.”

Gumm said his bill is a reasonable, proactive plan to address a crippling problem that is affecting more families than ever.

“This coverage is desperately needed to give autistic children in Oklahoma an opportunity to have a healthy and traditional childhood experience,” he said. “As a matter of policy, this bill is an important first step in a long-term effort to ensure no Oklahoma child with autism will be left behind.”

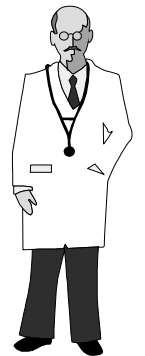
Source: Oklahoma State Senate

Tulsa Down Syndrome Study Needs Participants

Recent studies with adults indicate that it may be possible to improve the cognitive and language performance of persons with Down syndrome by administering a specific medication used to treat Alzheimer’s disease.

This same drug will now be tested in an upcoming clinical research study in Tulsa. Children between the ages of 10 to 17 years may, if they qualify, have the rare opportunity to participate in this pivotal study, to be conducted by Dr. Ralph Richter and his research team. Dr. Richter, a practicing neurologist in Tulsa, is well known nationwide for his enormous expertise in the field of Alzheimer’s disease.

The study is scheduled to start enrollment this month. Information can be obtained at Tulsa Clinical Research, phone number 877-798-7425 or (918) 743-2349.



Free Education Publications

The U.S. Department of Education offers free publications on a wide array of education topics. Booklets can be ordered for free on topics such as assistive technology, assessment, and auxiliary aids and services. Simply visit their website, check the booklets you would like to order, and they will be sent to you, free of charge. Visit <http://www.edpubs.ed.gov/webstore/Content/search.asp> for more information.

Source: Monday Morning in Washington



Video to Help Persons with Disabilities Prepare for Disaster

People with disabilities and special needs may need to make specific preparations for emergencies. This new, five-minute Homeland Security video provides helpful information on how to do so in three easy steps—(1) Get an Emergency Supply Kit; (2) Make a family emergency plan; and (3) Be informed about different types of emergencies. Viewers may download a list of items an emergency supply kit should contain, including special supplies needed for one's health and safety at <http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/disabled.html>.

2008 OK-APSE Employment Conference

The 21st annual Oklahoma APSE Employment Conference will be held February 26 and 27 at the Clarion Meridian Convention Center in Oklahoma City. Conference registration is free for attendees who pre-register by February 15.



The 2008 conference is titled *Work: Make Your Move* and will feature keynote speaker Richard Pimentel. Pimentel is a nationally renowned speaker and expert on disability management, rehabilitation, worker's compensation, and job retention.

The conference will also include numerous breakout sessions, featuring experts in employment strategies, technology and related services. In addition, Oklahoma professionals will offer their experiences, knowledge and success in providing customized employment for job seekers.

For registration information, contact Judi Goldston at 405-325-0448.

Free Online Partners in Policymaking Classes Offered

Five online courses are now available to anyone who would like to increase their knowledge and skills about advocating for people with disabilities. The goal of Partners in Policymaking is to educate participants to be active partners with those who make policy.

The conversion of the Partners program to an e-learning site gives Partners participants the opportunity to supplement their learning; Partners graduates can refresh their skills and stay current on best practices; and others can increase their knowledge and understanding of best practices in the disability field, and learn how to communicate effectively with their elected officials. For more information, visit <http://www.partnersinpolicymaking.com/online.html>

Source: Partners in Policymaking

NIMH Releases New Publications



The National Institute of Mental Health has released two new booklets, each available online, about anxiety disorders.

Always Embarrassed: Social Phobia details Social Anxiety Disorder and includes symptoms, treatment options and other information. The second booklet, *When Worry Gets Out of Control: Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD)*, offers insight into life with GAD as well as resources and advice for living with GAD. View both booklets by visiting <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/social-phobia-social-anxiety-disorder.shtml> and <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/generalized-anxiety-disorder.shtml>

Source: Monday Morning in Washington

Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007 Becomes Law



On December 29, President Bush signed into law the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007. The bill included a 6-month (until June 30, 2008) moratorium on restrictions on Medicaid payments for rehabilitation services or school-based administration and school-based transportation services.

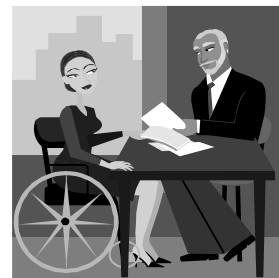
The new statutory moratorium prohibits the Secretary of Health and Human Services from taking any action to impose any restrictions on Medicaid payments for these services. This prohibition includes action through promulgation of regulation, issuance of regulatory guidance, use of federal payment audit procedures, or other administrative action, policy, or practice.

However, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services had published a final regulation on the school-based administration and school-based transportation services on December 28, the day *before* the bill was signed into law. It is unclear what impact the timing of the bill signing will have on the CMS regulation or its implementation. The Arc and UCP, with other advocates, worked extremely hard with Members of Congress to enact the moratorium. The 12/28 regulation can be found at: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/07-6220.pdf>

Source: Capitol Insider, Volume 12, Issue 49 published by the Disability Policy Collaboration

Disclosing Disability

Deciding if and when to disclose a disability is a difficult decision to make; however, two recent publications, attempt to make this decision a little easier.



The first publication, *The Art of Disclosing Your Disability*, asks and answers ten questions that develop a person's skills to address disability during an interview. The questions range from: "What are the benefits of me bringing up my disability in an interview?" to "What if I want my counselor or job developer to bring it up for me?"

The second publication, *Disclosure Decisions Guide: To Get the Job*, is a fact sheet that takes the person through three steps:

1. Choose how to disclose
2. Decide when to disclose, and
3. Determine the need for disclosure.

Richard Pimentel's *The Art of Disclosing Your Disability*, published by Milt Wright & Associates Inc. in November of 2007, is available at

<http://www.miltwright.com/articles/ArtOfDisclosingYourDisability.pdf>.
Disclosure Decisions Guide: To Get the Job, published by Virginia Commonwealth University, is available at http://www.worksupport.com/documents/disclosure_decisions.pdf.



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www.ddadvocacy.net
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Autism News Roundup

Autism Risk Higher in People with Gene Variant

Difference in Gene Appears to Pose More Risk When Inherited from Mothers

Scientists have found a variation in a gene that may raise the risk of developing autism, especially when the variant is inherited from mothers rather than fathers. The research was funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), part of the National Institutes of Health.

Inheriting the gene variant does not mean that a child will inevitably develop autism. It means that a child may be more vulnerable to developing the disease than are children without the variation.

The gene, CNTNAP2, makes a protein that enables brain cells to communicate with each other through chemical signals and appears to play a role in brain cell development. Previous studies have implicated the gene in autism, and in this study researchers were able to link a specific variation in its structure to the disease.

“Autism is highly heritable. Identifying the genes involved is crucial to our ability to map out the pathology of this isolating and sometimes terribly disabling disease, which currently has no cure,” said NIMH Director Thomas R. Insel, M.D.

Although the cause of autism is not yet clear, studies of twins have shown that genes play a major role. It is likely that variations in many genes, influenced by environmental factors, interact during brain development to cause vulnerability to the disease. These genes have yet to be identified. Several candidates, including CNTNAP2, have been suggested.

The assertion that the CNTNAP2 gene appears to be involved is strengthened by the fact that each of the different analytical approaches the researchers used in this study led to the same conclusion. Results were replicated in a second, larger group of participants, further implicating the gene. Together, the two groups of participants comprised one of the largest autism studies reported to date.

The first part of the study included 145 children with autism and their parents, families that had two or more children with autism. Using a technique called genome-wide linkage analysis, the researchers

found that a chromosome, 7q35, appeared to be linked to the disease.

Looking deeper into that chromosome, they identified a gene — CNTNAP2 — that contained a variant relevant to autism. Where a single segment of the genetic code could contain either the chemical base adenine or thymine, children with autism tended to have inherited the thymine variant.

To validate these findings, the researchers studied a separate group of participants; 1,295 children with autism and their healthy parents. The scientists again found that children with autism had higher rates of the thymine variant in the CNTNAP2 gene than would be expected to occur by chance.

When the researchers combined the data from the studies, they found that children with autism were about 20 percent more likely to have inherited the thymine variant from their mothers than from their fathers.

“This is a common variant. People inherit it all the time. Our finding that it’s associated with autism more often when it’s inherited from mothers is intriguing, but needs to be replicated,” Chakravarti said.

The role of CNTNAP2 in brain-cell development suggested by earlier studies has to do with differentiation, the process by which precursor cells develop into the different kinds of cells of the body. CNTNAP2 carries the genetic code for a protein, part of a family called neurexins, that appears to enable the precursor cells to develop myelinated axons. These are projections through which brain cells send each other electrical impulses essential for normal brain function at especially high speeds.

“CNTNAP2 is an excellent candidate gene for autism,” Chakravarti said. “It encodes a protein that’s known to mediate interactions between brain cells and that appears to enable a crucial aspect of brain-cell development. A gene variant that altered either of these activities could have significant impact.”

Source: NIH



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!

Families in Transition

Families in Transition is a support group for parents of adult children with developmental disabilities. The group meets quarterly and covers topics of interest such as housing, guardianship, state services and residential care providers.

NEXT MEETING:
Wednesday, February 13
6:00-7:30 p.m.
Full Cup Cafe,
4634 E. 31st St. in Tulsa

RSVP to Amie Farinella, 918-582-8272

The group is for parents only-participants are asked not to bring their adult children to the support group.

Connections Asperger's Group

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, February 27 - 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.

Day Makers

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, February 25
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Martin Regional Library,
2601 S. Garnett

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

MOMS & DADS SUPPORT GROUP

Next Meeting:
Thursday, February 28
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.

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

TULSA PEOPLE FIRST

Next Meeting:
Tuesday, February 12

Western Sizzlin'
6510 E. 21st St.
Dinner-5:30 p.m.
Meeting-6:30 p.m.

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

SAPULPA Support Group for Families of Children with Special Needs

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 19, 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