



# TARC NEWSLETTER

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

## July 2008

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## 2008 Legislative Session Wrap-Up

by John F. Gajda, TARC Executive Director

The final tally is in. During the second session of the 51st Oklahoma Legislature, 439 bills that had been approved by the legislature were signed into law by Governor Henry. He vetoed an additional 12 bills, only one of which had the veto overridden by the legislature.

For people with developmental disabilities and their families, the score card is almost empty. Certainly, as citizens and residents of Oklahoma we are all impacted by the bills that effect all other people. But, as a special interest group (i.e. people with developmental disabilities and their families) the legislature was at best uninterested. Of the bills that were identified as having a potential specific impact on the lives of people with disabilities at the beginning of the session, only four were signed into law by the governor.

From the perspective of people with disabilities, what has the legislature done this session? The following are the major highlights.

### Broader Teacher Training Requirements

With the increase in the number of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders, there is a concern that all teachers are not prepared to deal with these children. There were two bills filed that addressed training for teachers in response to this concern. The one bill that passed, SB2071 by Senator Clark Jolley and Representative Kenneth Miller, requests that the University of Central Oklahoma establish a comprehensive autism training program that will provide training to teachers. The bill requires that all resident teachers and teachers of students in early childhood programs through grade three be required to complete the training at least once every three years. The bill passed without the special funding that the author intended to be included, but even without the funding the head of the UCO College of Education said that the training program is slated to begin during the fall 2008 semester. The bill requires that the autism training include a minimum awareness of the characteristics of children with autism, resources available and an introduction to positive behavior supports to challenging behavior.

Impact: Due to these new training requirements, regular education teachers of

*please see "2008 Session" on pg. 2*



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)

## **“2008 Session” from page 1**

young children in Oklahoma will now be required to have some knowledge of autism that will hopefully improve their ability to effectively deal with any children with autism they encounter.

### **Establish Requirements for Vendors of Mobility Devices**

HB2703 by Representative Connie Johnson and Senator Kris Steele, referred to as the Consumer Protection for Wheeled Mobility Act, established requirements for Medicaid claims on all purchased wheeled mobility equipment. The act did not expand the individuals eligible for this equipment under Medicaid as the phrase “contingent on the availability of funding” was inserted into the act.

*Impact:* People who do receive a wheeled mobility device from Medicaid will have to have an evaluation performed by a licensed or certified medical professional that documents the need for the device and receive the device from a vendor who employs a qualified assistive technology practitioner. This will help assure that individuals receive appropriate equipment.

### **Change the Members of the Rate Review Committee**

Last year, the Legislature established the Advantage Waiver and Developmental Disability Services Rate Review Committee. SB1405, by Sen. Bill Brown, R-Broken Arrow and Rep. John A. Wright, R-Broken Arrow, added two new members to the committee - one member of the House of Representatives and one member of the Senate.

*Impact:* The committee only has authority to recommend increased rates and overall funding. Since there had not been a member of the legislature on the committee originally, perhaps adding these two members could increase the weight of committee recommendations in the appropriations process.

### **Change the Way DHS Investigates Community Service Workers**

SB1192, by Sen. Tom Adelson, D-Tulsa and Rep. Daniel Sullivan, R-Tulsa, modified language relating to community-based service programs, expanding the

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definition of “community services worker” and adding definitions for “maltreatment,” “specialized foster care,” “habilitation training specialist services” and “homemaker services.” The measure also modifies the process by which the Department of Human Services investigates community services workers or Medicaid personal care assistants, calling on DHS to determine a finding of maltreatment. It removes language allowing DHS to charge the individual a fee for access to the community services worker registry. The measure also directs DHS to follow established screening procedures when the Oklahoma Health Care Authority contracts with a specialized foster care provider, habilitation training specialist services provider or a homemaker services provider. The bill exempts from criminal history records check respiratory care practitioners licensed under the Respiratory Care Practice Act.

*Impact:* This added language expands and clarifies who can be placed on the community services worker registry and should make the registry a better tool to protect service recipients from individuals who have already caused harm to individuals.

### **Little to No Additional Funding for Services**

With overall appropriations growing only .7%, the news was not good for people with disabilities. At the end of the session, the legislature divided up the additional funding that remained. The Department of Human Services received a total of \$2m to be divided between the Advantage Waiver and DDS waivers. This was the only additional funding received by all of DHS. DDS ended up with \$500,000 of this new money to serve people on the waiting list. Internally, DHS has identified \$450,000 in TANF funds that will be used to serve additional families through the Family Support Subsidy Program. This will begin providing some assistance to up to 150 families on the DDS waiting list who are not yet benefiting from this monthly cash payment.

*Impact:* It is going to be a tight budgetary year for DHS. Requests to continue programs and special initiatives were not funded. No new money to cover increased operating expenses was granted. The

*please see “2008 Session” on pg. 3*

July 2008

## “2008 Session” from page 2

\$500,000 to DDS will allow the agency to begin serving additional people on the waiting list for a short period of time, but it is estimated that only about 50 new families will be served from the 3,900 people that were on the waiting list in June. Also, because no new appropriation was received, the funding for the Autism Pilot will be depleted and with no new funds to make the program permanent, the Autism Pilot will end in November.

## The Wrong Message

The most disappointing measure signed by Governor Henry this session was SB1355. Sometimes the legislature is noted more for what it does wrong rather than what it does right and this is just such an example. The bill was an appropriations bill to the State Board of Education. At the end of the session, an additional \$200,000 for “legal expenses for special education litigation in excess of four percent of the district’s general fund expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008” was added to the bill. This language was inserted to address an ongoing special education case in Cashion Public Schools. The district claims they have spent so much money in litigating one special education case that the district might have to close. The parents in the dispute point out that the school has chosen to spend more than \$300,000 in defense costs rather than providing effective service.

*Impact:* The funding provided in this bill rewards the wrong behavior and sends the wrong message to school systems. If Cashion can choose to litigate rather than provide services, then other school districts might be willing to follow a similar course of action. Parent advocates opposed the bill contending that parents have a hard enough time filing for due process when their children’s special needs are not being met without the legislature awarding schools additional funds for litigation.

Overall, this legislative session was not very positive. By people with disabilities and their families, it will be noted more for what it failed to do than for what it accomplished. The outstanding issue that the legislative leadership fought against was the proposed autism insurance mandate. More about that elsewhere in this edition of this newsletter.

## Runners Can Help TARC!



The Route 66 Marathon, to be held November 16, 2008 in Tulsa, is offering a new fundraising opportunity for TARC. This year, a new event has been added to the marathon, “The Mayor’s 5K Fitness Run and Walk.”

Registrants in the Mayor’s 5K are required to choose a Tulsa Area United Way agency to receive \$5 of their registration fee when they register for the race.

To register for the Mayor’s 5K, visit [www.route66marathon.com](http://www.route66marathon.com) and click on the “register today” button and don’t forget to choose TARC as the agency to receive part of your registration fee!

## New People First Chapter in Ada

People First, a self-advocacy organization for adults with developmental disabilities, has a new chapter in Ada. The next meeting of the group will take place on July 25 from 6-10 p.m. at the Perfect Blend, 730 E. Main in Ada.

Individuals needing transportation to and from the meeting can call Natasha Perkins, group adviser, at 580-310-7077 or 580-235-3951 no later than one day prior to the meeting for help arranging a ride. Interested individuals should contact Perkins for more information on the group.



 **TARC**  
*helps families*

*Help TARC by becoming a member today.*

Benefits of membership include:

- Monthly and quarterly newsletters;
- Participation in TARC governance;
- Voting rights in the annual TARC Advocacy Awards; and
- Membership in The Arc of the United States.

Call 1-800-688-TARC or visit [www.ddadvocacy.net](http://www.ddadvocacy.net) to become a member of TARC.

## Council for Exceptional Children Collecting Ideas on Transition

The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Division on Career Development & Transition (DCDT) is collecting ideas and tips about transition practices from those on the front lines. The goal is to compile and develop “101 Practical Transition Ideas,” consisting of transition practices that are currently being used by practitioners. The council wants to find out what you are doing that works and share your stories with others! They are collecting transition ideas in the areas of:

- Transition Planning
- Student Involvement
- Family Involvement
- Interagency Collaboration
- Curriculum & Instruction
- Students from Specific Disability Groups
- Inclusion and Access to General Curriculum
- Transition Assessment
- Cultural Diversity
- Assistive Technology

To submit your ideas, visit [www.transitioncoalition.org](http://www.transitioncoalition.org) and click on “101 Practical Ideas for Transition” to complete a quick online survey. It takes about 15 minutes to submit your ideas.

Source: Monday Morning in Washington

## Ninth Anniversary of Olmstead Decision

In the summer of 1999, the U.S. Supreme Court issued the Olmstead decision, holding that “unjustified institutional isolation of persons with disabilities is a form of discrimination.” The Court rejected the State’s argument that Medicaid statute reflected a congressional preference for “treatment in the institution over treatment in the community,” pointing out that was not correct since 1981 when Medicaid provided for home and community-based services and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has had a “policy of encouraging” States to serve people with disabilities in the community.

The decision recognized that the ending of this discrimination would not occur immediately. In 1999, the Court permitted States to have “waiting lists” for community services as long as such lists “moved at a reasonable pace not controlled by the State’s endeavors to keep its institutions fully populated.”

For people with disabilities, this decision was a



clarion call. No longer, the disability and elderly advocates believed, would people be institutionalized if they wanted to reside in the community. Obviously, where one resides should be one’s own choice.

To see the full report and how your state is doing, visit [www.stevegoldada.com/stevegoldada/archive.php?mode=A&id=251;&sort=D](http://www.stevegoldada.com/stevegoldada/archive.php?mode=A&id=251;&sort=D).

Source: Monday Morning in Washington

## Historic Event on the 18th ADA Anniversary



July 26, 2008, the date of the 18th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), is also the date set for a historic, nonpartisan, cross-disability forum on national disability policy. Both presidential candidates have been invited to participate in the forum, to be held in Columbus, Ohio.

With over 60 national, state, and local disability-related organizations and moderated by news anchor and journalist Judy Woodruff, this event promises to be the most important disability event of this election cycle. In order to increase the likelihood that the presidential candidates will participate, voters are encouraged to pressure their campaigns until they confirm their attendance. Organizers hope voters will create friendly pressure on the McCain and Obama campaigns by calling, emailing, and faxing the campaign offices, urging the candidates to participate in person at The National Forum on Disability Issues on July 26, 2008 in Columbus, Ohio.

You can contact the candidates’ offices to encourage them to attend using the contact information below:

Sen. Barack Obama  
P.O. Box 8102  
Chicago, IL 60680  
Phone: (866) 675-2008 Fax: (312) 819-2089

Sen. John McCain  
P.O. Box 16118  
Arlington, VA 22215  
Phone: (703) 418-2008 Fax: (703) 752-2515

The forum will be broadcast on the web. Information to be made available at [www.aapd.com](http://www.aapd.com) and [www.govoter.org/presidential\\_forum](http://www.govoter.org/presidential_forum).

Source: Monday Morning in Washington

# Fast Facts on Disability from the U.S. Census Bureau



July 26 marks the 18th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA guarantees equal opportunity for people with disabilities in public accommodations, commercial facilities, employment, transportation, state and local government services and telecommunications. To commemorate the anniversary, the U.S. Census Bureau has released the following facts about Americans with disabilities.

## 41.3 million

Number of people who have some level of disability. They represent 15 percent of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 5 and older.

### By age and sex —

- 6 % of children 5 to 15 have disabilities.
- 12 % of people 16 to 64 have disabilities.
- 41 % of adults 65 and older have disabilities.
- 16 % of females have disabilities, compared with 14 percent of males.

## 56%

Percentage of people 21 to 64 having some type of disability who were employed in the past year. The rate ranged from 82% of those with a nonsevere disability to 43% with a severe disability. For those without a disability, the employment rate is 88 % for the same period.

## 2.7 million

Number of veterans who received compensation for service-related disabilities in 2006.

## 10.7 million

Number of people with disabilities ages 6 and older who need personal assistance with one or more activities of daily living (such as showering) or instrumental activities (such as using the telephone) of daily living.

## 26%

The poverty rate for people 25 to 64 with a severe disability. For those with a non-severe disability, the poverty rate is 11%.

## 36% and 29%

The percentage of people 15 to 64 with a severe disability who use a computer and the internet at home, respectively.

## Specific Disabilities

### 1.8 million

The number of people age 15 and older who report being unable to see.

### 1 million

The number of people age 15 and older who report being unable to hear.

### 2.6 million

Number of people age 15 and older who have some difficulty having their speech understood by others. Of this number, 610,000 were unable to have their speech understood at all.

### 14.3 million

Number of people with limitations in cognitive functioning who have a mental or emotional illness that interferes with daily activities, including those with Alzheimer's disease and mental retardation. This group comprises six percent of the population age 15 and older.

## Living Arrangements

### 60%

The percentage of people age 25 to 64 with a non-severe disability who live in married-couple families. The corresponding rates are 68 percent for those without disabilities and 50 percent for people with severe disabilities.

### 23%

The percentage of people with a non-severe disability who live alone or with non-relatives. This compares with 28 percent of those with a severe disability and 19 percent without a disability.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Debit Card for Social Security Payments Available

The U.S. Treasury has announced that a prepaid debit card option for Social Security payments and other federal benefits is now available. The Direct Express® Debit MasterCard® – designed as a safe, convenient alternative to paper checks – is currently being introduced in 10 states, and will be rolled out nationwide this summer.

The Direct Express card provides another option to choose from for the nearly four million Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients who do not have a bank account, but are looking for a no-cost or low-cost alternative to using check cashing facilities and carrying large amounts of cash. Cardholders can make purchases, pay bills and get cash at thousands of ATMs and retail locations.

People currently receiving Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) checks in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas may sign up for the card by calling toll-free 1-877-212-9991 or visiting [www.USDirectExpress.com](http://www.USDirectExpress.com).

Source: U.S. Treasury



## Guide to Inclusive Childcare

Disability Rights of Wisconsin recently developed a guide entitled *A Thinking Guide to Inclusive Childcare (2008)* that provides tools and strategies to help child care staff better understand the needs of individual children and promote inclusive experiences for families and children.

To read the guide, visit <http://www.disabilityrightswi.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/02/thinking-guide-to-inclusive-child-care.pdf>.

Source: Monday Morning in Washington



## ADA Resource

A website developed by the DBTAC National Network of ADA Centers as a comprehensive resource for training materials on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is now online. The website features a centralized search for training materials such as case law, case studies, handouts, statistics and quotes, and tip sheets, and also contains information about various events and training opportunities such as webcasts, audio conferences, and courses.

Additionally, there are solutions pages that highlight events, materials, and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the ADA for: individuals and advocates; architecture and design professionals; business owners and managers; employers; and state and local government entities. For more information, visit the site at [www.adacourse.org](http://www.adacourse.org).

Source: Monday Morning in Washington

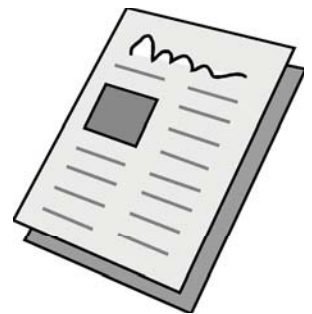


## Free Publication Offered by the National Council on Disability

The National Council on Disability (NCD), publishes *The Bulletin*, a monthly newsletter including the latest issues and news affecting people with disabilities.

The publication is free of charge and is available at NCD's Web site, [www.ncd.gov](http://www.ncd.gov). To subscribe, visit <http://listserv.access.gpo.gov>, click on "online mailing list archives," select "NCD-NEWS-L," click on "join or leave the list," and complete the short subscription form.

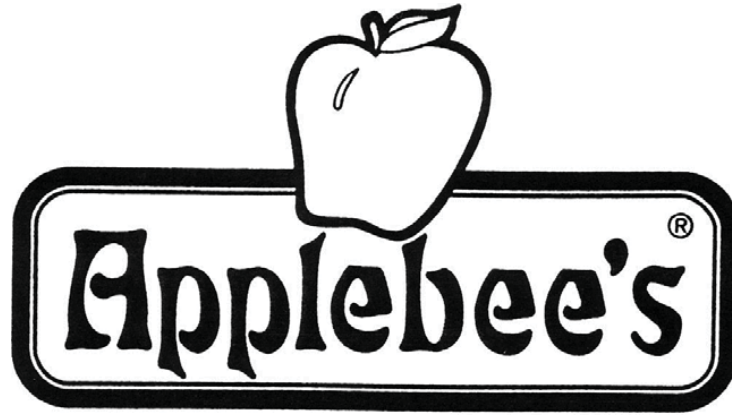
Source: Monday Morning in Washington



Visit us on the web at [www.ddadvocacy.net](http://www.ddadvocacy.net)



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for the Neighborhood!



Neighborhood Grill & Bar

Present the bottom of this  
flyer to your server on  
**Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup> 2008**  
at any Oklahoma Applebee's  
and Applebee's will donate 15% of your  
purchase\* to:

**TARC**

\*Tax and tip not included. Not valid with other discounts or promotions. **Must present flyer at time of visit.** Flyers are not to be distributed in the restaurant or within the perimeter of the parking lot.

**DINING TO DONATE**

DATE	LOCATION	ORGANIZATION	For Server Use Only
7-18-08		TARC	Check Amt. (excluding tax) _____  Manager's Initials _____



## Participating Oklahoma Applebee's Locations

### **OKC Metro**

---

Applebee's - NW  
4825 NW Expressway  
OKC, OK 73132

Applebee's - Moore  
2401 S. I-35 Frontage Rd.  
Moore, OK 73160

Applebee's - MWC  
608 Air Depot Blvd.  
Midwest City, OK 73110

Applebee's - Norman  
500 Ed Noble Parkway  
Norman, OK 73072

Applebee's - I-40 & MacArthur  
6020 SW 3<sup>rd</sup> St.  
OKC, OK 73128

Applebee's - Edmond  
3521 S. Broadway Ext.  
Edmond, OK 73013

Applebee's - Quail  
2610 W. Memorial  
OKC, OK 73134

### **Tulsa Metro**

---

Applebee's OK02  
4733 S. Yale St.  
Tulsa, OK 74133

Applebee's OK15  
11104 E. 41<sup>st</sup> St.  
Tulsa, OK 74146

Applebee's OK03  
9409 E. 71<sup>st</sup> St.  
Tulsa, OK 74133

Applebee's OK01  
3900 S. Elm Place  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012

### **Other Cities**

---

Applebee's - Enid  
3616 W. Garriott Rd.  
Enid, OK 73703

Applebee's - Stillwater  
317 N. Perkins Rd  
Stillwater, OK 74075

Applebee's OK07  
415 W. Shawnee  
Muskogee, OK 74402

# Autism News Roundup

## Autism Rumbles Through the Oklahoma Legislature

by John F. Gajda, TARC Executive Director

There is one thing that can be said at the end of the second session of the 51st Oklahoma Legislature. There isn't one legislator in either the house or senate who can claim to have never heard of autism.

A dedicated group of parents and families, lead by parent advocates Wayne Rohde and Dee Blose, fought throughout the session to get legislation passed to mandate coverage of services for children with autism by private health insurance plans. The effort started out with SB1537 by Senator Jay Paul Gumm. The bill became known as Nick's Law – named after Wayne's son. The original bill never made it out of the Retirement and Insurance committee in the Senate but the language in the bill was added to SB2157 and ultimately was approved by the full Senate but died in committee in the House. The mandate language from SB1537 was added to several other bills but the effort to get the mandate passed was not successful in the House. House leadership were steadfast in refusing to allow any bill with the mandate language to make it to the House floor for a vote despite the continued advocacy of a group of dedicated parents and family members who walked the corridors of the Capitol and organized fax and email campaigns. The national organization Autism Speaks also entered the fight, running television and newspaper advertising in key areas to pressure House leadership to allow the measure to come up for a vote.

Although the original goal of those who support the bill was not met – their original bill and several attempts to insert language in other bills were never allowed to come to a vote in the House of Representatives – their advocacy created awareness about autism among members of the legislature.

One measure of the effect was the large number of requests for interim studies concerning autism that were requested by members of the legislature. House Republican leadership first announced that three interim studies approved for the fall would deal with autism in Oklahoma.

The first study was requested by Rep. John Wright and will look at the services already offered in Oklahoma for parents of Children with autism to determine which ones are redundant, beneficial or could be refined. Reps. Susan Winchester and Tad Jones will head another study looking at the possibility of creating a school especially for children with autism, allowing them to receive the specialized treatment and care they need on a daily basis. The school would be modeled after schools like the Oklahoma School for the Blind in Muskogee and the Oklahoma School for the Deaf in Sulphur. The final study will be a comprehensive look at different solutions the state can consider when it comes to autism treatment. Led by Rep. Kris Steele, the

study will look at what other states are doing, discuss possible options for Oklahoma and will hear from those in the community dealing with this issue firsthand.

It appears that the Democrats also wanted studies done. The House Democratic Caucus announced that they received multiple requests for further review of autism and insurance coverage. Reps Wallace Collins, Joe Dorman, Mike Brown, and Minority Leader Danny Morgan all requested interim studies on this matter.

Responding to this sudden interest after the session was over Sen. Jay Paul Gumm, who wrote and pushed for the passage of "Nick's Law" which was killed repeatedly by House Republican leadership, issued the following statement.

"House Republican leadership is a day late to the discussion with these interim studies. While we welcome them - finally - to this discussion, I am deeply troubled one of their ideas is the failed notion of institutionalizing these precious children, ripping them from their families. "Sadly, none of these studies will tell us anything we do not already know.

It looks like they are throwing every half-baked idea they have out there in a feeble attempt to divert attention from their cowardly refusal to allow even a vote on 'Nick's Law. We need to require that autism be covered by health insurance, and we need to provide more services to families with autistic children.

In other matters before the legislature there is one positive accomplishment for families of children with autism. Training requirements for teachers on autism were added to the statutes (see story on pg.1).

Requests for additional funding to increase services for people on the autism spectrum met the same fate as Nick's law. DDS has been operating a small autism pilot program and had requested funds to make the pilot a permanent service provided by DDS. The legislature did not provide this funding and as a result the pilot program will run out of funds in November and the services being received by the small number of families in Tulsa and Oklahoma City who are part of the pilot will be discontinued.

What happens now? Family leaders and Senator Gumm have vowed to fight on for mandated insurance coverage when the next session of the legislature convenes in February 2009. This mandate would certainly meet the needs of some families. From a broader perspective, perhaps because of the increased awareness about autism that those supporting this bill were successful in creating one or all of the interim studies can begin to provide answers for the broader need for services by people on the autism spectrum.



# TULSA ADVOCATES FOR THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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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., located at 16 E. 16th St., Suite 405 in Tulsa, OK. Volume 8, Issue 7, published July, 2008. The newsletter is meant 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.



**Want your name removed from our mailing list?**

Call 918-582-8272 or 1-800-688-8272 or email [tarc@ddadvocacy.net](mailto:tarc@ddadvocacy.net) with your name and address!

## 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.

**NEXT MEETING:**  
Wednesday, August 13  
6:30-7:45 p.m.  
Full Cup Cafe,  
4634 E. 31st St. in Tulsa

RSVP to Amie Farinella, 918-582-8272

**Connections Asperger's Group**

**Next Meeting:**  
Wednesday, July 23 - 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.

Hispanic Parents Support Group  
El Grupo Hispano de Apoyo a Padres de Familia

**Next Meeting: Monday, July 28**  
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.  
Central Library,  
400 Civic Center

*Contact Zaida at 918-582-8272 for more information.*



**links** to support, to information, to friends.  
Support Group for Adults with Asperger's Syndrome

**Next Meeting:**  
Wednesday, July 16  
6:30-8:00 p.m.  
Brookside Library, 1207 E. 45th Pl.

Links is a support group for adults with Asperger's Syndrome. Contact Amie Farinella, 918-582-8272 for more information.

**Day Makers** Activities group for adults with developmental disabilities  
Contact: Amie, 918-582-8272

**Tuesdays • 10:00-11:30 a.m.**  
Gatesway Foundation-Mabee Gym  
1217 E. College in Broken Arrow

**Thursdays • 1:00-2:30 p.m.**  
McClure Recreation Center  
7440 E. 7th Street in Tulsa

**MOMS & DADS** SUPPORT GROUP

**Next Meeting:**  
Thursday, July 31  
7:00-9:00 p.m.

Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church  
4102 E. 61st St., Room B-8

*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 joys of raising our children.*

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

**1<sup>ST</sup> TULSA PEOPLE FIRST**

**Next Meeting:**  
Tuesday, July 8  
Western Sizzlin',  
6510 E. 21st St.  
Dinner-5:30 p.m.  
Meeting-6:30 p.m.

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

**Support Group for Families of Children with Special Needs in Sapulpa**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 15, 6:15 p.m.**  
**CREOKS Behavioral Health, 23 E. Ross in Sapulpa**  
*Childcare is not provided, but please take advantage of Sapulpa's great Respite Care Program*

*For more information, contact Mindy Littlefield, 378-5632*