



TARC NEWSLETTER

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

March 2009

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One Month and One Critical Deadline Later.....

By John F. Gajda, TARC Executive Director

The first session of the 52nd Oklahoma Legislature has been meeting for barely a month now and the first major deadline – the date by which all bills must be approved by the chamber of the Legislature in which they were filed – has passed. This is traditionally the first cut for bills. A large number are usually never approved by the committee to which they are assigned and sent on for a vote in the full chamber. The bills thus become dormant and further action on them is not permitted this session. They can, however, be brought back to life in the second session next year by being approved and passed on to the next step before the appropriate deadline next year.

This certainly was true of the 33 disability related bills identified in last month's TARC Newsletter. Nearly half, 16 bills, failed to be voted on and approved by their assigned committees and thus failed to advance in the process. Because they were neither approved nor not approved they are now dormant.

In a highly unusual move on the second day of the session, on February 3, 2009, the House Economic & Financial Services Committee actually took a vote on and did not approve HB1312 that would have created Nick's Law to mandate insurance coverage for treatment of autism. The first vote, to pass the bill, failed by a 5 to 10 vote of the committee with one member excused. A second vote by the committee for a Do Not Pass recommendation was approved by a 9 to 5 vote of the committee with two members excused. Both votes were strictly along party lines with Democrats voting to pass the bill and Republicans voting against it. Committee members supporting the bill were Representatives John Auffet, John Cary, Danny Morgan, Mike Shelton and Jabar Shumate. Committee members opposing the bill were Representatives George Faught, Charles Key, Guy Liebmann, Randy McDaniel, Skye McNeil, Lewis Moore, Pat Ownbey, Ron Peters, Kris Steel, and Daniel Sullivan. Representative Chris Benge was excused for both votes and Charles Key was excused for only the first of these committee votes. Unlike a bill that was not voted on and is now dormant, HB1312 can not be reconsidered until the 53rd Oklahoma Legislature meets in 2011.

This leaves only 16 of the original list of 33 bills still alive and under consideration as of March 3rd. Those bills are listed first below followed by those bills

Please see "Deadline" 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)

Continued from pg 1

that are dead or dormant. Six of these bills have already been approved in their house of origin and have already been sent to the opposite chamber for action. The remaining await approval in the chamber in which they were filed.

The only bill addressing issues regarding autism still alive is HB 2027 that would establish a process for licensing behavioral analysts.

The budget picture remains dismal. According to the State Board of Equalization meeting held February 16th to certify a revised, binding estimate of the revenues available for appropriation by this year's Legislature for the upcoming budget year that begins July 1st, next year's projected shortfall has now reached \$612 million. The shortfall is equal to over 9 percent of current appropriations. The impact of funds coming into Oklahoma in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act on this shortfall is still not certain and monitoring of the use of these funds by disability advocates over the next months is critical.

The original 33 bills are all listed below in two groups. Stay tuned to the TARC Newsletter for continuing updates as the legislative session continues.

Bills Still Being Considered for Passage

Bill	Principal Authors	Status	Description
HB 1019	Wright, John A. (H)	General Order-House	Recreates the Group Homes for Persons with Developmental or Physical Disabilities Advisory Board.
HB 1512	Blackwell, Gus (H)	General Order-House	Exempts certain schools meeting certain standards from liability for not providing necessary services to autistic children.
HB 1627	Pittman, Anastasia (H)	General Order-House	Modifies language and reporting order for the Protective Services for Vulnerable Adults Act.
HB 1761	Enns, John (H)	Engrossed-House	Allows for hunting with a traditional longbow with a mechanical bow draw device to hold the bow mechanically at full or partial draw for people with permanent disabilities.
HB 1763	Enns, John (H)	General Order-House	Requires the Department of Education to provide training to special education due process hearing officers to ensure that they are knowledgeable in special education law and legal procedure.
HB 1778	Jones, Tad (H)	Senate Introduction and First Reading	It re-appropriates and redesignates \$2,204,037 from education Leadership Oklahoma to Academic Achievement Awards and \$1,354,329 from staff development to direct services of the Sooner-Start Early Intervention Program.
HB 1842	Duncan, Rex (H)	Senate Introduction and First Reading	Creates the Oklahoma Licensed Interpreter Act and the Oklahoma Board of Licensed Interpreters for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing to regulate and enforce the practice of interpreting in accordance with the act. The bill makes it unlawful to practice interpreting in the state without a license.

HB 1887	Richardson, Phil (H)	Senate Introduction and First Reading	Removes language prohibiting individuals who have been convicted or who entered a plea other than not guilty to a felony from being eligible for community sentencing. It modifies language related to a level of service inventory, allowing an offender with a moderate or high range on the inventory to be eligible for community punishments if the district attorney has consented to eligibility for an offender who has a mental illness or developmental disability or a co-occurring mental illness or substance abuse disorder.
HB 1893	Peterson, Pam (H)	Engrossed-House	Authorizes the Department of Human Services' Aging Services Division to work corroboratively with other national, state and local agencies and community groups to establish a single-point-of-entry concept for aging and disability groups in Oklahoma, referred to as an Aging and Disability Resource Consortium Initiative.
HB 2004	Wright, Harold (H)	Motion to Reconsider-House	The bill requires school administrators, teachers, and other school employees to be trained to recognize, accommodate, and assist students with mental health issues.
HB 2027	Steele, Kris (H)	Senate Introduction and First Reading	Requires persons wishing to practice as a licensed behavior analyst or a licensed assistant behavior analyst to apply to the Developmental Disabilities Services Division within the Department of Human Services. The Measure also directs the University Hospitals Authority to use funds for primary care provider evaluation training for providers in the Sooner SUCCESS program to acquire skills necessary to evaluate children with autism spectrum disorders. It directs the Developmental Disabilities Services Division to establish an applied behavioral analysis research pilot project. The measure also directs the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to establish a program modeled after Early Foundations, an outreach program that provides early intensive behavioral intervention for children with autism.
HB 2126	Shelton, Mike (H)	General Order-House	States that either a parent or teacher of a child or school district may initiate a request for an initial evaluation to determine if the child has a disability.
SB 0321	Anderson, Patrick (S)	House Introduction and First Reading	Authorizes the Aging Service Division of the Department of Human Services to collaborate with other national, state and local agencies to establish a single point-of-entry concept for aging and disability groups in the state, which is to be referred to as the Aging and Disability Resource Consortium Initiative.
SB 0479	Lamb, Todd (S)	General Order-Senate	Modifies definition of "long-term care administrator" under the Nursing Home Care Act to exclude bed requirements as they relate to intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded. It exempts administrators providing health or habilitation services for mentally retarded or developmentally disabled persons from meeting current license requirements.

SB 0871	Russell, Steve (S)	House Introduction and First Reading	Modifies membership of the Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Advisory Council.
SB 0971	Sparks, John (S)	General Order-Senate	Allowing related services personnel, as identified in policies for special education by the Department of Education, to be provided with the opportunity to participate in training applicable to their field that will enable them to maintain professional licensure.

Bills Dead or Dormant that Are No Longer Being Considered

HB 1312	Brown, Mike (H)	No longer being considered	Creates Nick's Law, requiring any individual or group health benefit plan to provide coverage for the treatment of an autistic disorder. The bill limits treatment to that which is prescribed by the insured individuals treating physician. It limits coverage to persons under age 21 and sets maximum benefit of \$50,000 per year for behavioral therapy.
HB 1062	Sherrer, Ben (H)	Dormant	Expands the list of employees to whom the State Board of Education may provide annual salary bonuses to include orientation and mobility instructors.
HB 1519	Inman, Scott (H)	Dormant	Changes the Perspective Services for Vulnerable Adults Act to the Perspective Services for Vulnerable Persons Act and broadens sections and definitions of what constitutes a vulnerable person and what constitutes abuse, neglect, or other mistreatment of that person.
HB 1628	Pittman, Anastasia (H)	Dormant	Requires that the evaluation of a student with a visual impairment be joined by a teacher certified in the education of students with visual impairment. The bill also directs the State Department of Education to offer teachers, administrators and personnel training in aspects and issues of the visually impaired.
HB 1841	Wallace, Collins (H)	Dormant	Creates Nick's Law, requiring any individual or group health benefit plan, to provide coverage for the treatment of an autistic disorder. The bill limits treatment to that which is prescribed by the insured individual's treating physician. It limits coverage to persons under age 21. It sets a maximum benefit of \$75,000 per year for behavioral therapy.
HB 1968	Benge, Chris (H)	Dormant	Creates the Autism Services Improvement Act. (Shell Bill)
HB 1969	Benge, Chris (H)	Dormant	Creates the Autism Services Act (Shell Bill)
SB 0001	Gumm, Jay Paul (S)	Dormant	Creates Nick's Law which requires any individual or group health benefit plan to provide coverage for the treatment of an autistic disorder. The bill limits treatment to that which is prescribed by the insured individual's treating physician. It states that coverage must include all therapies, treatments, diagnoses, testing medicines and supplements prescribed by a licensed physician, including behavioral therapy. It sets a maximum benefit of \$75,000 per year for behavioral therapy.

SB 0036	Anderson, Patrick (S)	Dormant	Requires any individual or group health benefit plan to provide coverage for the treatment of an autistic disorder. The bill limits treatment to that which is prescribed by the insured individual's treating physician. The bill limits coverage to individuals under age 21. It states that coverage must include all therapies, treatments, diagnoses, testing, medicines and supplements prescribed by a licensed physician, including behavioral therapy. It sets a maximum benefit for behavioral therapy of \$75,000 per year for three years, unless clinical progress reports demonstrate that the child is in a period of steady skill acquisition.
SB 0046	Easley, Mary (S)	Dormant	Requires any individual or group health benefit plan to provide coverage for the treatment of an autistic disorder. It states that coverage is subject to a diagnosis of an autistic disorder by a licensed physician or behavioral practitioner. The bill limits coverage to individuals under age 21. Coverage must include all therapies, treatments, diagnoses, testing, medicines, and supplements prescribed by a licensed physician including behavioral therapy. It sets a maximum benefit for behavioral therapy of \$75,000 per year for three years.
SB 0051	Leftwich, Debbe (S)	Dormant	Grants a tax credit for expenditures made to purchase medically necessary foods used in the treatment of phenylketonuria.
SB 0307	Wilson, Jim (S)	Dormant	Directs that Oklahoma attorney general to intervene and represent a public school district in any legal proceeding to enforce state and federal laws relating to educating children with disabilities.
SB 0312	Leftwich, Debbe (S)	Dormant	Provides a sales tax exemption on hearing aids.
SB 0351	Rice, Andrew (S)	Dormant	Requires reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation of vulnerable adults to be reported to the Department of Human Services and the municipal police department or county sheriff's office.
SB 0470	Gumm, Jay Paul (S)	Dormant	Places the burden of proof, the burden of production and the burden of persuasion in all proceedings related to the provision of free appropriate education for children with disabilities on the local educational agency responsible for providing the student's education.
SB 1057	Branan, Cliff (S)	Dormant	Modifies language related to rehabilitative education and training for the visually impaired.
SB 1097	Johnson, Constance (S)	Dormant	Modifies the membership of the Commission for Rehabilitation Services, increases its membership from three to seven.

Disability Related Provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)



The following is a list of disability specific programs included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act signed by President Obama and the amount of increased spending they will receive from the bill through 2010:

HEALTH

- Medicaid: An \$87 billion increase in the Federal government's share of Medicaid spending (FMAP) which runs from October 1, 2008 to December 31, 2010. Sixty-five percent of the funds will be given to all states. Thirty-five percent will be used for additional payments (in the form of a decrease in a state's match) for states with high unemployment rates. Each state will receive a "base" 6.2% increase. A state specific analysis can be accessed at <http://www.cbpp.org/2-13-09sfp.htm>. There is a "maintenance of effort" requirement which prohibits states from changing eligibility. However there is NO maintenance of effort provision for benefits or services. Therefore it is critical for affiliates and chapters to meet with their State MR/DD and Medicaid agencies, their Governor's office, and State Legislature immediately to urge them to use this increased funding for disability services. The Act extends a moratoria on Medicaid regulations which are in "final" form (i.e. the school based services/transportation, the targeted case management, and the outpatient rules) from April 1 through June 30, 2009. The bill also contains a "Sense of the Congress" that the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services shall not publish any pending Medicaid rule (including the rehabilitative services option proposed rule) in final form. COBRA: 65% premium subsidy for 9 months. Health Information Technology: \$19 billion to jumpstart computerized health records. Prevention and Wellness: \$1 billion to prevent chronic diseases and to increase immunization programs. Lead-Based Paint Removal: \$100 million - competitive grants to localities and nonprofits to remove lead paint in low income housing.

- NIH Biomedical Research: \$10 billion for increased research.

EDUCATION

- Special Education: \$11.3 billion for the IDEA State Grant Program and \$500 million for the IDEA Part C Early Intervention Program. \$400 million for the pre-school program.

SOCIAL SECURITY

- SSI: A one-time emergency payment of \$250 to

people who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security, disabled veterans, and other selected benefits. SSA Disability Backlog and Claims: \$500 million to help the Social Security Administration reduce the processing time for claims and appeals decisions

- SSA Modernization: \$500 million to replace the antiquated National Computer Center.

EMPLOYMENT

- Vocational Rehabilitation: \$540 million for VR State Grant. Unemployment Insurance: Funding is provided to modernize the unemployment compensation program, to add \$25 to the weekly benefit, to continue the current up to 33 weeks of extended benefits through December 31, 2009 and to temporarily suspend federal income tax on the first \$2,400 of unemployment benefits per recipient for 2009.

- Job Training: \$500 million for adult, \$1.2 billion for youth services.

INDEPENDENT LIVING

- Centers for Independent Living: \$140 million to assist people with disabilities to live in their communities.

HOUSING

- Public Housing Capital Fund: \$4 billion for building repair and modernization. \$250 million for a new program to fund energy retrofits of Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities, Section 202 for the Elderly and Project Based Section 8 to make the units more energy efficient. HUD will publish a Notice of Funding Availability shortly announcing details of the program. HOME Investment Partnerships: \$2.25 billion with \$2 billion targeted to fill gaps in approved Low Income Housing Tax Credit projects and jump start these stalled projects. Community Development Block Grant: \$1 billion to support housing and services to help hard pressed localities. Community Services Block Grant: \$1 billion for housing, food, employment and health-care to serve areas hardest hit by the recession. Low-Income Energy Assistance: Not Funded. Neighborhood Stabilization: \$2 billion for communities to purchase and rehabilitate foreclosed, vacant properties to create more affordable housing.

- Home Weatherization: \$5 billion to weatherize homes of low income households to reduce energy costs.

CHILD CARE and HEAD START

- Child Care Development Block Grant: \$2 billion to serve an additional 300,000 children in low income working families. \$93.6 million is targeted to improve infant and toddler care.

- Head Start: \$2.1 billion to provide services to 110,000 additional children.

For a list of the funds coming to the Oklahoma Government go to www.okpolicy.org/federal-stimulus-funding-brief-and-press-release.

Source: Disability Policy Collaboration

U.S. Data: Few Businesses Employ People with Disabilities

A new report by the U.S. Department of Labor finds that as of last spring, only 19.1 percent of American companies said they employ people with disabilities. Even fewer — 13.6 percent reported actively recruiting people with disabilities.

The figures were compiled by the department's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), based on interviews with 3,797 companies representing more than 2.4 million firms nationwide. The interviews were conducted in the first half of 2008, before the onset of the current recession.

Some of the report's key findings:

- Among small companies (employing 5 to 14 people), only 10.7 percent reported employing people with disabilities.
- Some 53.1 percent of large companies (employing 250 or more employees) reported employing people with disabilities.
- Only 8.7 percent of companies reported hiring someone with a disability in the 12 months prior to the interview.
- Larger companies are more likely to actively recruit people with disabilities (33.8 percent) than small companies (7.8 percent), and public administration organizations are more likely to actively recruit than private sector businesses.
- When asked what type of information might convince them to recruit people with disabilities, companies that do not actively recruit cited information about performance, productivity, and benefit to the company's profitability.

ODEP also provides a website articulating a "business case" for employing at <http://www.earnworks.com/businesscase/>

Source: Monday Morning Memo

15th Annual People with Disabilities Awareness Day

The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services will be hosting the 15th Annual People with Disabilities Awareness Day at the Oklahoma State Capitol on Thursday April 9, 2009. The Conference will begin at 9 a.m. and feature guest speaker Lt. Gov. Jari Askins. Guests will be able to learn about the disability-related

issues that are important in the 2009 legislative session, connect with the disability community while speaking with more than 50 disability organization exhibitors. If you would like to register to attend this event you can visit the website at www.okdrs.gov or call (405) 951-3478.

Why There is a Continued Need for Advocacy

Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) responded to a growing scandal involving a poultry processing plant in Iowa which, for the last 34 years, has kept dozens of men with intellectual disabilities on the property in deplorable conditions and paid them roughly \$0.44 an hour. The plant served as employer, landlord, caregiver and representative payee. The men originally came from Texas. "This is pretty close to slavery," Harkin said. "It should shock all our consciences that something like this would go on in this day and age." A hearing in the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee sponsored by the Senator has yet to be finalized or scheduled, but the proposed hearing would likely address the questions of why existing laws appeared to go unenforced and whether any legislative changes are needed to prevent similar problems in the future.

Source: The Capitol Insider

Information and Social Networking Resource



United Cerebral Palsy and UCP of New York City have made available *My Child Without Limits*, a comprehensive informational and social networking resource for caregivers of children ages 0-5 with developmental disabilities, and the professionals who work with them. The Web site currently includes information on developmental milestones, early intervention, education planning, family support services, special needs planning, assistive technology, common treatments and therapies, and alternative treatments and therapies. See: <http://www.mychildwithoutlimits.org>.

Survey Determining the Official Unemployment Rates for People with Disabilities

There will finally be an official unemployment rate for people with disabilities. Six questions about disability are now included in the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey the federal government uses to estimate the unemployment level and rate. On February 6th, for the first time ever, the Department of Labor reported official CPS data on the employment status of people with disabilities. These data have been gathered since June 2008, when the questions were permanently added to the CPS.

Why did this change?

The release of the data on February 6th was the culmination of efforts begun with an Executive Order signed in 1998 by then, President Clinton to address issues involving the employment of adults with disabilities. The Executive Order called upon the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor and the Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce in cooperation with other federal agencies to design and implement a statistically reliable and accurate method to measure the employment rate of adults with disabilities as soon as possible.

How is the unemployment rate determined?

The Current Population Survey is a monthly sample survey of about 60,000 households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The sample is selected to reflect the entire civilian noninstitutional population 16 years and over.

What does unemployment mean?

People are classified as unemployed if they had no employment during the reference week (the week containing the 12th of the month); they were available for work at that time; and they made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the 4-week period ending with the reference week. Persons laid off from a job and expecting recall need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed. The unemployment data derived from the household survey in no way depend upon the eligibility for or receipt of unemployment insurance benefits.

Why did it take so long to include questions on disability?

A number of factors contributed to the length of time including the complexity of reliably measuring disability and resistance to including the questions in the survey. The resistance was due to many issues including the adequacy of the questions, the cost of adding the questions and concerns about how it might influence the way people respond to the other questions in the CPS. Disability is a difficult concept to define and, by extension, not easily measured. The testing process had to focus on developing questions that would provide an accurate measure, but at the same time do so with few questions. Using more questions would make measuring disability easier, but might cause more of a burden for survey respondents and cause them to refuse to continue participating.

What will this tell policymakers about the unemployment picture of disability?

Tabulations of employment, unemployment, and labor force participation for people with disabilities will provide important information about how they compare to other populations and trends in this comparison over time. The CPS also collects data to measure underemployment. For example, the CPS provides estimates of the number of persons who are employed part time but would prefer to work full time, as well as the number who are available for work, but have stopped looking for a job because they feel that there is none available for them.

How might this information be used to help people with disabilities?

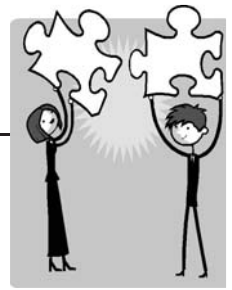
Policy makers want reliable data to help determine priorities and funding levels. Advocates can use the information to push for greater focus on improving the employment rate of people with disabilities. By describing disability in terms of functional limitations, they are able to define a fairly consistent population of people with disabilities. The questions will not provide information about unemployment rates for people with specific conditions or impairments but instead the data will be organized by functional area like cognitive impairment. By describing disability in terms of functional limitations, the survey is able to define a fairly consistent population of people with disabilities.

Source: Disability Policy Collaboration

Visit us on the web at
www.ddadvocacy.net



Autism News Roundup



Advisory Panel Releases First Federal Strategic Plan for Autism Research

The Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC), a federal government advisory panel, has released its first blueprint for autism research. The IACC Strategic Plan for Autism Spectrum Disorder Research will advise federal agencies and Congress on needs and opportunities for research investigating autism, a complex developmental disorder that affects 1 in 150 children.

“This plan will help fill the gaps between what we know about autism and what we need to do to help affected families and communities,” said Thomas Insel, M.D., chair of the IACC and director of the National Institute of Mental Health, part of the National Institutes of Health.

In establishing the IACC, the Combating Autism Act of 2006 mandated that the body develop and annually update a strategic plan for autism research. The IACC, composed of both federal and public members, developed the plan through an extensive process engaging a wide range of federal agencies and public stakeholders. The IACC convened four scientific workshops to identify research opportunities as well as expert workgroups to recommend research objectives. The committee also sought extensive public input on ASD research priorities through means such as town hall meetings and Requests for Information. The resulting plan reflects a diversity of views and the breadth of research that will be required to address the needs of people with ASD and their families.

Autism is a complex developmental disorder characterized by repetitive behavior and pervasive impairments in language and the ability to relate to others. It is often grouped with related disorders, such as Asperger’s syndrome and pervasive developmental disorder, all of which may be referred to collectively as autism spectrum disorders (ASD). The underlying causes of ASD are unclear and currently, there is no cure for the disorders. Prevalence of ASD has increased more than ten-fold over the past two decades, according to estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 2007.

The IACC strategic plan is organized around six critically important questions for people with ASD and their families regarding diagnosis, the biology of autism, risk factors, treatments and interventions, services and supports and questions about issues faced by adolescents, adults and seniors with autism and their families. Each question is followed by a brief discussion of what is currently known and what more is needed through research. The plan then states a goal to aspire to and describes research opportunities and objectives in each area. Each objective includes a professional judgment budget estimate, provided by programmatic and agency experts.

Recommendations in the strategic plan include objectives to: develop new diagnostic tools; complete longitudinal and comprehensive studies of the biological, clinical and developmental profiles of children; identify genetic and environmental risk factors; conduct clinical trials of interventions; and assess the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of evidence-based services for people with ASD of all ages in community settings.

Over the next year, the IACC will monitor the implementation of the strategic plan and update the document for its annual release.

The Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee Strategic Plan for Autism Spectrum Disorder Research is available on the IACC Web site.

Source: National Institute of Mental Health

Civitan Pancake Breakfast to Benefit TARC



Enjoy delicious pancakes and help TARC continue helping individuals with developmental disabilities and their families!

What: 17th Annual Metro Tulsa Civitan Pancake Breakfast

When: Saturday, April 4th from 8:30 a.m. to noon

Where: Southwood Baptist Church,
4020 S. 102nd E. Ave

Cost: \$4 for Adults, children under 3 eat free

*Contact Christina Merlo at TARC,
918-582-8272, to purchase tickets*



**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 and children with developmental disabilities, their families, and professionals working in the field of developmental disabilities. 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.

Please Contact
Amie Farinella, 918-582-8272
For information about the next meeting.

Connections Asperger's Group

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, March 25th- 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, March 30th
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
St. Thomas Moore Catholic Church,
2720 S. 129th E. Ave., Tulsa

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, March 18th
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, March 26th
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

1ST TULSA PEOPLE FIRST
Tulsa People First

Next Meeting:
Tuesday, March 10th
Ryan's Steakhouse
10934 E 21st S.
Tulsa, OK 74129
(918) 437-3610

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, March 17th, 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