



# TARC NEWSLETTER

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

## March 2010

### CONTENTS

2010 Legislative Session  
 Begins..... 1&2

Listing of 2010  
 Bills.....2-6

2010 Legislative  
 Deadlines .....6

Understanding the OK  
 Legislature.....6

The "R" Word  
 Challenge.....7

No Funding for Social  
 Services Agencies.....8

Challenges for Next Year.....8

Autism News Roundup.....9

Calendar of Events.....10

## SPECIAL REPORT

### The 2010 Oklahoma Legislature

By: John F. Gajda, Executive Director

The Second Session of the 52nd Oklahoma Legislature convened on the first Monday of February under a cloud of bad economic news for the State of Oklahoma. With state tax collections falling below all expectations it was hardly a good time for those who depend on state services. Although many don't acknowledge it, that includes everyone who resides in Oklahoma to one degree or another. We all use roads and bridges built and maintained by the state and depend on public safety officers to protect us. Most of us have benefited from education that enables us to earn a living and public health inspections that keep us safe. In these tough economic times many people are turning to the state for assistance through unemployment benefits, food stamps and other direct aid programs. People with disabilities and their families also depend on many services provided by the State of Oklahoma and for many of these services there is no viable private sector option.

Funding is always the most important issue before the legislature, this year more than ever. Of all the states in the nation, Oklahoma now has the distinction of having the largest gap between appropriated funds and actual revenue collected. Obviously this is not a #1 standing that most of us want to brag about.

Although the legislature is being forced to make some difficult decisions and cuts that are already in place are likely to grow over the coming months, there are issues of concern to people with disabilities other than funding that have been put on the legislative agenda for this session.

As we do each year, TARC has reviewed the thousands of new bills filed in the Oklahoma House and Senate this session to identify those that have the greatest potential to impact the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families. Most bills will impact many citizens, including those with disabilities, but the review focused on identifying bills that focused on disability or disability related issues.

We arrived at a list that includes 31 newly filed bills. Each is summarized below. Since this is the second session of this legislature there are also carryover bills – those that were not voted down last year but became dormant because they failed to advance – that have the potential to come back to life and begin to advance

*Please see "Report" 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:

**2516 East 71st St., Suite A, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74136-5531**

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

*Continued from pg 1*

this year. We are monitoring the bills from our 2009 list to see if any are acted on. Although important, no appropriation bills have been included.

With a month of the session over, many of the bills we identified have failed to advance from the committee they were assigned to in their house of origin and are now dormant. We have identified these bills but list them so that everyone can see the scope and range of measures that were filed this year. There are many familiar topics – such as insurance coverage for the treatment of autism and sales tax exemption for hearing aids – that bills cover but some new areas have been addressed for the first time. The language from dormant bills could be added, through amendments, to other bills that are still being considered. Many good bills are filed several times before they finally pass so this list of dormant bills includes many good candidates for ongoing advocacy this year and in subsequent years.

Be sure to check the 2010 list of legislative deadlines included in this newsletter for upcoming critical dates. The TARC newsletter will provide continuing updates as the 2010 Oklahoma Legislature continues its work.

Bill	Principal Authors	Status	Description
HB 2281	Wright, John A. (H)	Second Reading- Referred to Senate Committee	Recreates the Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Advisory Council until July 1, 2014.
HB 2282	Wright, John A. (H)	Second Reading- Referred to Senate Committee	Recreates until July 1, 2014, the Group Home for Persons with Developmental or Physical Disabilities Advisory Board.
HB 2298	McDaniel, Jeannie (H)	Failed Deadline <i>Dormant</i>	Provides a sales tax exemption for hearing aids or any other apparatus, device or equipment for use by a hearing-impaired person.
HB 2336	Cox, Doug (H)	Failed Deadline <i>Dormant</i>	Creates the Oklahoma Healthcare Professionals Act of 2010.
HB 2542	Cooksey, Marian (H)	Failed Deadline <i>Dormant</i>	Requires a person riding a motorized wheelchair or motorized scooter on a roadway to display at least one red warning flag that is a minimum of 16 inches square and is mounted to be visible from both the front and rear.
HB 2544	Wright, John (H)	Bill Failed- House <i>Failed</i>	Directs all medical providers under the SoonerCare program to collect a \$5 co-payment at the time services are rendered. The co-payment is to be retained by providers as additional incentive to accommodate those seeking services.
HB 2567	Wesselhoft, Paul (H)	Second Reading- Referred to Senate Committee	Modifies language to require municipalities and political subdivisions of the state with authority to regulate the standing or parking of vehicles to extend special parking privileges to a physically disabled person with the proper item displayed on that person's vehicle.
HB 2596	Morrisette, Richard (H)	Engrossed-House	Creates the Empower-OK Act, directing the Oklahoma Health Care Authority's cash and counseling program to include provisions ensuring that existing benefits are not terminated or decreased as a result of developing the program; that consumers receive a monthly budget based on the needs of the individual; authority for consumers to use the budget to obtain personal care services and make home modifications to suit the needs of the individual; and counselors available to work with consumers to develop and revise individual budgets.

HB 2702	McDaniel, Randy (H)	Failed Deadline <b>D</b> ormant	Makes it a felony to knowingly and intentionally mistreat a vulnerable adult.
HB 2710	Wallace, Collins (H)	Engrossed-House	Creates up to a \$25 state income tax checkoff provision for a donation for the benefit of the Multiple Sclerosis Society. It also creates the Multiple Sclerosis Society Revolving Fund to be administered by the Department of Health for the purpose of providing grants to the Multiple Sclerosis Society.
HB 2744	Ownbey, Pat (H)	Failed Deadline <b>D</b> ormant	Changes the name of the Adult Day Care Act to the Adult Day Care and Sheltered Workshop Act and places sheltered workshops under the same rules and regulations as adult day care facilities.
HB 2828	Peters, Ron (H)	Engrossed- House	Authorizes the Oklahoma Health Care Authority to annually assess a Home-Based Support Quality Assurance Assessment on each contracted community-based service provider. It directs payments of the Home-Based Quality Assurance Assessment by contracted community-based service providers to be an allowable cost for Medicaid reimbursement purposes. It also creates the Home-Based Quality Assurance Fund to be expended by the Oklahoma Health Care Authority for Medicaid services provided by contracted community-based service providers.
HB 2902	Brown, Mike (H)	Failed Deadline <b>D</b> ormant	Requires individual and group health insurance policies that provide coverage on an expense-incurred basis and all individual and group or indemnity-type contracts issued by a nonprofit corporation, including the Oklahoma State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board, that provide coverage to dependent children to extend coverage to dependent children with developmental disabilities to the age of 25.
HB 3064	Morrisette, Richard (H)	Failed Deadline <b>D</b> ormant	Requires nursing facilities to carry liability insurance coverage of at least \$200,000 for each occurrence of negligence.
HB 3117	Hilliard, Wes (H)	Failed Deadline <b>D</b> ormant	Directs residency for a child placed in the Oklahoma School for the Blind or the Oklahoma School for the Deaf to be the school district in which the parents, guardian or person having legal custody holds legal residence
HB 3170	Hickman, Jeff (H)	Second Reading- Referred to Senate Committee	Directs the State Board of Education to develop a funding mechanism for the disbursement of federal funds to reimburse local education agencies for the excessive costs of high-need students. It states that the mechanism is to divide the available federal funds evenly between funding for out-of-state residential placements for students with special needs who have an individual education program that calls for out-of-state residential placement and other high-need students with excessive costs to the local education agency that are three times the average per-pupil expenditure with a total excess cost of all high-need students that is at least 10 percent of the flow-through allocation for the local education agency.

HB 3327	Pittman, Anastasia (H)	Failed Deadline <b>D</b> ormant	Allows school districts to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act by providing scholarships at the request of a parent for a student with an individualized education program to attend a private institution. The bill creates the Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program, establishing eligibility criteria for such students
HB 3331	Pittman, Anastasia (H)	Failed Deadline <b>D</b> ormant	Requires an education multidisciplinary evaluation team to include a teacher certified in the education of students with visual impairments or a certified orientation and mobility specialist for the evaluation of a student with visual impairment. It also requires the State Department of Education to offer to all teachers, administrators and support personnel who work with visually impaired or blind students training in aspects and issues of the visually impaired.
HB 3374	Jett, Shane (H)	Failed Deadline <b>D</b> ormant	Creates the State Department of Aging Services, to be governed by the Commission for Aging Services. The bill transfers the Aging Services Division of the Department of Human Services from the Department of Human Services and the Oklahoma Public Welfare Commission to the Department of Aging Services. The bill also creates the State Department of Child Care Services, to be governed by the Commission for Child Care Services. The bill also transfers the Child Care Services Division of the Department of Human Services from the Department of Human Services and the Oklahoma Public Welfare Commission to the State Department of Child Care Services. The bill also creates the State Department of Developmental Disabilities Services, to be governed by the Commission for Developmental Disabilities Services. The bill also transfers the Developmental Disabilities Services Division of the Department of Human Services from the Department of Human Services and the Oklahoma Public Welfare Commission to the State Department of Developmental Disabilities Services.
HB 3393	Nelson, Jason (H)	Senate Introduction and First Reading	Clarifies that the Oklahoma Health Care Authority and the Department of Human Services are to operate the Self-Directed Care Option. It removes language allowing the consumer's self-directed care budget allowance to be used for home modifications and assistive devices that may increase the consumer's independence or make it possible to avoid institutional placement. It allows consumers to choose providers of services, including the home- and community-based self-directed services in conjunction with the Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program created in the bill. It allows a child to be transferred upon submission of a written request by a parent and subject to the approval of a receiving district. The program allows school districts beginning with the 2010-2011 school year to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act by providing scholarships at the request of a parent for a student with an individualized education program to attend a private institution. The bill directs private schools wishing to participate in the program to notify the Department of Education of its intent by May 1.

SB 0479	Crain, Brian (S)	Conferees Named-Senate <i>Hold Over Bill</i>	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 of the Oklahoma State Board of Examiners for Long-Term Care Administrators but states that such individuals must be qualified by education and/or experience.
SB 1269	Easley, Mary (S)	Failed Deadline <i>Dormant</i>	Requires any individual or group health benefit plan, including the State and Education Employees Group Health Insurance Plan, that is offered or renewed on or after Jan. 1, 2010, 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 in accordance with a treatment plan. The bill requires a diagnosis of an autistic disorder.
SB 1278	Garrison, Earl (S)	Failed Deadline <i>Dormant</i>	Expands disability fishing and hunting license eligibility to legal residents who provide a written determination from an Oklahoma-licensed doctor that he/she is 100 percent disabled.
SB 1280	Anderson, Patrick (S)	House Introduction and First Reading	Modifies the definition of “employment” under the Employment Security Act as it relates to home services as part of a program administered by the Department of Human Services.
SB 1289	Coates, Harry (S)	House Introduction and First Reading	Expands circumstances under which a long-term care facility employer is prohibited from hiring an individual to include if the results of a criminal history background check reveal he/she plead guilty or no contest to or received a deferred sentence for certain crimes.
SB 1296	Gumm, Jay Paul (S)	Failed Deadline <i>Dormant</i>	Modifies language related to discrimination in employment, replacing “handicapped person” with “person with a disability” and expanding the definition to include a person with autism spectrum disorders.
SB 1315	Paddack, Susan (S)	Failed Deadline <i>Dormant</i>	Requires rather than authorizes the Department of Human Services to replace or make reimbursement for eyeglasses or contact lenses, hearing aids, prosthetic devices, durable medical equipment or mobility enhancing equipment of employees at the Northern Oklahoma Resource Center of Enid, Southern Oklahoma Resource Center of Pauls Valley, Hissom Memorial Center or any other juvenile institution if such items are damaged by a resident while the employee is engaged in the performance of his/her duties.
SB 1316	Gumm, Jay Paul (S)	Failed Deadline <i>Dormant</i>	Modifies language related to the Health Insurance High Risk Pool Act, requiring that the primary plan offered under the act provide coverage for the screening, diagnosis, testing and treatment of autism spectrum disorder. The bill states that such coverage is not subject to dollar limits, visit limitations, deductibles or co-insurance provisions that are less favorable to an insured individual. It establishes a \$36,000 per year maximum benefit for coverage of applied behavior analysis therapy.

SB 1657	Gumm, Jay Paul (S)	Failed Deadline <b>D</b> ormant	Requires individual and group health insurance policies that provide medical and surgical benefits to provide the same coverage and benefits to any individual under the age of 18 who has been diagnosed with an autistic disorder as it would to an individual under the age of 18 who has not been diagnosed with an autistic disorder.
SB 1819	Crain, Brian (S)	House Introduction and First Reading	Creates the Direct Care Worker Advisory Council to make recommendations on maximizing profitability, minimizing redundancy, introducing uniformity and certification, and it directs the council to report those recommendations to the governor, speaker of the House and president pro tempore of the Senate by Nov. 30, 2011.
SB 2331	Johnson, Constance (S)	Failed Deadline <b>D</b> ormant	Creates the Rights of People and Elderly with Disabilities Act.

## 2010 Legislative Deadlines

Action	House	Senate
2nd regular Session convenes	February 1, 2010	February 1, 2010
Deadline for reporting from committees of originating house	February 25, 2010	February 18, 2010
Deadline for approval of bill in house of origin	March 11, 2010	March 11, 2010
Deadline for reporting bills from committees in opposite house	April 8, 2010	April 1, 2010
Deadline for approval of bill in opposite house	April 22, 2010	April 22, 2010
Sine Die Adjournment	May 28, 2010	May 28, 2010

## Where do you go for Help Understanding the Oklahoma Legislature?

With the 2010 legislative session now in full gear, OK Policy's fully updated Oklahoma Legislative and Budget Process Overview is your one-stop guide for understanding the players and the process at the State Capitol.

The Overview provides clear and comprehensive information on such subjects as:

- Composition of the Legislature, including leadership positions and committee chairs;
- the Executive Branch;
- the policy path from bill introduction to law;
- Budget process;
- Legislative resources.

Go to their web site at [www.okpolicy.org](http://www.okpolicy.org) and click on the "2010 Legislative Overview" on the left of their home page to download the 2010 Oklahoma Legislative and Budget Process Overview or view it as an online presentation.

Source: Oklahoma Policy Institute



## The “R Word” Challenge

by: *Trever Carreon*

*This speech was presented in a Rotary Club Contest by a high school student in Vinita, OK. He is currently working on a proclamation*

*for all Vinita K-12 schools to stop the use of the “R” word.*

In our society many words are taken for granted and not used in the ways they were originally intended. Most of these words we do take for granted have nothing wrong with them if used in the correct context. However, through assimilation and the progression of slang, these words have evolved into rude and even hateful comments. The term “retarded” is used to describe the medical condition of mental retardation, but throughout the decades it has evolved into a term describing something that’s disliked and not up to intellectual standards . . . and this is wrong. I believe if the use of terms like the “r word” were abolished it would help overcome a lot of the immaturity and inequality so evident in American society.

Many people brush this issue off and may even ask why it should be a concern for them, not really believing that it truly hurts someone. In truth, this concerns the entire American culture. We make a mockery of uncontrollable variables that involve citizens of our own country, in turn making a mockery of our country as a whole. So many people turn a blind eye. So many people stand by their egocentric views, and change rarely takes place. If the “r word” was viewed like the “n word” it would be less accepted. Commonly used, but not without hate or retaliation. Why is the “r word” different? Let’s look at it this way. We know that retardation is a medical condition, so why haven’t we heard derogatory remarks made towards people with ..let’s say, Diabetes? Would we say things like, “Don’t be so diabetic, Joel?” Of course not. So, why on earth would we ever degrade a medical condition beyond one’s control?

Subsequently, there are those who stand up for people with developmental disabilities, and take offense to derogatory comments. For instance, my English teacher, Wendy Brown gets annoyed when she hears her students use the “r word” in her classroom, and reprimands their inconsideration. The sad thing is,

when this does happen and the student tries to fix their mistake, they will replace the “r word” with “stupid” or “dumb,” refueling the insult. It is important that we realize not using this word will make us better people in general. We will be viewed as more mature and sympathetic towards traits people can’t help. Thus, improving the manner in which people view our character.

The worst obstacle we have in correcting this behavior is ignorance. Most kids today don’t even realize the insult involved. The discrepancy is completely overlooked, and seems almost an annoyance when one is made to correct it. They see no real connection in the label, only that the “r word” is what’s relatable and popular at the time. However, continual reminders, no matter the form, will be effective ammunition. Removal of the “r word” in our personal vocabulary is essential in making an impact. This simple alteration in our speech would benefit us in many ways. It will exemplify tolerance, acceptance, and compassion. And because of this, people who actually suffer from developmental disabilities will no longer have to worry about others making fun of the way they were born. If we rid our speech of this one derogatory comment, I believe it’s only a matter of time for terms like the “n word” to follow. On a social and cultural level, our quality of living would be greatly improved. Barriers would be dissolved, and fairness, not immaturity, would prevail.

Sometimes it’s hard to accept that something so simple could make such a drastic change. People are people; whether black, white, short, tall, or even disabled, we are all people. Hurting anyone, whether intentional or unintentional is immature and distasteful. If we can accept the simplicity of it, we can do immense things through the alteration of our smallest habits. My challenge to you is to remove the derogatory “r” word from your vocabulary and correct those who inconsiderately use it. As a result we will make a difference in the lives of those who have developmental disabilities, and coincidentally those who take my challenge.



*Help TARC  
by becoming a  
member today.*

**TARC**  
*helps families*

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

# Budget Deal: Social Service Agencies Shut out of Additional Funding, Again

by David Blatt

For the second time in less than a month, the Governor and legislative leaders have announced an agreement on how to address the huge shortfalls in this year's budget caused by declining revenue collections. This second agreement is not much different than the initial January agreement: monthly across-the-board cuts of ten percent of allocations from the General Revenue Fund will continue for the rest of the year, with the extent of cuts to some agencies mitigated by additional funds. This "addendum" to the January deal involves two main components:

- First, it specifies that 3/8ths of the state's Rainy Day Fund, or \$223.5 million, will be used to fill part of the current year shortfall. That still leaves a gap, according to my calculations, of \$235.5 million. The press release states that the remaining shortfall will be filled "with other state funds and federal stimulus dollars". The Legislature has begun considering a number of supplemental funding bills that will shed more light on which additional revenues will be tapped;
- Second, in addition to the additional dollars announced in January for Common Education (\$54 million plus \$50 million to make up for part of the \$109 million projected shortfall in the HB 1017 Fund); Higher Education (\$25.6 million), the Health Care Authority (\$33 million) and Corrections (\$7.2 million), additional funds are being directed to the Department of Public Safety (\$3 million) and Department of Central Services (\$300,000). The House of Representatives immediately issued a press release announcing that the additional dollars for the Department of Public Safety would suffice to avert furloughs for state troopers that had been scheduled to begin in March.

Left unstated in the press releases are the priorities that again failed to make the cut for additional dollars. The work that the state troopers do in protecting public safety on our highways is extremely important. What about the children with mental health issues who can no longer be treated because the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services has cut 40 children's inpatient beds in Norman? Or the seniors

who are no longer being served daily hot meals because of the \$7.2 million in cuts to senior nutrition programs? Or the victims of domestic violence and sexual assault who can no longer receive counseling and education and prevention programs because of cuts? With new revenues off the table, our elected leaders are facing brutal choices in deciding which vital programs and services to rescue and which to let die. But what does it say about our priorities as a state when programs serving the most vulnerable women, children and seniors have, once again, been left behind?

Posted on the OKPolicy.org blog at <http://okpolicy.org/blog>.

Source: OK Policy Blog



## Next Year's Challenges Will Be Even Greater

Although the Legislature finally put the FY '10 budget to rest by providing additional funding to selected agencies to mitigate the extent of this year's budget cuts, however, the celebration was short-lived - not only are the effects of this year's cuts already being felt on key programs and services, but next year's budget outlook is even more worrisome. As House Speaker Chris Benge has noted, "Agencies are currently facing significant additional cuts if current revenue projections prove true."

OK Policy has released newly updated materials that can help you understand the state's grim budget situation. From their website ([www.okpolicy.org](http://www.okpolicy.org)) you can download their 2-page Budget Trends and Highlights fact sheet, or view a more detailed presentation on the state's budget trends and outlook. Among the key information:

- To minimize the extent and severity of this year's cut, the final FY '10 budget includes close to \$1.5 billion of non-recurring revenue (stimulus, Rainy Day Fund, cash) - some 25 percent of total funding;
- The final revenue certification for next year leaves \$1.55 billion less available for appropriation for next year's budget than what was appropriated in FY '10 (after cuts and adjustments);
- The Governor's budget would increase agency cuts by an additional 0.5 - 3 percent in FY '11. However, his budget assumes almost \$800 in uncertain revenue enhancements and savings from consolidation and efficiencies.

# Autism News Roundup



## The Next Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) Will Bring Changes in the Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorders

The fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), the psychiatric handbook used by health professionals for diagnostic and research purposes, will be published in May 2013 and The American Psychiatric Association is seeking comments on proposed classification criteria that will be included in this revised edition. This is a key reference tool used by mental health and other health professionals for diagnostic and research purposes and will replace the current DSM-4. Diagnosis using the DSM criteria is important for billing of services under health-care insurance and eligibility for some services.

Among the proposed changes is a revamping of how Asperger's is classified. Even though many researchers already refer to Asperger's as high-functioning autism, it is not listed under the autism category in the current DSM-4. The new draft fifth edition proposes moving Asperger's officially into the autism category. This has provoked a wide range of responses among people with Asperger's — some of whom say they do not want to be labeled as autistic. Instead of including a diagnostic category for Asperger's, the DSM-5 draft includes traits associated with Asperger's, such as difficulty with social interactions and limited, repetitive behaviors, in a broad category called autistic disorder.

The new category of autistic disorder will incorporate the current diagnoses of autistic disorder, Asperger's disorder, childhood disintegrative disorder and pervasive disorder not otherwise specified.

In addition, the DSM-5 Neurodevelopmental Work Group members have also recommended that the diagnostic term "mental retardation" to be changed to "intellectual disability." This revision finally brings the DSM-5 up to date with other disciplines, and the Department of Education.

All proposed DSM-5 draft criteria will be available for review and comment at [www.dsm5.org](http://www.dsm5.org) until April

20, 2010. Health professionals, consumers of mental health services and family members are invited to visit the site to review and comment on the draft criteria. After the comment period is over the web site will still be available to review the proposed changes until the final DSM-5 is published in 2013.

Until the publication date, the American Psychiatric Association will conduct three phases of field trials to test some of the proposed diagnostic criteria in real-world settings. The DSM-4 criteria will remain in place until the new manual is published.

### Help TARC Glow Even Brighter!!



On Friday, May 7th, golfers will gather after sunset for a starlight scramble on a golf course illuminated only by the moon and glow-in-the-dark golf balls! The 15th annual *Shot In the Dark* golf tournament benefiting TARC, will once again be held at the LaFortune Championship Golf Course.

Golfer registration begins at 7:00 p.m., with tee off shortly after sunset (approximately 9:00 p.m.) in a four-player, shotgun start tournament format. The course is set as a Par 3, and golfers play nine holes. The top three teams will receive trophies and bragging rights as tournament champions.

Golfers are welcome to sign up in teams of four for \$300 or individually for \$100.

Sponsorships are still available and range from \$250 to \$10,000. Consider asking your employer to sponsor the event, or becoming a sponsor yourself!

Volunteers are needed as course monitors throughout the tournament. Volunteers will be needed on site from 6:30-11:45 p.m.

**For more information on sponsorship opportunities or to volunteer, call Christina Merlo, TARC Director of Communications, at 918-582-8272 extension 223 or 1-800-688-8272 or email [cmerlo@ddadvocacy.net](mailto:cmerlo@ddadvocacy.net).**

## Civitan Pancake Breakfast to Benefit TARC



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

What: 18th Annual Metro Tulsa Civitan Pancake Breakfast  
 When: Saturday, April 17th from 9:00 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

## Mark your Calendars!

Thursday, March 25th, 2010  
 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day  
 at the State Capitol  
 10:30 a.m., South Steps

Please join us for the 2010 DD Awareness Day rally on the south steps of the State Capitol and afterward, go inside and talk with your legislators about the issues that are important to you. Be sure and bring your signs and banners to help get your message across!

The day begins with speeches and a rally on the south steps at 10:30 a.m. It's a good idea to call your legislators now and encourage them to attend this event or schedule an appointment to visit with them sometime during that day. If you do not know who your legislators are, call your local county election board or visit [www.lsb.state.ok.us](http://www.lsb.state.ok.us) and choose "Find Your Legislator".

## TARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Beginning in February, DayMakers Tulsa will be moving to Whiteside Park 4009 S. Pittsburgh, Tulsa, 74135.**

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

**Links Meets the 3rd  
 Wednesday of each month:**

March 17th	Apr. 21st	May 19th
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Meetings are held at  
**TARC's new office:**  
 2516 East 71st St., Suite A  
 Tulsa, OK 74136-5531  
 6:00 pm- 7:45 pm

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

*Families  
 in Transition*

Families in Transition is a support group for parents of adult children with developmental disabilities and meets Quarterly

Contact Amie Farinella,  
 918-582-8272  
 for more information about the next meeting.

**Day  
 Makers**

Activities group for adults with developmental disabilities

Contact: Amie, 918-582-8272

**Tuesdays • 10:00-11:00 a.m.**  
 Gatesway Foundation-Mabee Gym  
 1217 E. College in Broken Arrow  
**Thursdays • 1:00-2:30 p.m.**  
 Whiteside Park, 4009 S. Pittsburgh,  
 Tulsa, 74135

Hispanic Parents Support Group  
 El Grupo Hispano de Apoyo a Padres de Familia  
 Meets last Tuesday of each month

March 30th	Apr. 27th	May 25th
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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.



**Connections** Asperger's  
 Group

**Connections meets the 4th  
 Wednesday of each month:**

March 24th	Apr. 28th	May 26th
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**Hardesty Regional Library**  
 8316 E. 93rd St.

4:30 pm- 6:00 pm

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.

**MOMS  
 & DADS**  
 SUPPORT GROUP

**Moms and Dads meets the last  
 Thursday of each month:**

March 25th	Apr. 29th	May 27th
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7:00 pm-9:00 p.m.  
 TARC Office  
 2516 East 71st St., Tulsa

*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**

**Tulsa People First  
 meets the 2nd Tues-  
 day of each month:**

March 9th	Apr. 13th	May 11th
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**Dinner 5:30 p.m.  
 Meeting 6:30 p.m.**

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