



# TARC NEWSLETTER

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

## May 2007

### CONTENTS

*The Last Frontier of Bigotry and Hatred* ..... 1 & 2

*TARC Tracking List* ..... 3

*Proposed Rules for Part C*.... 4

*UCP Analysis of Medicaid* .... 5

*82 Countries Sign UN Treaty to Protect Rights of People with Disabilities* ..... 5

*Removing Barriers to Care* .... 6

*Legislation to Improve Oral Health of Children with Disabilities* ..... 7

*Oklahoma's Medicaid Program Ranked 47th in the Nation* ... 7

*Preferences of Workers in Sheltered Workshops* ..... 8

*Autism News Roundup* ..... 9

*Calendar of Events* ..... 10

### The Last Frontier of Bigotry and Hatred

*by John F. Gajda, TARC Executive Director*

It was hard to miss the recent public outcry over the derogatory racial and gender comments made by talk show host Don Imus about the Rutgers University women's basketball team. No matter where you tuned in to the broadcast media or turned in the print media, stories about those speaking out against the mockery of the players by Imus were featured in the days following the broadcast of his comments. In fact, without the coverage of the public outcry many of us who are not fans of Mr. Imus would never have known of his comments.

It is easy to look at this chain of events and assume that things have changed. The public outcry, the decision by sponsors of his show to withdraw advertising and the ultimate termination of Mr. Imus by his network could lead one to think that tolerance of bigotry and hatred in the media has finally ended. After all, this type of mockery is nothing but another form of hate. And ending the tolerance of this language by the media makes it less likely that these references will be used in everyday language.

Unfortunately, I was reminded the same week that the stories about Imus were flying around the media that there is still a target against whom such mockery is still tolerated. I had a call from the father of a person with disabilities who lives in Tulsa reporting that he had heard a promo that ran at the end of a nationally syndicated radio show carried on a local radio station that featured an irate listener calling the host a "retard." He reported that the comment was repeated over and over in the promo as if it was something clever that was evidence of the host's ability to take it as well as dish it out. It was telling that the producers of the program chose this clip to promote their show. In the week when the limits of racial and gender bashing were being challenged, it apparently was still OK to target people with disabilities.

The terms "retard" and "retarded" continue to be used disrespectfully by people of all ages. Other derogatory references to disabilities are also common. They are not just being used in social conversations, but are being

*please see "The Last Frontier" 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)

## **“The Last Frontier,” from pg. 1**

featured in dialog on radio, in television programs, in movies and in the print media.

Another letter I received from an advocate for people with disabilities cataloged over 50 movies and television programs where some form of the “r” word was used in a derogatory context. The wide spread use of these terms by the entertainment industry only encourages further use in everyday street language even though this continued use is highly offensive to people with disabilities and their family members.

Like most derogatory racial or gender references, the “r” word is derived from an historic clinical term or reference, mental retardation, which is not widely used anymore:

- Years ago the former Association for Retarded Citizens changed its name simply to The Arc of the United States.
- Many state agencies in many states that used the term “retarded” or its many variations in their agency name have changed their names out of concern over the use of the word “retarded” and its variations.
- At the federal level, the President’s Committee on Mental Retardation is now called the President’s Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities.
- Most recently AAMR (American Association on Mental Retardation) changed their name to AAIDD (American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.)
- Even the old argument that “mental retardation” is a clinical term that needs to be used will be lost when AAIDD renames “mental retardation” in its upcoming classification and terminology manual and substitutes the term “intellectual disability.”

We are approaching an era when the term “retarded” will no longer be used except in quoted

material and in historical references. Why is it that “retard” is still ok? Why does the media still allow this and other derogatory references to people with disabilities to be used?

One reason is that many people with disabilities find it difficult to effectively defend themselves. In the Imus outcry, members of the Rutgers women’s basketball team were articulate, appealing spokespeople against the bigoted comments.

Groups representing women and African Americans were also prominent in their criticism of Imus and his network for allowing him to continue to use such derogatory references. We have yet to see such an orchestrated, sustained outcry from national disability advocacy groups over bigoted comments about people with disabilities.

Cleaning up references in everyday language to people with disabilities is not just an issue of being politically correct. As the Tulsa father who contacted me reminded me, “No one wants to be called by that term. There’s nothing cute about it. We are doing ... damage (to people with disabilities) with that word.”

What do we do about it?

First of all, we need to stop tolerating it and like the Tulsa father who called me, contact the media organizations that allow such language and demand that they stop permitting its use.

Second, we need to take our protest beyond the media bosses. Like in the Imus protest, we need to go to sponsors and advertisers who support the dissemination of this bigoted and hateful language that targets people with disabilities and, if necessary, not patronize these businesses.

Finally, national disability advocacy groups need to unite and implement a coordinated campaign to stop use of this derogatory language.

We need to let radio, television, movies and print media know that continued use of language that mocks people with disabilities will no longer be tolerated. Until this use ends we cannot expect people, especially young people, to stop using these damaging words in everyday language.

# The TARC Tracking List

## End of Legislative Session Near

The 2007 session of the Oklahoma Legislature has less than a month left to complete its work and by law is required to adjourn by 5:00 PM on May 25<sup>th</sup>.



The list of bills that TARC has been tracking has dwindled down considerably with only the six bills below still alive. The remaining bills from the original list have failed to meet deadlines to advance and are considered dormant. Only one of the bills has been signed by the governor. All bills that are still alive have been passed by both chambers of the legislature but the versions passed have been slightly different in each chamber. Thus those bills not on the governor's desk awaiting his signature are in conference committee where differences must be worked out and the identical versions of the bill passed by both chambers.

The biggest stumbling block to adjournment is the budget for the new fiscal year that starts on July 1<sup>st</sup>. An earlier comprehensive budget bill was vetoed by Governor Henry due to its failure to address what he thought were some critical state needs. The legislature has gone back and has worked on some individual budget bills and the dialog between the legislature and the governor has continued. One issue that has yet to be settled that is an important element to completing budget work is the role that additional tax cuts will play in the financial plan for next fiscal year. Those who disagree with the wisdom and effectiveness of even the currently approved tax cuts are lining up against those who are committed to continued efforts to cut government spending. Services for people with disabilities for years to come hang in the balance.

Bill	Principal Authors	Status	Last Status Change	Description
HB1084	Wesselhoft, Paul (H) & Wilcoxson, Kathleen (S)	Signed and Transmitted to Governor	5/01/07	"Office of Handicapped Concerns" becomes "Office of Disability Concerns"
HB1494	Sullivan, Daniel (H)	Conference Requested	5/02/07	Authorizes sales tax exemption on sale of hearing aids
HB1695	Enns, John (H) & Anderson, Patrick (S)	In Committee-Conference	5/02/07	Provides services to agricultural workers with disabilities.
HB1926	McDaniel, Jeannie (H) & Riley, Nancy (S)	Conference Requested	5/03/07	Establishes system of reimbursement review for DHS providers
HB1933	Steele, Kris (H)	In Committee-Conference	5/02/07	Addresses the operation of the Olmstead Strategic Planning Committee and creates an Office of Ombudsman for Persons with Disabilities
SB0398	Adelson, Tom (S) & Sullivan, Daniel (H)	Governor Action-Signed	4/30/07	Modifies the Protective Services for Vulnerable Adults Act.



## Proposed Rules for Part C Would Ease Burdens, Assure State Accountability to Help Infants, Toddlers with Disabilities

The U.S. Department of Education has proposed regulations to ease bureaucratic burdens, increase flexibility and assure accountability by states in helping prepare America's infants and toddlers with disabilities for success in school.

In proposed rules for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to be published in the May 9 Federal Register, the department sought to ensure that states provide early intervention services to children birth through age 2 in a timely and effective manner.

The proposed rules would:

- **Restructure the Current Regulations** to follow the order and arrangement of the statute. This organization creates a freestanding document that will be helpful to parents, lead agencies, early intervention service providers, and the public — both in reading the regulations, and in finding the direct link between a statutory requirement and the regulation related to that requirement.
- **Increase State Flexibility and Options** by incorporating new provisions from IDEA that permit mediation to be available to parents at any time — even when a due process hearing is not requested — and requiring that settlement agreements reached as a result of mediation be valid and enforceable in a court of law. States also would be given flexibility to offer parents of children ages 3 through 5 the option of continuing to receive Part C services (in lieu of providing those children a free appropriate public education under section 619 of the IDEA) and allowing states to serve those children for one, two or three years.
- **Provide Much Requested and Needed Clarification on Complex Provisions** in such areas as confidentiality, the use of public and private insurance to pay for Part C services and state responsibilities for children with surgically implanted devices such as cochlear implants.
- **Reduce Burdens on States** by permitting states in most cases to provide assurances rather than supporting documentation in their applications. States would be permitted to use

screening in addition to evaluations to determine whether a child is suspected of having a disability.

- **Ensure State Accountability for Child Find and Provision of Early Intervention Services** by incorporating new provisions from the IDEA requiring that states have in place referral, public awareness or other child find policies for children under the age of 3 who are:

- Involved in a substantiated case of abuse and neglect;
- Identified as affected by illegal substance abuse, or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure;
- Homeless;
- In foster care;
- Wards of the state; and
- For states that choose to allow parents to continue early intervention services for children age 3 and older, children who experience a substantiated case of trauma due to exposure to family violence.

- **Align the Part C Regulations, Where Practical, to the IDEA Part B Regulations** by minimizing the burden for lead agencies that are also state education agencies and encouraging a streamlined system of services for children with disabilities.

Comments on the proposed regulations are welcome and will be considered in the development of the final regulations. For information on submitting comments, see the Part C Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, posted at <http://idea.ed.gov>.

Source: U.S. Department of Education

### Public Hearing on Proposed Rules

June 6  
4:00- 7:30 p.m.  
Oklahoma City  
Location TBA

check <http://idea.ed.gov> for location

## UCP Releases 2007 Case for Inclusion Report



UCP has released the 2007 *Case for Inclusion* Report, an analysis of Medicaid for Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The state rankings in the report are a snapshot in time. Most data is from 2005, although all data is the most recent available from credible national sources. Unfortunately, the data is only as good as that provided directly by the states to the federal government or in response to surveys.

Therefore, one can only analyze a state as precisely as that state has supplied accurate and complete information on services provided to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Hopefully, in response to this report and future surveys, states will be even more detailed and forthcoming in their reporting regarding key outcomes and data elements for individuals served (or on a waiting list), thus allowing more complete analysis and more detailed comparisons.

The report is intended to help advocates understand:

- How their state performs overall in serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities;
- What services and outcomes need attention and improvement in their state; and
- Which states are top performers in key areas, so that advocates and officials in those top performing states can be a resource for those desiring to improve.

This report puts into a national context how each individual state is doing. Advocates should use this information to educate other advocates, providers, families and individuals, policymakers and their state administration on key achievements and areas needing improvement within their own state. These facts and figures can support policy reforms and frame debates about resource allocation for this population. Advocates can also use these facts to prioritize those areas that need the most immediate attention. Lastly, advocates can use these facts to support adequate and

necessary ongoing funding and increasing resources in order to maintain their high quality outcomes, eliminate waiting lists, and close large institutions.

### Oklahoma's Rankings in the Report

Oklahoma ranked 35th in the nation overall, with additional rankings highlighted below:

- Ranked #1 in the percentage of individuals served in competitive employment;
- Ranked #11 in total spending on keeping families together.
- Ranked #37 for growth in residential services that would be required to meet the needs of those on the waiting list;

The entire report as well as all of Oklahoma's rankings can be viewed at: <http://www.ucp.org/medicaid/>.

Source: UCP

## 82 Countries Sign Landmark UN Treaty to Protect Rights of People with Disabilities



The signing of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on March 30, 2007 by over 80 countries marks a major step in formalizing this landmark convention into law, after the Convention was adopted by the General Assembly in December 2006.

The Convention establishes an international framework for securing the rights of persons with disabilities as well as a responsibility to advance and promote the rights of persons with disabilities. Several disability groups in the United States, including the American Association of People with Disabilities, are asking President Bush to sign the treaty.

Source: U.N. News Centre

# Report Recommends Ways to Remove Barriers to Care, Assistive Services for Americans with Disabilities

WASHINGTON — Although the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has helped increase awareness of barriers faced by people with disabilities, and advances in science and engineering have led to better assistive technologies that make it easier for individuals to lead productive, independent lives, outdated regulations too often impede access to health care coverage and assistive devices for many who need them, says a new report by the Institute of Medicine.

The report calls on Congress and appropriate federal agencies to improve decision making about what and who Medicare and Medicaid will cover and to eliminate waiting periods for qualified individuals to receive Medicare coverage. The federal government should find ways to ease restrictions that prevent people from getting effective assistive services and technologies to help them live as independently as possible and participate in work and other activities outside the home.

“The number of Americans who have disabilities will grow significantly in the next 30 years as the baby boom generation enters late life. If one considers people who now are disabled, those likely to develop a future disability, and people who are or will be affected by the disabilities of family members or others close to them, it becomes clear that disability will eventually affect the lives of most Americans,” said Alan M. Jette, director, Health and Disability Research Institute, Boston University School of Public Health, and chair of the committee that wrote the report. “Increasingly, scientific evidence reveals that disability results, in large part, from actions society and individuals take. The sobering reality, however, is that over the past two decades, far too little progress has been made in adopting major public policy and practice advances to reduce disability in America.”

Currently, more than 40 million Americans – at least one in seven – have physical, mobility, sensory, or other impairments or limitations. Since IOM’s previous reports in 1991 and 1997 that

highlighted disability as a pressing public health issue, there has been growing recognition that disability is not inherent in individuals, but rather is the result of interactions between people and their physical and social environments. Many aspects of the environment contribute to limitations associated with disability — for example, inaccessible transportation systems and workplaces, restrictive health insurance policies, and telecommunications and computer technologies that do not consider people with vision, hearing, or other disabilities.

The ADA, and other policies aimed at reducing barriers for people with disabilities, has helped to increase recognition of environmental obstacles, but its implementation and enforcement have often been disappointing, the committee said. Ironically, even within health care facilities, people with disabilities encounter equipment and surroundings that are not designed to accommodate their needs - for example, examination tables and weight scales that are difficult for people in wheelchairs to use. Information materials for people with vision or hearing loss are frequently limited, as well.

Steps needed to ensure that the growing population of Americans with disabilities is able to lead full lives and avoid lost productivity include the modification of Medicare’s “in home use” requirement for durable medical equipment, for example, a wheelchair or scooter. Current regulations stipulate that equipment must be “appropriate for use in the home,” which has been interpreted to mean a device should not be covered if it would be used only outside the home, such as an item for use in an office. Policies may also keep people from obtaining equipment that is safe and durable to use for getting around outside as well as inside the home. Other needed steps are the evaluation of new approaches for supplying assistive equipment, like renting or recycling used equipment, and rethinking narrow and outdated “medical necessity” rules that do not reflect the current emphasis on promoting independence and community integration for people with disabilities.

Source: The National Academies' News

## Legislation Introduced to Improve Oral Health of Children with Developmental Disabilities



Shortly before the Easter recess, House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman John Dingell (D-MI) and 14 cosponsors introduced the Children's Dental Health Improvement Act of 2007 (H.R. 1781), which requires the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to establish an "Oral Health Initiative" to "reduce the profound disparities in oral health by improving the health status of vulnerable populations, particularly low-income children and children with developmental disabilities, to the level of health status that is enjoyed by the majority of Americans."

The bill includes several provisions including the authorization of:

- \$50 million in FY 2008 and each subsequent year for financial incentives and grants to help states improve the delivery of dental services in Medicaid and SCHIP.
- \$40 million annually from FY 2008 through FY 2012 for grants to help underserved areas recruit and retain dental providers.

Source: Capitol Insider Vol. 12, Issue 14



 **TARC**  
*helps families*

Help TARC by becoming  
a member today.

## New Forensic Interviewing of Victims with Disabilities DVD Released



After much anticipation, the "Victims with Disabilities: The Forensic Interview: Techniques for Interviewing Victims with Communication and/or Cognitive Disabilities" (April 2007) has been released by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime.

This 57-minute DVD provides a specific set of guidelines for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, victim advocates, forensic interviewers, and others for interviewing adults and children with communication and/or cognitive disabilities.

An interactive companion discussion guide including a complete transcript of the DVD and a glossary of terms and concepts used in the film is also available. This DVD can be ordered through the National Criminal Justice Reference Service at: <http://www.ncjrs.gov/App/shoppingcart/ShopCart.aspx?item=NCJ%20212894&repro=0>

Source: <http://wind.uwyo.edu/resourceguide/>

## Oklahoma's Medicaid Program Ranked 47th in the Nation

Public Citizen's Health Research Group has released a report entitled *Unsettling Scores*, in which published data was used to measure Medicaid performance in 55 areas. In calculating a final score out of a possible 1,000 points, the report's authors weighted eligibility and reimbursement more heavily than breadth of services and quality of care.

The top five programs, in order of rank, were in Massachusetts, Nebraska, Vermont, Alaska and Wisconsin. The bottom five, with lowest-ranked last, were in South Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, Idaho and Mississippi. For more information, visit: <http://www.citizen.org/pressroom/release.cfm?ID=2417>

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

## Fact Sheets on Critical Legislative Issues for People With Intellectual Disabilities Available Online



People with intellectual disabilities can educate themselves on critical legislative issues affecting them with fact sheets published by The Arc of the United States following the 2007 Disability Policy Seminar held in Washington, D.C.

More than 600 people gathered at the March seminar, to learn how to advocate for critical issues facing the developmental disability community. Presentations from the seminar as well as fact sheets on key issues are now available for download at <http://www.thearc.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?&pid=1404&srcid=209>.

Source: The Arc of the United States

## AAIDD Announces the Definition of the Term “Intellectual Disability” and Renames “Mental Retardation”

The group of experts representing the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) and responsible for defining the condition of intellectual disability to the world now explains the move away from the word “mental retardation” to the term “intellectual disability” in an article published in the April issue of the journal, *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*.

The term is intended to cover the same population of individuals who were diagnosed previously with mental retardation. The article, “*The Renaming of Mental Retardation: Understanding the Change to the Term Intellectual Disability*,” cites the new definition for intellectual disability and the assumptions on which it is based. Check out the article at: [www.aaidd.org/Reading\\_Room/pdf/renamingMRIDDApril2007.pdf](http://www.aaidd.org/Reading_Room/pdf/renamingMRIDDApril2007.pdf).

The term will officially debut as a definition in the 11th edition of the AAIDD definition Manual in 2009.

Source: AAID

## New Study on What Workers in Sheltered Workshops Prefer



In a recent article published in the *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*, authors Migliore, Mank, Grossi and Rogan note that despite national and state policies promoting integrated employment, 76% of adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities are served in facility-based programs.

Their article focuses on whether or not this gap between policy and practice is in part due to the lack of interest of adults with intellectual disabilities and their families for employment outside facility-based programs.

The authors surveyed 210 adults with intellectual disabilities in 19 sheltered workshops, their respective families or caregivers, and staff members in these workshops. Results show that 74% of adults with intellectual disabilities, 67% of families, and 66% of staff felt those they serve would prefer employment outside workshops, or at least consider it as an option.

The majority believed that adults with intellectual disabilities can perform outside workshops if support is made available. The study highlighted the fact that the preference for employment outside of workshops is not associated with the severity of the disability.

Source: *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation* Vol. 26, No. 1

## Civil Rights News & Events Update: April 2007 Issue of Disability Rights Online News



The April 2007 issue of *Disability Rights Online News* is now available. This issue includes updates about DOJ’s Civil Rights Division’s activities in the area of disability rights.

This information has recently been updated, and is now available at <http://www.disabilityinfo.gov/digov-public/public/DisplayPage.do?parentFolderId=218>.

Source: [www.disabilityinfo.gov](http://www.disabilityinfo.gov)

### Kennedy Krieger Institute Launches First National Online Autism Registry

The Kennedy Krieger Institute has announced the launch of the Interactive Autism Network (IAN), the first national online autism registry, at <http://www.IANproject.org>.

Parents are filled with questions about autism, and, unfortunately, researchers are still struggling with many of the same questions. IAN brings these two groups together in a way that's never been done before, through an online registry, to find answers.

Designed to drive autism research forward more quickly and efficiently, IAN will facilitate the exploration of causes, treatments and the search for a possible cure to this puzzling disorder. The IAN project will link researchers to parents, the people who know the most about their child, in two important ways:

— **Data Collection:** Parents of children with autism will be engaged online, providing valuable genealogical, environmental and treatment data without having to leave their home or office. By the end of the year, IAN's goal is to have the largest pool of family-provided data on autism, enabling researchers to explore hypotheses and search for parallels among affected children in ways that have not been previously possible.

— **Research Recruitment:** IAN will match parents of children with autism with local and national IRB-approved research studies for which they are uniquely qualified. Each year, many autism studies are not completed because scientists cannot find enough qualified participants in a timely manner. By facilitating the process of research recruitment, IAN aims to remove this stumbling block.

"Parents are looking for a more direct way to get involved and speed up autism research, hoping for effective treatments and eventually a cure," said Dr. Paul Law, Director, Interactive Autism Network at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, Maryland. "IAN will fill that research gap for parents and researchers, transforming the face of autism research as we know it."

Among the families who registered during the IAN pilot phase, 80% had never participated in any

autism research. The IAN project will utilize the power and reach of the Internet, which is widely available regardless of income, education, race and ethnicity, to significantly increase family participation. In the long-term, this new research approach may impact not only autism research, but how other diseases are studied as well.

To protect participant confidentiality, the data collection and management processes throughout the site are carefully designed to ensure privacy and maintain the highest level of medical and scientific research ethics.

In addition to collecting data and recruiting participants for research, the IAN project hopes to engage the entire autism community—from parents to policy makers to the media—in an online meeting place where they can become more knowledgeable consumers of autism research. This arm of the IAN project provides consumer-friendly, evidence-based information about autism, explains the value of research in general, and gives updates on current and future research studies.

"By linking parents and researchers, the IAN project aims to organize and mobilize autism research efforts in hopes of achieving results similar to the leukemia community," said Dr. Gary Goldstein, President and CEO of the Kennedy Krieger Institute. "Thirty years ago, the majority of children with leukemia died. Today, the majority survive because increased participation by a very organized research community led to discoveries of new and better treatments."

IAN is funded by a grant from Autism Speaks, a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing awareness about the growing autism health crisis and raising funds for critical autism research.

"We are proud to be funding this important initiative and excited about its potential to not only collect critical data, but also connect families and researchers nationwide in order to speed the search for the causes, better treatments and a cure for autism," said Mark Roithmayr, president of Autism Speaks.

Source: [www.prnewswire.com](http://www.prnewswire.com)



# TULSA ADVOCATES FOR THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
TULSA, OKLAHOMA  
PERMIT #909

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The TARC newsletter is published monthly by the Tulsa Advocates for the Rights of Citizens With Developmental Disabilities, Inc., to inform readers about issues and legislative action that affect adults, children, their families, and the dedicated people who work with this challenging population. The contents do not necessarily represent the official position of TARC.

Copyright 2007, TARC. All Rights Reserved.

# Help TARC Help Families – Become a Member Today!

<p><b>Asperger's Syndrome S.O.S</b></p> <p>A project of Tulsa Public Schools in conjunction with TARC</p> <p><b>Next Meeting:</b> Thursday, May 3 6:30-8:00 p.m. Kendall Whittier Elementary</p> <p><i>S.O.S. is a social group for kids with Asperger's Syndrome and a support group for their parents, both of which are open to all families – not just those in Tulsa Public Schools.</i></p> <p>To sign up, call Stephanie Orban at 746-8747. For more information, contact Sherilyn Walton at TARC, 918-582-8272.</p>	<p><b>Connections Asperger's Group</b></p> <p><b>Next Meeting:</b> Wednesday, May 23 - 4:30 p.m. Hardesty Library, 8316 E. 93rd St.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p> <b>Hispanic Parents Support Group</b> El Grupo Hispano de Apoyo a Padres de Familia</p> <p><b>Next Meeting: Monday, May 21</b> <i>For more information, call Zaida at 918-582-8272</i> 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Martin Regional Library, 2601 S. Garnett</p>
<p><b>MOMS &amp; DADS SUPPORT GROUP – OWASSO</b></p> <p><i>For more information, contact Sherilyn, 918-582-8272.</i></p>	<p><b>Day Makers</b></p> <p>Activities group for adults with developmental disabilities <b>Thursdays • 1:00-2:30 p.m.</b> McClure Recreation Center 7740 E. 7th Street in Tulsa Contact: Amie, 918-582-8272</p>	<p><b>MOMS &amp; DADS SUPPORT GROUP</b></p> <p><b>Next Meeting:</b> Thursday, May 31 7:00-9:00 p.m.</p> <p>Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church, 4102 E. 61st St., Room B-8 • No child care provided</p> <p><i>The mission of the Moms &amp; Dads Support Group is to nurture and support families whose children have a developmental disability, to encourage positive strategies in dealing with challenges, and to share in the joy of raising our children.</i></p> <p>Contact: Sherilyn, 918-582-8272</p>
		<p></p> <p><b>TULSA PEOPLE FIRST</b></p> <p><b>Next Meeting:</b> Tuesday, May 8 <i>Dinner-5:30 p.m. Meeting-6:30 p.m.</i></p> <p>For more information, call Amie at 918-582-8272</p>
		<p><b>SAPULPA-New! Support Group for Families of Children with Special Needs</b></p> <p><b>Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 15, 6:15 p.m.</b> Creek County Literacy Center, 15 N. Poplar <i>Childcare is not provided, but please take advantage of Sapulpa's great Respite Care Program!</i></p> <p>For more information, contact Mindy Littlefield, 378-5632</p>