



Partners in Transition

May 2007

Good Afternoon All!

Attached you will find information on the McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program.

Tunnels and Cliffs: A Guide for Workforce Development Practitioners and Policymakers serving Youth with Mental Health Needs

Tunnels and Cliffs: A Guide for Workforce Development Practitioners and Policymakers serving Youth with Mental Health Needs was developed as part of the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy's (ODEP's) work to help workforce development practitioners, administrators, and policymakers increase their understanding of youth with mental health needs and the supports necessary to help them transition into the workforce successfully. Further information and the complete download may be accessed at http://www.ncwd-youth.info/resources_&Publications/mental_health.html

Entering the World of Work: What Youth with Mental Health Needs Should Know About Accommodations

The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) has released a fact sheet on accommodations for youth with mental health needs who are preparing to enter the workforce. Disclosing a mental health disability, requesting accommodations, and examples of accommodations are among the topics addressed, and resources are provided. This fact sheet is available for download or print free of charge at <http://www.dol.gov/odep/pubs/fact/transitioning.htm>

Transportation

For those of you interested in transportation issues, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has issued its final, official, program circulars for the Section 5310 Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities program, the Section 5316 Job Access and Reverse Commute program, and the Section 5317 New Freedom program. The full text of these three circulars can be found on the FTA web site, www.fta.dot.gov, under the "Legislation, Regulations & Circulars/Guidance" heading. These circulars take effect May 1, 2007.

The Interactive Autism Network to Accelerate Autism Research by Linking Researchers and Families Nationwide

Kennedy Krieger Institute in April announced the launch of the Interactive Autism Network (IAN) – the first national online autism registry – at 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 Kennedy Krieger project is spearheaded by the husband and wife research team of Drs. Paul and Kiely Law, physicians by training and parents of a 13-year-old son with autism.

[For more details go to: http://www.autismspeaks.org/press/ian_launch.php](http://www.autismspeaks.org/press/ian_launch.php)

Funding Opportunity - Parent Group of the Year 2007 Contest

PTO Today's Parent Group of the Year Contest is an opportunity for parent groups—including PTOs, PTAs, HSAs, and PTCs—showcase their work while giving their school the chance to win cash (**up to \$8,000**) and prizes. Parent groups can enter in one or more of the following categories: outstanding parent group at a small school, outstanding parent group at a private or parochial school, outstanding new parent group, outstanding family event, outstanding job on a completed major project, outstanding effort to overcome adversity, outstanding outreach to a multicultural parent base, and outstanding community service project. Entry deadline: May 31, 2007.

For more details go to <http://www.ptotoday.com/pgy/details.html>

Issue Brief: The Basics of the National Council on Disability's Social Security Report

The National Council on Disability (NCD) has published an issue brief as a follow-up to its 2005 report *The Social Security Administration's Efforts to*

Promote Employment for People with Disabilities: New Solutions for Old Problems. The issue brief highlights the continuing number of beneficiaries who never leave the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) insurance rolls, and the need to increase the number of beneficiaries who enter, or reenter, the U.S. workforce. The brief discusses the need to identify new approaches that emphasize beneficiary control of career planning and the ability to access self-selected services and supports.

http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2006/issue_brief.htm

A Guardian's Guidebook to Community Residential Services

A publication that may be useful for legal guardians as they consider or prepare for a transition planning process for the person they represent. This book guides the process in determining if a person can live in the community, and what that community living environment would need to look like. The purpose of this guidebook is to provide information about the variety of community residential options available to adults with developmental disabilities who relocate from State Centers.

<http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/1839>

Cost-Effective Investments in Children

New paper examines options for investing additional resources in children as part of an overall federal-deficit-reduction plan. The paper, one in a series of papers on budget choices published by the Budgeting for National Priorities project at the Brookings Institution, is based on a review of benefit-cost evidence. The author identifies four areas of investment in children where there is sufficient evidence of positive outcomes and sound benefit-cost ratios to merit expanded federal funding.

<http://www.brookings.edu/views/papers/200701isaacs.pdf>

State Children's Health Insurance Program at a Glance

Here is a fact sheet from the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured that provides an overview of how the State Children's Health Insurance Program is administered and financed, who is eligible, what services are covered, and what the policy issues are for the program's reauthorization.

<http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/7610.pdf>

Aging Out of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT): Issues for Young Adults with Disabilities

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) coverage offered through the Medicaid program has played an important and unique role for low-income children with disabilities, and maintaining this support is a key concern. This Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured issue brief discusses the challenges and implications for young people with disabilities when they become adults and lose their EPSDT benefits and how recent changes to the Deficit Reduction Act give states an opportunity to increase the availability of services that allow disabled individuals to lead as normal a life as possible as they move into adulthood.

<http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/7491.pdf>

Welcome to the Directory of Consumer-Driven Services (CDS), a project of the National Mental Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse.

The purpose of the Directory is to provide consumers, researchers, administrators, service providers, and others with a comprehensive central resource for information on national and local consumer-driven programs. Such programs have a proven track record in helping people recover from mental illnesses.

For more information go to <http://www.cdsdirectory.org/index.html>