



# Partners in Transition

October 2007

## E-NEWS

### TRANSPORTATION

#### Easter Seals Project ACTION

##### Statements of need are wanted by Nov. 1

Do you have an idea for a project that would advance accessible community transportation? Large or small, send it in! The deadline for the annual gathering of statements of need is approaching fast, so learn how to participate in this important process. ESPA's National Steering Committee will review all submitted ideas before deciding on projects to be funded in 2008.

### CAREGIVING

#### Rural America

Easter Seals and the National Alliance for Caregiving released this report in September 2007, which provides a profile of caregivers in rural areas. The report highlights demographic data and the unique challenges rural caregivers face. It encourages readers to take steps to address the specific needs of rural caregivers and provides examples of programs currently serving that population.

[http://www.easterseals.com/site/DocServer/Caregiving\\_in\\_Rural-compressed.pdf?docID=50643](http://www.easterseals.com/site/DocServer/Caregiving_in_Rural-compressed.pdf?docID=50643)

### EMPLOYMENT

#### **Empowerment for Americans with Disabilities: Breaking Barriers to Careers and Full Employment**

This NCD report has two broad aims: 1) to summarize the existing knowledge regarding the employment of people with disabilities in a series of short issue briefs, and 2) to present new information on the perspectives of employers, people with disabilities, and disability specialists on the key barriers to and facilitators of employment.

[http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2007/NCDEmployment\\_20071001.htm](http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2007/NCDEmployment_20071001.htm)

## **Career and Technical Education (CTE) Role in Postsecondary Transition**

Association for Career and Technical Education's new issue brief. As states and national organizations are implementing new initiatives designed to improve the secondary and postsecondary education outcomes of our nation's youth, numerous reform strategies that involve a strong focus on CTE have emerged.

[http://www.acteonline.org/resource\\_center/upload/Transitions.pdf](http://www.acteonline.org/resource_center/upload/Transitions.pdf)

## **AAPD Accepting Applications for 2008 Summer Internship Program**

For the seventh year in a row, the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation (MEAF) and the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) are offering a Congressional internship program for undergraduate students with disabilities. The MEAF–AAPD Congressional Internship Program provides an opportunity for students with disabilities to work on Capitol Hill for eight weeks (or in some cases with a Federal agency) and acquire valuable work experience that will enrich their academic studies. As Congressional interns, participants gain insight into the operations of Congressional offices, learn how public policy is developed, and gain an understanding of constituents' roles in the legislative and political processes. The internship program, administered by AAPD, was created in 2002 through a major grant from MEAF.

**Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) on Friday, December 14, 2007.**

For further information, guidelines, and application, visit

<http://www.aapd.com/internships/internship08/MEAFinternInfo08.htm>.

## **U.S. Department of Labor News Release**

<http://www.dol.gov/images/printer-friendly.gif>**HYPERLINK**

["http://www.dol.gov/PrinterFriendly/PrinterVersion.aspx?url=http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/odep20071254.htm"](http://www.dol.gov/PrinterFriendly/PrinterVersion.aspx?url=http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/odep20071254.htm)**Printer-Friendly Version**

**WASHINGTON** — The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) today awarded a 24-month cooperative agreement for \$1,850,000 to the Institute for Educational Leadership's Center for Workforce Development in Washington, D.C., to establish a National Technical Assistance Center on Transition and Employment for Youth with Disabilities.

"It is essential that youth with disabilities receive the support they need to stay in school and succeed in the workplace, so that they can realize their dreams and ambitions for the future," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao. "This nearly \$1.9 million grant is to help ensure that youth with disabilities graduate from high school and get the assistance they need to continue their studies or enter the workforce."

The purpose of the National Technical Assistance Center will be to build the capacity of workforce development, economic development and educational service delivery

systems to ensure that youth with disabilities graduate from high school and either enter employment or continue their education. A consortium led by the Center for Workforce Development will develop and promote quality collaborations and service coordination among agencies, programs and service providers at the national, state and local levels.

Through the new national center, the consortium will provide technical assistance to a minimum of three competitively selected states currently implementing individual learning and graduation planning strategies to ensure that policies and practices respond to the needs of youth with disabilities. It will conduct research, disseminate information and serve a wide range of stakeholders on topics relevant to improving postsecondary outcomes for youth with disabilities. Additionally, the consortium will advance youth-centered planning, development and leadership opportunities.

The other members of the consortium include the National Youth Employment Coalition, Washington, D.C.; the PACER Center, Minneapolis, Minn.; the Center on Education and Work at the University of Wisconsin — Madison; and the University of Minnesota's Institute for Community Integration in Minneapolis. The Center for Workforce Development was selected as the lead entity of the consortium from grant applications submitted in response to a solicitation by the Labor Department.

ODEP is leading a 21st century federal response to the historic underemployment of people with disabilities. In collaboration with other government agencies, public and private employers, and additional stakeholders, ODEP facilitates the development and implementation of innovative policies and practices necessary to achieve a fully inclusive workplace. ODEP's work primarily falls into three categories: employers and the workplace; workforce systems; and employment-related supports, which include education and training, health care, reliable transportation, affordable housing and assistive technology.

## **RESOURCES**

### **Partnering with Your Child's School: A Guide for Parents**

Information and Resources for Families of Children with Health and/or Mental Health Care Needs

The HSC Foundation, in partnership with George Washington University's Graduate School of Education and Human Development, offers a new resource for parents. The booklet – available online and in hard copy – in English and in Spanish, is designed to help parents of children who have been diagnosed with health or mental health care needs to learn about available resources and to develop a partnership with their children's schools. The booklet's content has been reviewed and validated by groups of parents, youth, and educators and is produced in partnership with the Council for Exceptional Children and the National Association of State Directors of Special Education.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.hscfoundation.org/whatwedo/familysupports.php>

## **The Family Café Receives Federal Grant for Youth Information, Training & Resource Center**

The Family Café has been awarded a three-year grant from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities with the US Department of Health and Human Services to create a Youth Information, Training and Resource Center in Florida. The intent of the program is to provide assistance and training to youth and emerging leaders with disabilities as they navigate their transition from educational settings to the workplace and the adult world. Through a combination of peer mentoring, professional training and internships, The Family Café will look forward to fostering leadership and nurturing success among the youth and emerging leaders it reaches.

The core of the program will be the Florida Youth Council, a select group of youth and emerging leaders with disabilities that are committed to advocating for the successful transition of their peers with disabilities. The Family Café will also offer myriad opportunities for interested youth and emerging leaders to participate in the program, including an Annual Youth Summit, program content at The Family Café Annual Conference, a program Newsletter in both electronic and print formats, and a comprehensive online outreach program that takes advantage the power of social networking.

For additional information regarding the Youth Information, Training and Resource Center, please contact The Family Café at 888/309-CAFÉ (2233) or [info@familycafe.net](mailto:info@familycafe.net).

## **OPEN FOR COMMENT - MEDICAID CMS NPRM on Rehabilitation Option under Medicaid**

In August, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on Medicaid reimbursement for school-based administration and transportation. Under the proposed rule (CMS-2287-P), Federal financial participation (FFP) would remain available for:

Costs of allowable Medicaid administrative activities conducted by employees of the state Medicaid agency, as well as administrative overhead costs which are integral to the provision of a covered service; and

Covered services in a child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) and for transportation from school to a health care provider in the community for a covered service.

Federal Medicaid payments would no longer be available for:

Administrative activities performed by school employees or contractors, or anyone under the control of a public or private educational institution; or

Transportation from home to school and back for school-aged children with an IEP or an Individualized Family Services Plan established pursuant to IDEA.

States would continue to be reimbursed for costs related to transportation to and from a school for children who are not yet school aged but are receiving covered direct medical services at the school. This includes transportation to school and back to receive direct medical services. The visit cannot include an educational component or any activity unrelated to the direct medical service. In addition, if an eligible child is transported from school to an appointment for a Medicaid covered service with a provider that bills Medicaid, the costs of the transportation remain eligible.

The proposed rule is **open for public comment until November 6, 2007**. For more information, please visit

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicaidGenInfo/Downloads/CMS2287P.pdf>

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

### **Working with People with Disabilities- A Guide for Responders**

This 26-minuted training DVD produced in cooperation with the Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities is designed to help personnel from emergency medical services, fire, police and others work effectively and compassionately with persons with disabilities. The training is endorsed by the Maryland Department of Disabilities, Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS), Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, Maryland State Firemen's Association (MSFA)), and the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions, as well as other public agencies and non-governmental disabilities and advocacy groups. The DVD is available at no charge for training purposes. To obtain a free copy, contact Fire Director James M. Korn at [jkorn@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jkorn@baltimorecountymd.gov)

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Partners In Transition Summit**

October 31 and November 1 at the Peabody Hotel in Orlando. See you there!

### **KUDOS....**

to the Lee County team for Project Transition of Lee County—dedicated advocates of their long range goals! Great job Lee County!!!