

Community Autism Resources

A Place to Start...A Presence on Your Journey

Monday Morning Message

January 9th, 2012

Take 5 : Check out the new **ultimate iPad case** for maximum portability, handling, and protection. <http://www.gripcase-usa.com/>

Don't Miss the 17th Annual ASD Symposium

Thursday and Friday March 15 - 16, 2012 at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet Cranston, RI
Every year, in conjunction with [Dr. Barry Prizant, Ph.D, CCC-SLP](#), Community Autism Resources hosts our Annual ASD Symposium.

This symposium was the first national forum to address the importance of understanding interests, strengths, and talents of people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) relative to social, academic, vocational, and leisure skills. Presentations and discussions focus on the importance of identifying and enhancing these abilities for people with ASD of all ages and all ability levels in educational, community, home, and vocational settings. The symposium is intended for educators, SLPs, OTs, psychologists, paraprofessionals, social workers, therapists, family members, and other care givers who live with and/or support the development of people with ASD. Parking, continental breakfast and lunch are included. You can choose to attend one or both days.

Thursday morning: From Anxiety to Meltdown: How Individuals with ASD Deal with Anxiety, Experience Meltdowns, Manifest Tantrums, & How You Can Intervene Effectively: Deborah Lipsky, M.Ed. has a Master's degree in Education and Counseling and travels the country and Canada presenting seminars on autism. Diagnosed only six years ago with high functioning autism, she has found her own unique solutions and strategies for coping with autism as an adult. Deborah has a way of letting attendees "feel" what it is like to be autistic and her interactive style of presenting keeps audiences always riveted. . She is the author of two books, *From Anxiety to Meltdowns* and *Managing Meltdowns*.

Thursday Afternoon: Practical Strategies for Developing Trust with Persons with Autism and their Families

Barry Prizant & Barbara Domingue, Executive Director Community Autism Resources
The success and quality of life achieved by persons with ASD depends on the development of trusting and supportive relationships. Trust must be developed in school settings with all staff, as persons with ASD are more available for learning and for

engaging successfully with others. Barry and Barbara will consider qualities of interpersonal support and characteristics of interactions that underlie the development of trusting relationships with persons with ASD, and their families. Practical strategies will be discussed for enhancing trust with people with ASD of all ages and ability levels, and their families.

Friday: Technology for Your Toolbox: Using the iPad to Support Communication and Learning: Spend the day with [Brenda Fossett, Ph.D., BCBA-D](#)

This presentation is essentially a “show and tell” of apps across a variety of categories, such as learning to use the touch screen, cause/effect, early learning, visual supports, AAC, language development, literacy, math, etc. It’s been extremely well-received for its practicality and strategies.

Conference Fee: Both Days early bird BEFORE February 15, 2012

- Parent/Full Time Student/Family Member of a Child with ASD - \$199.00 Add Spouse - \$70.00
- Professionals (Early Bird) - \$265.00

For more information about the Symposium, fees for a single day, post early bird prices, group rates for professionals, and CEUs/Credits and PDPs for: Speech & Language pathologists, Psychologists, Social Workers, as well as MA, CT & RI teachers go to: <http://www.community-autism-resources.com/events/symposium.html>

Please note ALL attendees will receive CEU certificates.

Symposium questions should be directed to: Kelly@ccseminars.com

There may be some limited funding for parents who need help with the conference fee. Contact Jan Randall for more information 508-379-0371 ext 16.

Send a Personal Invitation to Your Legislator to Attend the ADDP (Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers) Box Lunch

on January 17, 2012 for the Annual ADDP Business Meeting @ 10 a.m. Legislative Box Lunch @11:30 a.m. at the State House, Hall of Flags.

I sincerely hope that you will be attending the ADDP Annual Meeting, on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, at the Massachusetts State House, in the Hall of Flags.

Will you please help us by clicking here

<http://capwiz.com/addp/issues/alert/?alertid=59247501&PROCESS=Take+Action> to send an email to your Representative and Senator inviting them to the ADDP Box Lunch?

During the ADDP Business Meeting, we will discuss the ADDP FY 13 Legislative Budget Request, the State's Dual Eligible Plan and our efforts to improve Direct Support Salaries.

At the conclusion of the ADDP Business Meeting, at 11:30 a.m., we will host a box lunch for Members of the Massachusetts House and Senate with ADDP Members.

Please join us and help urge your Senator and Representative to attend this important meeting.

We have had a great turnout in the past and hope you will join us and be present to host your individual legislator.

I look forward to seeing you, and I know your Representative and Senator will appreciate seeing you as well and learning more about the needs of people with disabilities in the 2012 Legislative Session.

Sincerely,
Gary Blumenthal

An IEP for my Child

January 12, 2012, 10:00 am -12:00 pm

Put on by the Federation for Children with Special Needs. Every child with a disability who receives special education services must have an Individualized Education Program (IEP). This workshop takes parents step-by-step through IEP development, including how to articulate a vision, using evaluations to write measurable goals, and measuring their child's progress. This workshop will be held at the Kennedy Donovan Center, 32 Commercial Street, South Yarmouth, MA 02664. For more information or registration please call Kerri Pearlman at 508-385-6019 x 105 or via e-mail at kpearlman@kdc.org

Kennedy Donovan Center's Sib Shop

Saturday January 14, 2011, Siblings Ages 8-14 years, 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Lunch Provided

This is a fun event in which siblings will be able to have an opportunity for peer support in a fun and supportive way!

Sibshops are important for siblings as they offer support and outlets they need to help foster the most important and longest living relationship your child with disabilities will have.

Location: Cape Cod Challenger Club, 418 Bumps River Road

Osterville, Ma 02655

Please contact Laura Griswold at 508 385-6019 or via email at lgriswold@kdc.org to register.

PLEASE CALL or E-mail Senator Therese Murray and urge her to support H.3720. An Act to Promote Transition of Students with Disabilities to Post-Secondary Education, Employment, and Independent Living

You can let Senate President Murray's office know:

- You request her support of the bill, and let the office know you appreciate anything she can do to help the bill become law.
- Special education transition services, required by federal law, are critical to help students move on to post-secondary education, vocational education, integrated employment, continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, and community participation.
- Although schools rely heavily on special education teachers to implement and manage transition planning and services, current state licensure requirements do not address this critical area, leaving most teachers unprepared, through no fault of their own, for the challenges entailed in preparing students as they transition into adulthood.

- This bill revises educator licensure regulations to provide a mechanism for current special education teachers and rehabilitation counselors to obtain an Endorsement in Transition Services, to provide critical transition services for youth with disabilities already required under federal law. The bill will help to ensure that existing dollars are spent in a more effective manner and will improve employment and independent living outcomes for the approximately 58,000 students with disabilities ages 14-22 years old.
- Transition services can make a tremendous difference in a student's life, leading to a meaningful career, employment opportunity or independent living in the community. This will result in fewer people dependent on state services.
- Share any personal experience you may have—let her office know you are a constituent.

Phone: 617-722-1500

Email: Therese.Murray@masenate.gov

For further information on H. 3720 please go to our website at:

<http://www.massadvocates.org/legislation.php#H159Transition>

If you would like more information, please contact Johanne Pino at jpino@massadvocates.org or 617-357-8431 x234.

State's Dual Eligible Plan Could Reshape All Service Delivery Gov. Patrick's Response to Obama Health Plan Could Reshape Entire Disability Service System

A top priority of the Obama Administration, focused on achieving cost savings in both the Medicare and Medicaid programs, may cause a **major realignment in how and where health care and disability community living programs are delivered.**

The proposal focuses on the high number of people between the ages of 21 and 64 who qualify for both Medicaid and Medicare services. Both programs are funded by the federal government, Medicare at 100% cost to the federal government, with Medicaid based upon a federal and state match (50% in Massachusetts). For people receiving services from both programs there are often significant inconsistencies between what is covered, levels of eligibility and reimbursement.

The Affordable Care Act of 2009 (sometimes called Obama-Care) has set a goal of achieving significant Medicare cost reductions by **encouraging states to implement managed care models.**

In the case of individuals who are viewed as being dually eligible for Medicaid & Medicare, **states are being encouraged to combine these programs into contracts administered by a third party, known as Integrated Care Organizations (ICO).** This is a new form of managed care.

Massachusetts EOHHS has published a proposal for how this would work in our state, After a public comment period, it will be sent to the Center for Medicaid/Medicare Services (CMS) for approval. Massachusetts proposes that five regions be created, with the possibility of more than one third party ICO being responsible for any number of recipients.

ICOs would be responsible for:

- Managing all combined Medicare & Medicaid funding through the establishment of a so-called blended rate
- establishing provider networks for all plan participants
- Achieving maximum cost efficiencies
- Overseeing all health care expenditures
- Coordinating Long Term Services & Supports (with or without waiver services being included in the Massachusetts program)
- Achieving integrated primary care and behavioral health care services

While many disability advocates share the goal of the Patrick and Obama Administrations to achieve more efficient use of precious and limited health care dollars, there is a strong worry among developmental disability advocates about including Long Term Services & Supports in the management of ICOs. More specifically, **advocates are especially concerned about LTSS services, which in the DD community are known as HCBS Waiver services include: DDS Residential, DDS Day and Employment, Family Support, Transportation, and DDS Service Coordination.** Learn more at: <http://www.addp.org/index.php/component/content/frontpage>

New “Transition Tuesday” Workshops

NESCA is pleased to announce a series of six evening seminars on transition: the long-term process, beginning with assessment, in which students with special needs and their families actively engage to prepare for life beyond high school. All will take place at the Westin Waltham Hotel, at 70 Third Avenue in Waltham, from 7:00 – 9:00pm. The cost is \$20 per session, *each of which may be purchased individually*, or \$100 for the full series. Seating is limited. To register, please call Tyler Marie Curran at 617-658-9800 or email tcurran@nescanewton.com.

January 10, 2012, But She’s Only 12!: Led by Transition Specialist Sandy Storer, LICSW, we will discuss how families of children with special needs can start thinking about post-secondary transition well before the age of 14, when schools are mandated to provide assessment, planning and service.

February 7, 2012, Using the TPF to Your Child’s Best Advantage: Sandy Storer will explain the TPF (Transition Planning Form), step-by-step. We will then divide into small discussion groups, each facilitated by an educational advocate familiar with the planning process, and a neuropsychologist. Q & A will follow.

March 13, 2012: Transition Assessment, Sandy Storer, NESCA Director Dr. Ann Helmus and Dr. Jason McCormick introduce The Blueprint for Transition Assessment, NESCA’s new modular, multi-dimensional approach to transition assessment. *Where’s your child now, where does he/she want to go and what’s required to help him/her get there, successfully?*

April 10, 2012, Special Education Law as it Applies to Transition Services: Renowned Special Education Attorney Robert Crabtree of Kotin, Crabtree & Strong, LLP discusses state and federal laws as they relate to transition. Once again we will break up into small groups for facilitated discussion before reconvening for Q & A.

May 8, 2012, Legal Concerns: Staying Connected to Adult (18+) Children

Attorney Amy Weinstein of Kotin, Crabtree & Strong addresses parents' concerns about continuing care for adult (18+) children. Topics include public benefits, trusts and estate planning, decision-making for adult children, guardianship and conservatorship.

June 12, 2012, Local Independent Schools with Strong Transition Programs

A panel discussion with representatives of several independent schools offering strong secondary and post-secondary transition programs and services. Sandy Storer, LICSW will moderate.

New Program Offers Discounted Internet & Computers For Low-Income Families

A new program will give low-income residents in all communities served by Comcast nationally, including much of Massachusetts, discounted access to computers and the Internet, the company and state officials announced today.

Comcast estimates that 2 million people nationwide will be eligible for the program, which will be funded entirely by the communications company. Within Massachusetts, the program will be available in 238 communities.

Officials said they are trying to address the looming gap between lower-income people who can't afford computers and wealthier people who can, a gap that can have a crippling effect on lower-income children's futures.

"We've tried to make closing the digital divide a priority of this administration,"

Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray said in a telephone interview , adding that with computers, parents can stay in touch with their children's schools and children can stay up-to-date with their school assignments.

To read more go to: http://www.boston.com/Boston/metrodesk/2011/09/cable-provider-provide-discounted-internet-computers-low-income-families/UUkAmKYt4igJVvpJ40LzuJ/index.html?p1=News_links