



# Developmental Disabilities Resource Center

Children and Family Services \* 11177 West 8th Avenue Suite 300 \* Lakewood, Colorado 80215  
Voice (303) 233-3363 \* Toll Free (800) 649-8815 \* Fax (303) 233-4622

## CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES NEWS & RESOURCE LETTER Winter 2010

Happy New Year!

### **DDRC Central Reception 303.233.3363** **CFS Staff & Direct Lines 303-462 + extension**

Rachel Baldon, Resource Coordinator (6621)  
Molly Balmes, Service Coordinator (6615)  
Lindsay Bollwahn, Service Coordinator (6570)  
Sherri Dupuis, Service Coordinator (6619)  
Tracy Fields, Service Coordinator (6661)  
Rosa Harford, Bilingual Service Coordinator (6658)  
Monica Jeske, Service Coordinator (6657)  
Susan Johnson, CFS Director (6612)  
Sue Lewis, CFS Assistant (6576)  
Susanne Lindwood, Children's Intake RC (6610)  
Corinne Lipski, (3-18) RC Team Leader (6617)  
Allicia Maestas, Senior RC (6639)  
Joy Miles, (0-3) SC Team Leader (6656)  
Desiree Nash-Lindenfeld, Res Coordinator (6577)  
Yvette O'Hara, Service Coordinator (6586)  
Ramee Otterpohl, Resource Coordinator (6613)  
Sheryl Vick, Resource Coordinator (6527)  
Kris Stolzenburg, Service Coordinator (6620)  
Joann Wilson Resource Coordinator (6651)

DDRC's regular business hours are Monday through Thursday 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM. For information about DDRC services and other useful links visit our website at [www.ddrcco.com](http://www.ddrcco.com). Staff email addresses are First name.Last name@ddrcco.com

### **FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM**

So far, the Family Support Services Program (FSSP) has survived the state budget cuts. FSSP is still in the 2009/2010 budget. This fiscal year, July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, DDRC is budgeted to receive **\$667,855** to fund families eligible for the Family Support Services Program. We receive the funds at 1/12<sup>th</sup> per month. The Family Support Services Program (FSSP) is intended to assist "families most in need" with costs beyond those normally experienced by other families, to help reduce stress, and to avoid or delay costly out of home placements. FSSP provides funding to address **disability related needs**, as well as information, support and resource coordination. FSSP funds cannot be used for typical living expenses such as rent, utilities, food, clothing, or typical childcare for children under twelve years old. If you need help with those types of expenses- your Resource Coordinator can refer you to other community resources. **FSSP funds are tax exempt and are not considered income.**

### **FAMILY SUPPORT FUNDING UPDATE**

The State requires that FSSP funds only go to those families considered "*most in need*" based on five parameters; overall care needs, behavior, family composition, access to support networks, and access to other resources. People active in Children's Extensive Support (CES), Supported Living Services (SLS) or the Elderly, Blind and Disabled (EBD) Medicaid Waiver programs are considered to be low to moderate *relative* need for State FSSP funds.

DDRC assesses families using the Family Support Needs Assessment Questionnaire (FSNAQ). In October 2009 we mailed FSNAQs to families who were considered "most in need" last year. So far, we have funded 173 families at an average of \$1000 per family. We still have funds available and are extending the opportunity to other families.

**If you want to be considered for funding, please request a Family Support Needs Assessment Questionnaire (FSNAQ) from your Resource Coordinator or Sue Lewis 303-462-6576.**

### **JEFFCO CFS FUNDS**

Since 2004, the DDRC Family Support Services Program has been fortunate to also have a Jeffco CFS Fund, funded by Jefferson County mill levy dollars. We have used the Jeffco CFS Fund to provide some funding to families who are not considered *most in need* for State FSSP funds. Given continued state and local budget uncertainties, we don't yet know if the DDRC Board of Directors will be able to approve funding for the Jeffco CFS Fund this year- and it is unlikely we will know prior to June 2010.

**FSNAQs received from families who are not considered *most in need* for State FSSP funds will be placed on hold until we know whether or not Jeffco CFS Funds will be available.**

### **FAMILY SUPPORT LOAN FUND**

This is a separate program from DDRC's Family Support program. The loan program provides access to short-term low interest rate loans. **Applications will be accepted through 2/28/10.** More information on the flyer attached. If interested, please request an application from your Resource Coordinator, or Sue Lewis, 303-462-6576.

## **DDRC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TEAM** **Trainings for Parents and Caregivers 2010**

All trainings will be held at DDRC  
11177 West 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue Lakewood, CO 80215

### **Toilet Training-Is it that time?**

Is it time to start toilet training? How do I begin? This presentation is intended for **parents/caregivers** who are interested in beginning the toilet training process or are experiencing difficulty with the process. The training will address:

- Child and parent readiness
- Preparation for and development of a toileting plan
- The toilet training process
- Problem solving strategies

Cost: \$10 pp/ \$15 per couple

**Date and Time:** April 28, 2010 - 9:00 to 11:00 am  
OR October 13, 2010 - 9:00 to 11:00 am

Facilitator: Pamela Martien, M.Ed., BCBA/ Tina Hanson, MS, BCBA

RSVP: online or with Paula Emerson 303-233-3363

### **Understanding Why Challenging Behaviors Occur With Children and What You Can Do About It**

This training will provide **parents/caregivers** with tools to aid in determining why their child is engaging in a challenging behavior and will provide tips on how to develop strategies to change the behavior. This training is **ideally for parents of children ages 1 to 5 years old.**

Cost \$10 pp/\$15 per couple

#### **Date and Time:**

November 17, 2010 - 9:00 to 11:00 am

Facilitator: Tina Hanson, MS, BCBA

RSVP: online or with Paula Emeson 303-233-3363

### **Preventing Challenging Behaviors in Your Young Child with Special Needs**

This training is intended for **parents/caregivers** who have a young child (*birth to age 3*) with special needs. This training will answer the following questions:

- Why are challenging behaviors more prevalent in persons with special needs?
- How/Why do challenging behaviors develop?
- How do I *prevent* challenging behaviors occurring with my child?
- What are the critical skills I need to teach my child?
- How do I teach these critical skills?

Cost: \$10 per person or \$15 per couple

#### **Date and Time:**

September 23, 2010 9:00 - 11:00 am

Facilitator: Tina Hanson, MS, BCBA

RSVP: online or with Paula Emeson 303-233-3363

## **UNDERSTANDING GUARDIANSHIP**

### **A two-part series**

Presented by DDRC and The Arc in Jefferson County

**Session 1** (Choice of two dates and locations):

**Wednesday, February 10, 2010 6:30 to 8:30 pm**

DDRC office: 11177 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. Lakewood, CO

OR

**Tuesday, April 6, 2010 4:00to 6:00 pm**

Arc office: 8725 West 14<sup>th</sup> Ave Ste 100 Lakewood

This is a panel discussion to learn all about guardianship and answer your questions. What alternatives are available? What are your responsibilities? What does it mean for a person with disabilities?

**You must attend Session 1 to attend session 2**

**Session 2** (optional- choice of 2 dates and locations)

**Wednesday, February 17, 2010 6:30 to 8:30 pm**

DDRC office: 11177 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. Lakewood, CO

OR

**Tuesday, April 13, 2010 4:00to 6:00 pm**

Arc office: 8725 West 14<sup>th</sup> Ave Ste 100 Lakewood

All guardianship paperwork, as required by law, will be provided and step-by-step instructions on completing the forms.

**Space is limited. RSVP required. Please RSVP to Megan Martin at 303-462-6590**

## **IEP WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS of Students with disabilities**

How do we know students are learning?

Understanding the role of assessments in student learning

DATE: **Wednesday, February 24, 2010**

TIME: 6:20-6:30 p.m. – Check In

6:30-8:00 p.m. – Presentation

LOCATION: Jeffco Education Center,

Board Room (5<sup>th</sup> floor)

1829 Denver West Drive, Bldg. 27

Golden, CO 80401

303-982-6583

SPONSORS: The Arc in Jefferson County

Jeffco Public Schools - Special

Education Department

No Registration Required; Light Dessert Served

No Child Care Available

## **H1N1 INFORMATION**

Valuable information for parents about the H1N1

**<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents/>**

## **WELLNESS CLASSES** For information on

wellness classes, check out this website –

**[www.wellnessnowjcmh.org](http://www.wellnessnowjcmh.org)**

Sponsored by JCMH and Live Well Wheat Ridge

## **MOBILIZING FAMILIES**

### **Presented by the Arc in Jefferson County**

When a child is identified as having special needs, parents can feel as if they've entered an uncharted world without maps or a compass or the basic tools and information to ensure their child's well-being. There is so much to learn and do that it can be hard for families to know where to start or how to begin. Generously funded by the McDonnell Family Foundation, *Mobilizing Families* is an award-winning 8-week training program designed to equip families with the necessary resources to access support and be the best advocates for their children.

**Classes will be held Thursdays from 6-9 PM on the following dates: February 18, 25; March 4, 11, 18, and 25; and April 8 and 15. No sessions will be conducted on Thursday, April 1 due to spring break.**

Session materials, training, dinner, and child care will be provided at no cost to participants.

To register or for more information, call Jo Lynn Osborne at (303) 232-1338 x206 or email [jolynn@arcjc.org](mailto:jolynn@arcjc.org).

### **Session topics include:**

- **Identifying the Dream:** Helping families identify, accept, grieve, revise, and regenerate their dreams for their children.
- **Becoming an Effective Communicator:** Learn communication strategies to ensure your educational and service meetings go smoothly.
- **Understanding Government Resources:** Learn about the government agencies and programs designed to support people with disabilities.
- **Accessing Insurance and Medicaid Benefits:** Learn how private insurance and Medicaid benefits work, and how to work within these systems.
- **Education:** Helping families learn about their educational rights, IDEA law, and what to expect during an IEP.
- **Accessing Community Resources:** Learn about a variety of local agencies that support people with disabilities and their families.
- **Building Relationships at Home and in the Community:** This session helps families identify and tap into natural, non-agency supports in their communities.

## **PARENT TO PARENT OF COLORADO**

Parent to Parent of Colorado is a statewide resource for families with children with disabilities and/or special health care needs. They offer a listserv of over 900 families, one to one parent matching with veteran parents, a newsletter, an annual picnic and a website rich with resources ([www.p2p-co.org](http://www.p2p-co.org)). Please call 1-877-472-7201 or [mail@p2p-co.org](mailto:mail@p2p-co.org)

## **JEFFCO SCHOOLS' SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Jeffco Schools has a newly formed Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). The SEAC provides the Executive Director and Directors of the Special Education Department with a parental and community perspective regarding the needs of students receiving special education. SEAC held its first meeting in January.

### **Purpose of SEAC:**

- Advise the special education department on services and programs
- Educate stakeholders and community on special education topics
- Connect and Collaborate with various school and community groups
- Communicate with families, schools, and community
- Advocate for communication, operation, and partnership among families, schools, and community

### **SEAC Membership:**

- Members of SEAC are appointed for two year terms with a two term limit
- First year terms will be January 2010 - May 2012
- Membership is 45 people comprised of:
  - ✓ Parents or Guardians of a student receiving special education services from Jeffco Public Schools making up a cross section of school levels and articulation areas
  - ✓ Youth Representatives who are individuals between the ages of 15 & 21 who are receiving or have received special education services from Jeffco Schools
  - ✓ Education Representatives making up a cross section of school levels and articulation areas
  - ✓ District/Administrator Representatives
  - ✓ Community/Agency Representatives who resides or has business in Jefferson County

### **Next SEAC meeting**

When: February 16, 2010  
Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Where: Red Rocks Community College –  
Community Room  
13300 W 6<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
Public welcome to attend.

For more information contact your School Principal, ArcJC, your Resource Coordinator, or DDRRC SEAC representative, Molly Balmes, at 303-462-6615.

## **PARENT SURVEY!**

The Triad Early Childhood Council is conducting a community needs assessment to find out how to better meet the needs of families and young children in the community. If you are a parent of a child age 0-8 living in Clear Creek, Gilpin, or Jefferson County we need your input! Please complete the online survey at the following link:

**<http://oisurvey.omni.org/cgi-bin/qwebcorporate.dll?idx=ZSBSYK>**

Your answers are completely anonymous so your honesty is protected and appreciated. The survey should take 10-20 minutes.

**Please complete prior to 1/31/10.**

Thank you for your time!

## **TRIAD EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL**

Triad is the Early Childhood Council for Jefferson, Clear Creek, and Gilpin counties. The intent of Early Childhood Councils is to change the way early childhood stakeholders do business through collaborative planning, networking, funding, coordination and implementation. Triad is focused on developing a comprehensive early childhood system that integrates the multiple systems that support young children and their families; **early care and education, health, mental health and family support.** Triad also serves as the Local Interagency Council for DDRC Early Intervention Services. If you are interested in joining the Council or participating on a committee please contact Susan Johnson at 303-462-6612.

## **PARENT INVOLVEMENT NEEDED**

DDRC encourages families to get involved with our advisory boards and learn more about different parts of our services. We now have openings on the **Developmental Disabilities Foundation Board.** DDF meets every two months to encourage donations and sponsor events that supplement funding available from governmental sources. Plans are already underway for a golf tournament on August 16, which is cosponsored by DDRC and DDF. We would love to have family members get more involved in that and other activities. Please give Dianne Hitchingham a call at 303-462-6584 to learn more about DDF

## **ADDITIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

**February 1.** *Science of Environmental Impacts of Autism and Developmental Disabilities.* Half day seminar at University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. For more information call 720-214-0794. **FREE.**

**TAX HELP:** Go to [www.piton.org](http://www.piton.org) or dial 211 (it's a free call) to locate free tax preparation sites, and to learn about tax credits for working families.

**The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** is a federal tax credit that helps low-income working families help themselves. It rewards low- and moderate-income families for their hard work and helps them close the gap between what they earn and what they need to get by and get ahead. For tax year 2009, it is worth as much as \$5,657 to families. For example, a single parent raising two children and earning \$12,200 will be eligible for an EITC refund of \$5,028 a 39% increase in family income. Many qualifying families also will be eligible for the Child Tax Credit, as much as \$1,000 per child.

## **YOUNG ADULT JOB FAIR**

Full-time, part-time, summer job or a career

**March 2, 2010 1:30-5:30 pm**

Young adults ages 14-21 years old

Jefferson County Fairgrounds

15200 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Golden

**Get yourself ready!**

Bring your resume & charm to apply directly with employers-

Dress to impress for potential interviews-

Explore career possibilities in emerging industries-

Visit with community partners and school representatives.

Presented by Jeffco YouthWorks in partnership with Colorado Governor's Summer Job Hunt. Pre-registering online is encouraged  
[jeffcoyouthworks.org](http://jeffcoyouthworks.org) 303-271-4613

## **ADDITIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITES**

**February 5.** *Autism: Update on Prevalence, Diagnosis and Educational Intervention.* Half day seminar at University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. For more information call 720-214-0794. **FREE.**

**February 11.** *Boardmaker Overview.* 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Assistive Technology Partners Denver office. For more information 303-315-1280 or [ATP@ucdenver.edu](mailto:ATP@ucdenver.edu). **FREE.**

**February 11-13.** *Conference on Inclusive Education.* Denver. Sponsored by PEAK Parent Center. For more information, <http://www.peakparentcenter.org>. \$

**February 24.** *Ready or Not, Adolescence is Here: An Overview of Puberty, Sexuality and Relationships.* 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Daniels Fund Building, Denver. To RSVP call Mile High Down Syndrome Association at 303-797-1699. Spanish translation available. \$.