



THE  
ADVOCACY CENTER  
Putting People First

Volume XIV, Issue I

# The Bridge



Spring 2011

Connecting individuals with disabilities and their families with resources, support and information



## AN EVENING OF ART AND JAZZ

BENEFITING

### THE ADVOCACY CENTER

Saturday, June 4, 2011

7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

George Eastman House

900 East Avenue

### COMMUNITY AWARDS & SILENT AUCTION

### MUSIC BY

Wycliffe Gordon \* Jimmie Highsmith, Jr.

Bob Sneider \* Will Holton \* Bobby Floyd \* Annie Wells

FREE VALET PARKING

# ART & JAZZ

#### Ticket holders will enjoy:

- Entry into drawing for 2 Club Passes to the Xerox Rochester International Jazz Festival, June 10-18, 2011. *Highly popular Club Passes sold out on March 7!*
- Opportunity to bid on amazing art work and unique gift baskets in the Silent Auction
- Valet parking
- One complimentary drink
- Appetizers, carving station, and desserts
- Tour of the George Eastman House
- An opportunity to purchase tickets to enter into a drawing for an Apple iPad 2, Barnes and Noble Nook Wi-Fi e-reader, 32-inch Flat Screen HD TV, and a Cisco Flip video camera

To purchase a ticket, learn about sponsorship opportunities or other ways to support this event, please contact Seneca Brashear at (585) 546-1700 ext. 265.

## UPFRONT AND PERSONAL



Cameron Chamberlain with "Slick"

I am 16. I like my house, the barn, my horse, my dog and my family too. I like my new house better. I like being next to grandma Lana's house. I like to ride my horse.

– Cameron

In the fall of 2009, Belfast, NY parent Karen Chamberlain attended a Parent Skill Building Retreat weekend, *Dare to Dream*, hosted by The Advocacy Center and organized by Parent Coordinator Linda Chadderdon.

Among the workshops offered was *Developing a Vision*. This workshop focuses on creating and articulating plans for a child with a disability, allowing for dreams for the present and future, something which parents often need encouragement to do. Part of creating a vision is to consider all the details involved in realizing the dream such as

*continued on page 6*

#### What's Inside...

### Individualized Education Programs (IEP)

This issue of *The Bridge* provides information on the Individualized Education Program (IEP), required for all students with disabilities who receive special ed. services.

**See numerous workshop and conference opportunities, Pages 2-5.**

# Advocacy Center News

## Nominations Accepted Until April 18 for Annual Community Awards

The Advocacy Center is seeking nominations for our Annual Community Awards, which highlight the contributions of people who make a difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities. Please consider nominating someone for one of the following awards:

**Self Advocacy Award:** An individual with a disability who leads the direction of his or her daily life through advocacy and personal choice

**Barbara Bryson Award:** A parent of an individual with a disability who has exhibited pioneering efforts on behalf of individuals with disabilities and their families

**Jeanne Krautwurst Award:** A parent or family member of an individual with a disability who has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for his or her family member

**Community Inclusion Award:** An individual or group whose actions have led to the successful inclusion of individuals with disabilities and their families in their communities

**Education Award:** A devoted individual in the field of education who, through extraordinary efforts, has provided for the educational needs of students with disabilities

**Student Award:** A student (with or without a disability) whose efforts have made a positive impact on the lives of individuals with disabilities

**Community Impact Award:** A company or organization which promotes opportunities for individuals with disabilities

**The nomination form, along with additional guidance on nominating a candidate, is available at The Advocacy Center website:**

[http://www.advocacycenter.com/news/pdf/Award\\_Nomination\\_Packet\\_2011.pdf](http://www.advocacycenter.com/news/pdf/Award_Nomination_Packet_2011.pdf)

For further information, contact Rick Wright at (585) 546-1700 ext. 253.

**Deadline for Submission: April 18, 2011**

Awards will be presented at An Evening of Art and Jazz on June 4, 2011

The Advocacy Center presents  
A one day conference for parents  
and professionals

### Strategies for Success: A Hands-on Approach to Support Children with ADD/ ADHD and Sensory Issues

**May 12, 2011 - 9am—4pm**

Genesee Community College, One  
College Road, Batavia, NY 14020  
Technology Building - Room T102

Registration is required

#### Sensory Integration Felicia Thierer, OTR/L

Gain knowledge about sensory processing -Learn how to recognize sensory processing issues in a child and how they differ from behavior issues - Practice activities to support a child

**Felicia Thierer, OTR/L**, has been practicing Occupational Therapy for over 22 years. She is trained in sensory integration and has worked with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder of over 15 years.

#### Strategies to Support Children with ADD/ADHD Lori Shaw, MEd

Gain practical strategies that work at school and at home - Learn how to help with organization, time management and study skills - Learn ways to communicate positively and effectively with the teacher and school

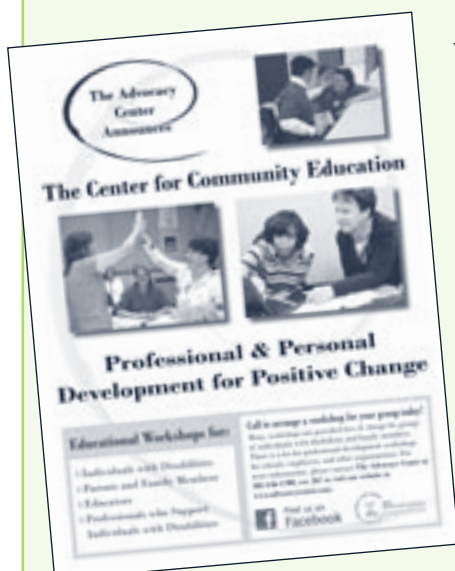
**Lori Shaw** is a special education teacher. She has 15 years experience working with children with ADD/ADHD and other learning disabilities.

Agency Outreach Fair:  
8am-9am and 12pm-1pm

**Register by May 6, 2011**

\$35 Professional \$10 Parent/Family Member (**\$10 returned upon attendance**)  
Includes boxed lunch.

To register, call  
(585)546-1700 ext. 399 or email:  
[registration@advocacycenter.com](mailto:registration@advocacycenter.com).



## Workshop Catalog Now Available in Print Version



The Center for Community Education at The Advocacy Center's Workshop Catalog is available in print. To request a copy, please contact Maria Schaertel at [schaertel@advocacycenter.com](mailto:schaertel@advocacycenter.com) or (585) 546-1700, ext. 271

The latest version of the catalog is also available on The Advocacy Center website: <http://www.advocacycenter.com/training.php>

# Advocacy Center News

## 2011 Upcoming Workshops

To register for any workshops, please call The Advocacy Center at (585) 546-1700. For a complete listing of The Advocacy Center workshop topics, please visit: <http://www.advocacycenter.com/training.php>. Just click on the catalog icon.

Location: The Advocacy Center, 590 South Ave, Rochester, NY 14620.

To register, call (585)546-1700 ext. 399 or email: [registration@advocacycenter.com](mailto:registration@advocacycenter.com)

### Information Session at The Advocacy Center

**April 7 - 5:30-7:00 pm**



Do you have questions about your child's educational supports or specialized services? We can help! The Advocacy Center will be hosting a series of information sessions for parents. Stop by to speak with an advocate - learn more supports and services that may help your child to be successful in school.

### Why Doesn't Anyone in My Family Understand My Child?

**April 12 - 6:30-8:00 pm**

This is an open invitation to any or all family members of a child with Tourette or other neurological disorders to help educate extended family members on the disability and how it affects a child.

### Pro-Social Behaviors and Sexuality



**April 26 - 6:30-8:30 pm**

Teaching individuals with disabilities about sexuality is important in promoting independence, personal safety, healthy lifestyles, healthy relationships, and social inclusion. Parents and guardians will leave this workshop with the information and confidence they need to address the topic of sexuality with children, teens, or young adults with disabilities.

### I Want a Job: Where Do I Start?

**May 11 - 6:30-8:30 pm**

Getting a job is an important rite of passage for most adults. Employment provides a means to earn wages, but it also provides a social network, an opportunity to share and grow in professional interests, and a common purpose in accomplishing a business or organizational goal. Individuals with disabilities want and need to get jobs. This workshop is designed to help families understand the realities of employment for all youth, with a special emphasis on strategies that youth with disabilities can use to improve employment prospects.

### Welcome New Staff



The Advocacy Center welcomes Seneca Brashear as Executive Administrative Assistant. Seneca has experience in a variety of roles, including nonprofit work, commercial real estate, and volunteer efforts such as literacy projects and the local foods movement. She has a Bachelors degree in English with a minor in Business from University of Houston. She is the proud parent of two lovely daughters. Seneca appreciates having the opportunity to contribute to a team of people who believe wholeheartedly that every person matters.

**Welcome Seneca!**

### Workshops for SSI/SSDI Recipients and Service Providers

Location: The Advocacy Center, 590 South Ave, Rochester, NY  
To register, please contact Jennifer Blais at (585) 546-1700 or [blais@advocacycenter.com](mailto:blais@advocacycenter.com)

### Avoiding Overpayments

**April 12 - 2:00-4:00 pm**



This workshop explains overpayments from the Social Security Administration, both Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Income (SSDI). Participants will learn about options for examining and responding to overpayment notices.

### SSI's Plan for Achieving Self Support (PASS)

**April 27 - 2:00-4:00 pm**

Learn how the PASS allows an individual on SSI/SSDI to exclude income or resources used to pay for a work goal while obtaining or retaining eligibility for SSI and Medicaid.



### Medicaid Buy-In for Working People with Disabilities

**May 25 - 2:00-4:00 pm**

Specifically designed for persons with disabilities who go to work. It allows higher income and resource limits than does the traditional Medicaid program. Learn who is eligible and the pros and cons to participation in the program. Participants can get an eligibility screening and receive the application for the Buy In.

# Advocacy Center News

## Safety in the Home and Preparing for Those Unexpected Emergencies

April 9, 2011

9:30am to 12:30pm



This workshop will cover two topics: *Safety in the Home* and *Preparing for Those Unexpected Emergencies*. The presenter, Dan Martelle, has been a volunteer fire fighter and EMT for over 30 years and has responded to numerous emergencies. He is a respected instructor of specialized fire rescue programs. Dan is also raising his 9 year old grandson with Autism. This event will be held at our office at 590 South Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620. Free to parents of children with disabilities.

**To register, call 585-546-1700 ext 399 or email [registration@advocacycenter.com](mailto:registration@advocacycenter.com).**

## Parents & Family Members Learn skills for the Special Education Process Advocate for your own child and other families, too!

The Advocacy Center announces a **free, five-session** training for parents and caregivers of children with disabilities.

*All interested caregivers should apply*

**Saturdays, July 9, 2011 – August 13, 2011**

**9:45am (promptly) – 2:45pm (no class on July 16<sup>th</sup>)**

To be held at:  
Jones Memorial Hospital  
Walchli Education Room  
191 North Main Street  
Wellsville, NY 14895

Light lunch will be provided each week

**Pre-registration is required by 7/1/11. To request an application, call Linda Chadderdon at 546-1700 or 1-800-650-4967 ext. 225 or email [chadderdon@advocacycenter.com](mailto:chadderdon@advocacycenter.com)**

## The Advocacy Center Workshops in Wayne County For parents, caregivers, school nurses and others working with children with disabilities

Presenters from The Advocacy Center, Sponsored by Wayne County Public Health.

*Workshops are offered FREE of charge, however, pre-registration is required.*

**To register for any of these workshops, or for more information contact: Wayne County Public Health at (315) 946-5749 or 1-800-724-1170.**

### Bullying: Intervention Strategies for Parents

April 13 – 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Wolcott Civic Free Library, 5890 New Hartford St., Wolcott, NY 14590

Bullying has become an all too frequent occurrence in schools for many children who have a disability. This workshop seeks to introduce participants to definitions of bullying, how to recognize it, and how to deal with it, both at home and in the school.

**Pre-registration is required - Deadline is 4/7/11.**

### Developing Your Child's Portfolio

Participants start with a vision statement and begin to explore how to promote the vision through a portfolio.

(Multiple sessions offered; please choose one)

**May 4 - 6:00 - 8:00pm**

Sodus Free Library, 17 Maple Avenue, Sodus, NY

**Pre-registration is required – Deadline is 4/28/11.**

**May 11 - 6:00-8:00 pm**

Walworth-Seely Public Library 3600 Lorraine Drive Walworth, NY

**Pre-registration is required – Deadline is 5/5/11.**

**May 18 - 6:00-8:00 pm**

Wolcott Civic Free Library, 5890 New Hartford Street, Wolcott, NY

**Pre-registration is required Deadline is 5/12/11.**

**May 25 - 6:00-8:00 pm**

Wayne County Public Health, 1519 Nye Road, Suite 200, Lyons, NY

**Pre-registration is required - Deadline 5/19/11.**

**A \$10 gas card will be given to parents who register from Wayne County and attend. Light refreshments will be provided.**

The Advocacy Center and Hillside Children's Center Presents:

## Baggage

Is all that "baggage" weighing you down? Could your conversations, meetings, vision, and progress be hampered by baggage? This workshop demonstrates how you can recognize personal history as a barrier to effective working relationships. With props and humor, our presenters clearly illustrate how baggage can be lifted out of the way to make room for real progress at parent teacher conferences, Committee on Special Education meetings, Individualized Support Plan conferences, staff meetings, and other professional gatherings.

**Monday, May 16, 2011 • 6:00pm - 7:30pm**

Hillside Children's Center, 96 West Buffalo Street, Warsaw, NY 14569

**FREE** to parents of children with disabilities. To register, call our Workshop Registration line at (585) 546-1700 ext. 399 or email [registration@advocacycenter.com](mailto:registration@advocacycenter.com)



# Advocacy Center News

## The Advocacy Center Workshops at Livingston County Government Center

6 Court Street, Room 106,  
Geneseo, NY 14454

**Free** to parents of children with disabilities. To register, please call (585) 546-1700 ext 399 or email: [registration@advocacycenter.com](mailto:registration@advocacycenter.com).

### Committee on Special Education Process: An Overview April 12 – 6:30-8:30 pm

The Committee on Special Education (CSE) is responsible for developing a child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) through a process which involves the student and parents. This workshop will explain the purpose of the CSE, the required members, and the parents' role on the Committee. Participants will learn strategies for effective advocacy with the CSE.

### Managing the Move April 28 – 6:30-8:30 pm

Moving from one school year to the next can be challenging for families and new team members. This workshop will provide parents and other team members with strategies to help promote a seamless transition and lay the groundwork for a positive start to the new school year.

### Effective Communication May 10 – 6:30-8:30 pm

Communication is key to effective partnerships. Participants will strengthen their collaborative skills by learning effective communication strategies. Topics include verbal and non-verbal expressions, styles of communication, and team building.



## Understanding Autism

A Three - Part Series for Service Coordinators, Respite Care Providers and other Human Service Providers



**All sessions will be held at:  
The Advocacy Center 590 South Avenue Rochester, NY 14620**

### Session One

**Wednesday, May 4th, 2011  
9:00am – 12:00pm**

**“The Basics:  
How Autism Affects Individuals  
and Families”**

### Session Two

**Wednesday, June 1st, 2011  
9:00am – 12:00pm**

**“Sensory Integration and  
Behavioral Issues for  
Individuals with Autism”**

### Session Three

**Wednesday, June 29th, 2011  
9:00am – 12:00pm**

**“Communication Considerations  
for Individuals with Autism”**

\*\*\*Participants will receive a certificate of attendance. This training may be used to satisfy the MSC annual training requirement.\*\*\*

**Seating is limited and  
registration is required.**

Please register by completing the registration form available at:  
[http://www.advocacycenter.com/pdf/2011\\_Autism\\_Series\\_info\\_packet.pdf](http://www.advocacycenter.com/pdf/2011_Autism_Series_info_packet.pdf)

Or by calling  
(585) 546-1700 ext 399 or email:  
[registration@advocacycenter.com](mailto:registration@advocacycenter.com).

**Thank you to our  
Collaborating Sponsor:  
UNYFEAT**

## The Advocacy Center and Child Care Council, Inc

are pleased to announce  
A series of Workshops for  
parents / family members  
who have children with disabilities

### Early Intervention

**April 28, 2011, 6:30pm-8pm**

Participants will learn: Referral-who refers a child for services? Evaluation-how to determine if a child has a delay? Delivery of services-what does a child need, how often, and who works with the child to improve his or her areas of need?

### Committee on Special Education

**May 12, 2011, 6:30pm-8pm**

will explain the purpose of the CSE, the required members, and the parent's role on the committee.

### Advocacy Steps

**June 15, 2011, 6:30pm-8pm**

participants will learn how to build a solid foundation of team members to engage the advocacy process that will lead to successful outcomes.

### Bullying

**June 30, 2011, 6:30pm-8pm**

will introduce participants to definitions of bullying, how to recognize it, and how to respond to it both at home and in school.

**Workshops are offered  
FREE of charge.**

**Pre-Registration is Required**

Parents /family members may register for one or more workshops, or the whole series. To register, call (585) 546-1700 ext. 399 or email [registration@advocacycenter.com](mailto:registration@advocacycenter.com).

All workshops will be held at:  
Child Care Council, Inc.,  
595 Blossom Road,  
Rochester, NY 14610

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### New ADA Rules Go into Effect on March 15, 2011

Excerpt from: <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2011/March/11-crt-324.html>

...The regulations apply to the activities of more than 80,000 units of state and local government and more than seven million places of public accommodation, including stores, restaurants, shopping malls, libraries, museums, sporting arenas, movie theaters, doctors' and dentists' offices, hotels, jails and prisons, polling places, and emergency preparedness shelters. The rules were signed by Attorney General Eric Holder on July 23, 2010, and the official text was published in the Federal Register on September 15, 2010.

The new ADA rules adopt the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, which have been retooled to be more user-friendly for building code officials, builders, and architects, and have been harmonized with state and local accessibility codes. The 2010 standards also include, for the first time, standards on making swimming pools, parks, golf courses, boating facilities, exercise clubs, and other recreation facilities accessible for individuals with disabilities... In addition to adopting the new ADA 2010 Standards, the amended regulations contain many new or expanded provisions on general nondiscrimination policies, including the use of service animals, the use of wheelchairs and other power-driven mobility devices, selling tickets for wheelchair-accessible seating at sports and performance venues, reserving and guaranteeing accessible rooms at hotels, providing interpreter services through video conferencing, and the effect of the new regulations on existing facilities...

For more information about the ADA, call the Justice Department's toll-free ADA Information Line at 800-514-0301 or 800-514-0383 (TTY), or access the department's ADA website at [www.ada.gov](http://www.ada.gov).

## UPFRONT AND PERSONAL by Maria Schaertel

*I'm so happy to have been a part of helping Cameron achieve his vision and so grateful to his mother for learning "Vision" so well and then "taking it on the run" to see how far she could go to make it happen.*

-Linda Chadderdon, Parent Coordinator for Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties

the people who may support a child's dream: a Circle of Support.

Karen developed a vision for her son, Cameron, which included his love of horses and an environment that supported that passion. She thought about who might support Cameron's goals.

As a result, the Chamberlain family as well as extended family members made a big change in their lives in order to support Cameron's dream: The Chamberlains sold their home in the town and moved into the country where Karen's mother-in-law owned a barn. Karen's mother-in-law moved into a mobile home and later moved in with a daughter-in-law in the same area, all to accommodate her grandson.

The family is still working on the dream by making plans for a pasture and turning the barn into stalls. Cameron will be working on this project along with hired help.

Here is my interview with Karen:

**M: Tell me about Cameron.**

**K:** Cameron is a 16-year old that loves people, animals, movies and the outdoors. Cameron is in 9th grade with a 1:1 aide and he is integrated in all areas except Science and Social Studies.

**M: What would you like to share about Cameron's interests?**

**K:** Cameron has always had a love of horses. He has taken lessons for 3 years but always seemed limited to what the teachers wanted him to do. Today he owns his own horse and is a member of the Allegany County Saddle Dusters club and finished 4th in his class for 2010 and also received an award for Most Improved Rider.

**M: How has Cameron's life changed as a result of the move?**

**K:** Cameron's independence has increased both in his education and in his family life. Cameron slept all night in his own room since the day we moved. He also has the opportunity to spend short amounts of time on his own since we have grandma for a neighbor.

**M: What was the turning point in making your decision?**

**K:** Several factors were involved in our decision to move but ultimately Cameron's desire for country living and his independence were the deciding factors.

**M: Can you share some of the "nuts and bolts" involved in making this change?**

**K:** The nuts and bolts came together during a parent retreat weekend working on the "vision." We worked on an arts and craft version of the vision statement and when I came home I shared it with Cameron. It was placed on our fridge and Cam often talked with us about it. I have shared Cam's vision with the CSE and his IEP includes interest in employment working with horses.

**M: What advice can you offer to parents who want to make changes for their children but are intimidated by the process and the risk involved?**

**K:** I would tell parents to have confidence in their children and give them a chance to show or tell them what they want. It may sound risky but it has been beneficial for the entire family.

**M: What advice can you offer to educators and human service professionals who collaborate with families?**

**K:** My advice to educators and professionals is that no dream is too big or too small!

# Individualized Education Program (IEP)

## New NYS IEP Form – Notes on What Parents Need to Know

### Why was the new form created?

The new form was created so that there would be **consistency from district to district across New York State** and so that IEPs will be in the same format if a student moves to another district. This makes it easier for both parents and schools to ensure consistent delivery of services.

The order of how sections are listed on the new form should drive the CSE meeting. For instance, you will notice that *Placement* is now the last section of this new form: discussion of placement should only happen after a thorough discussion of *Present Levels of Performance* (PLEPS), needs, goals, programs, and services.

### When will this form be used?

In most districts this form will be used at this year's (2010-2011) annual reviews. **It is mandated to be in place for all IEPs by July 1, 2011.** For some students who may have been initially classified this past fall or who had an annual review this fall, the information on the IEP may simply be transferred to the new document (which would not require another meeting).

### What is new about this document?

The only information that appears on this document is information that is mandated by federal regulations. Therefore, some parts have been removed (such as parent contact information) and may appear only on the optional *Student Information Summary Form*. Most districts are likely to use this form

as the cover sheet for the document, but it is not required.

The *Transition Needs* section, is placed immediately after the *Measurable Postsecondary Goals* section. This allows the needs that are specific to meeting goals to be highlighted. This does not mean, however, that those needs should not appear under other Needs sections (Academic, Social, Physical and Management needs).

The *Placement* section now appears at the very end of the document, requiring a discussion of a student's placement only after a discussion of PLEPS, needs, goals, programs, and services.

The *Evaluations* section is now listed separately and before the *Present Levels of Performance*.

*Concerns of the Parent*, previously not required to be part of the IEP, is now required to be documented for each section of the *Present Levels of Performance*. The goal here is to allow a place to document conversations and input from the parent regarding a child's disability-related needs.

*Students Needs Relating to Special Factors*, another new section, documents: Positive Behavioral Intervention Plans; limited English proficiency; instructional material needs related to visual impairments; device needs related to students who are deaf or hard of hearing; and assistive technology needs.

"These conversations should have already been happening at these meetings. Putting them on the new IEP form is a way to document that these conversations are indeed happening."



By Jenny Hutkowski,  
Parent Center  
Coordinator of the  
Family-School  
Partnership at The  
Advocacy Center

### For further information

Please note: The new IEP form, general directions to use the form, three power point training modules with audio presentations, and a comprehensive question and answer document are available on the Office of Special Education NYS Education Department's website at:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/formsnotices/IEP/training/home.html>

### IEP Resources

#### Websites:

- <http://www.exceptionalparents.org/resourcesParent.html>
- <http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/iep.index.htm>
- <http://www.pacer.org/parent/php/PHP-cl113.pdf>
- [http://www.ncl.org/images/stories/Publications/parentadvocacyguides/ncl\\_iep\\_toolkit.pdf](http://www.ncl.org/images/stories/Publications/parentadvocacyguides/ncl_iep_toolkit.pdf)

#### Books:

**Wrightslaw: All About IEPs**, Peter W.D. Wright and Pamela Darr Wright, Perfect Paperback, January 2010

**The Complete IEP Guide: How to Advocate for your Special Ed. Child**, Lawrence M.Siegel, NOLO, 2009

**Writing Measurable IEP Goals and Objectives**, Barbara D. Bateman and Cynthia M. Herr, IEP Resources, 2006

**Better IEPs: How to Develop Legally Correct and Educationally Useful Programs**, IEP Resources, 2006

# Student's Guide to the IEP

## What is an IEP?

IEP stands for Individualized Education Program (IEP). The IEP is a written document that describes the educational plan for a student with a disability. Among other things, your IEP talks about your disability, what skills you need to learn, what you'll do in school this year, what services your school will provide, and where your learning will take place.

## Why Do Students With Disabilities Need an IEP?

First, it's the law. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires each student with disabilities who receives special education services to have an IEP—an educational program written just for him or her. Second, the IEP helps the school meet your special needs. It also helps you plan educational goals for yourself. That is why it is called an IEP—because it is an individualized education program.

## What is the Purpose of an IEP?

The purpose of the IEP is to make sure that everyone—you, your family, and school staff—knows what your educational program will be this year.

## Where is the IEP Developed?

The IEP is developed during an IEP meeting. The people who are concerned with your education meet, discuss, and develop your IEP goals for the next year.

## Who Comes to the IEP Meeting?

Certain individuals will help write your IEP. We've listed these below. Some are required by law to come to the meeting. (In the list below, we've written these people in bold letters.) Others, such as you and your parents, must be invited to take part in the meeting. It's your choice to attend or not. (We've listed these people without any bolding of the letters.) All of the people listed below work together as a team to write your IEP. So—who might you see at the meeting?

- You
- Your parents
- At least one of your regular education teachers, if you are (or may be) taking part in the meeting
- At least one of your special education teachers (or special education providers)
- Someone who can talk about your evaluation results and what they mean, especially what kind of instruction you need
- Someone from the school system who knows about special education services and educating students with disabilities and who can talk about what resources the school system has—this person may be your principal, a school counselor, or someone else from the school system
- People from transition service agencies (such as vocational rehabilitation), if you're going to be talking about what you plan to do after leaving high school and what you need to do now to get ready
- Other people who know you—your strengths and needs—very well and who can help you plan your educational program

Students, if you want to know more about the IEP, please visit [www.nichcy.org/InformationResources/Documents/NICHCY%20PUBS/st1.pdf](http://www.nichcy.org/InformationResources/Documents/NICHCY%20PUBS/st1.pdf)

## What Is an IEP?

Page 9, was developed by The Advocacy Center to provide basic information about IEPs to students who benefit from picture symbol support. Students may work on this tool before a CSE (Committee on Special Education) meeting or Pre-CSE meeting to contribute ideas to the meeting. Or use it after a meeting to review ideas.

We recommend transferring the green shaded boxes to index cards or larger sheets of paper, one box per page or card. These provide a hands-on tool for students to express their needs in words, photos, or drawings.



## Apple apps cater to individuals with special needs!



*Your ticket to A Night of Art and Jazz includes a chance to win the iPad 2!!*  
– See Page 1.

Apple is highlighting a growing number of apps catering to individuals with special needs with a featured special education section in its App Store.

The section titled “Special Education <<http://itunes.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewMultiRoom?fcId=399470369>>” launched recently includes 72 applications for the iPhone and 13 applications for the iPad in 10 categories ranging from communication to emotional development and life skills, according to Trudy Muller, an Apple spokeswoman.

The special education category is currently showcased as one of four editorial features in the App Store. Apps, which can be used on Apple's iPhone, iPad or iPod devices, have become increasingly popular in the special needs community in recent years, serving as everything from assistive technology devices to organizational tools and teaching aids.



**What is an IEP?** IEP development tool developed by The Advocacy Center using Widgit Software Communicate: In Print 2. Please consider photocopying the page and enlarging it, depending upon a student's needs and preferences.

? What is an **IEP**? Individualized Education Program



A written document that talks about your **disability**



skills you need to **learn**



what **you will do** in school this year



**services** your school will have



**where** your learning will take place



My photo or name

My challenges are

I need to learn

My classes this year are

This helps me learn better at school

I will learn at

# News You Can Use!



## Taking the wheel: Driving with disabilities

[http://www.oneplaceforspecialneeds.com/main/library\\_driver\\_training.html](http://www.oneplaceforspecialneeds.com/main/library_driver_training.html)

## Better Days Ahead Family Support Network

Better Days Ahead is comprised of parents who have children with emotional or behavioral challenges who serve other families with similar challenges. Services include: phone or in-person support, assistance with school related issues, teen support, free childcare while attending support groups, free transportation to support group meetings, and coping strategies.

For further information: (585) 325-3145, ext. 131 or Better Days Ahead Family Support Network, The Mental Health Association, 320 North Goodman Street, Rochester, NY 14607.

## The Institute for Innovative Transition's Summer Institute 2011 "In Pursuit of Competitive



## Employment: Project SEARCH and Think College NY!"

Thursday, July 21, 2011 • RIT Inn and Conference Center  
5256 West Henrietta Rd., W. Henrietta, NY, 14586

**The conference is open to college administrators and faculty, schools, adult agency staff, parents and young adults.**

For more information, website: [www.nytransition.org](http://www.nytransition.org)  
phone: (585) 275-7739, email: [transition@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:transition@urmc.rochester.edu).



## ~ Austin ~

is an energetic adolescent who likes collecting comic books, playing video games, golfing and swimming. Austin also enjoys magic tricks and "joking around." He laughs often and easily. His favorite "foods" include "candy and marshmallows!" He also likes Chinese food. In 8th grade special education classes, his favorite class is computers. Austin is described as a good student and has stated that he hopes to become a scientist. Austin is excited about adoption and hopes "to have nice parents that don't yell that often and will spend time with me doing arts and crafts, and going on vacation." He would also like to point out that he is "a very nice kid once you get to know me." Austin needs an open-minded, patient forever family. Birthday: October, 1995. If you are interested in learning more about Austin, please contact

**Ilona Frederick,**  
**Child & Family Specialist,**  
**Children Awaiting Parents, Inc.**  
595 Blossom Road, Suite 306,  
Rochester, NY 14610  
p. 888.835.8802 or 585.232.5110  
f. 585.232.2634



The 2011 NYS Partners in Policymaking program has begun. A group of 70 individuals, comprised of self-advocates and family members, is forging new territory utilizing an interactive web-based learning format. Class members are mastering the technology, creating strong bonds, and sharing resources and information.

The NYS Partners Graduate network also continues to grow. Opportunities for trainings and webinars are frequently posted on the Partners website. Visit [www.nyspip.org](http://www.nyspip.org) for more information.



## From the Editor



The Advocacy Center's major fundraiser this year, *An Evening of Art and Jazz*, will be held at George Eastman House on Saturday, June 4, 2011. In addition to the wonderful jazz performances and array of artwork usually featured, your ticket will include entry into a drawing for a pair of Club Passes to the 2011 Rochester International Jazz Festival and entry into a drawing for an Apple iPad2. If you or your family have benefitted from The Advocacy Center's services, please consider attending or supporting the event by purchasing a program ad. To learn about sponsorship opportunities or other ways to support this event, please contact the Advocacy Center's new Executive Assistant, Seneca Brashear, at (585) 546-1700 ext. 265.

This is the time to nominate someone for The Advocacy Center's Annual Community Awards. Submit a nomination for that extraordinary individual and maybe he or she will win an award from The Advocacy Center. Please see the nomination information on page 2. Awardees will be honored on June 4 at *An Evening of Art and Jazz*.

It is not an exaggeration to say that The Advocacy Center workshops can be life-changing for families. Please see "Upfront and Personal" in this issue and meet a parent who attended a workshop, related to material presented, and then applied the tips and suggestions to her son's life.

Lastly and sadly, a reflection on this week's *New York Times* article (Hakim, Danny. 2011, March 12. At State-Run Homes, Abuse and Impunity. *The New York Times*, Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com>) about abuse documented at state-run homes: Here is an excerpt:

*The Times reviewed 399 disciplinary cases involving 233 state workers who were accused of one of seven serious offenses, including physical abuse and neglect, since 2008. In each of the cases examined, the agency had substantiated the charges, and the worker had been previously disciplined at least once.*

*In 25 percent of the cases involving physical, sexual or psychological abuse, the state employees were transferred to other homes.*

*The state initiated termination proceedings in 129 of the cases reviewed but succeeded*

*in just 30 of them, in large part because the workers' union, the Civil Service Employees Association, aggressively resisted firings in almost every case. A few employees resigned, even though the state sought only suspensions.*

*In the remainder of the cases, employees accused of abuse — whether beating the disabled, using racial slurs or neglecting their care — either were suspended, were fined or had their vacation time reduced.*

My reaction to the article is one of anguish, anger, disgust, and betrayal. Wow – having "vacation time reduced" – now that's a fair consequence for beating someone who relies on you for daily care.

For a long time, I placed in front of my son Nick's baby picture a small wooden figure – a roaring lion. There sitting on our piano was an image of baby Nick with his sweet upward glance, his chubby hands clasped, wearing red plaid pajamas, guarded by a wooden lion. I moved the lion away from my son's picture a few years ago because I decided it was time for Nick to start protecting himself... I think I will dust off the lion and place it firmly in front of Nick's photo again.

*Maria Schaertel*

## Resources for Further Information

### **NYS Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities**

Roger Bearden, Acting Chairman • 401 State Street, Schenectady, NY 12305  
1-800-624-4143 (Voice/TTY/Spanish) • (518) 388-1281 • Website: <http://cqc.ny.gov/>

**Office of the Attorney General** • Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman • The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341  
General Helpline: 1-800-771-7755 • TDD/TTY Toll Free Line: 1-800-788-9898 • Website: <http://www.ag.ny.gov/>

**NYS Governor's office** • The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building, Albany, NY 12224 • (518) 474-8390 • Website: <http://www.governor.ny.gov/node>

### **NYS Office for Persons with Developmental Disabilities**

Acting Commissioner, Courtney Burke, 44 Holland Avenue Albany, New York 12229  
Information Line 1-(866)-946-9733 • TTY: (866) 933-4889  
Email: [Commissioners.Correspondence.Unit@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:Commissioners.Correspondence.Unit@opwdd.ny.gov) • Website: <http://www.opwdd.ny.gov>

NYS Assemblyman Felix W. Ortiz and NYS Senator Roy J. McDonald, chairman of the Senate's Mental Health Committee, have announced plans to hold public hearings around New York State.



THE BRIDGE  
The Advocacy Center  
590 South Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14620

Non-Profit  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Rochester, NY  
Permit No. 139

# TRADE OR CONNECT

## “Let Us In!”

Down Syndrome International presented the global video event “Let Us In!” in partnership with 45 Countries for World Down Syndrome Day 2011, celebrated on March 21. You may view this extraordinary and beautiful video at: <http://www.ds-int.org/video/will-you-let-us-in>

## March is National Disability Awareness

In 2010, The Advocacy Center hosted over 450 workshops, including 157 Disability Awareness workshops. The Advocacy Center takes pride in reaching out to thousands of parents, individuals with disabilities, and professionals throughout Western New York in urban, suburban and rural areas.



## April is National Autism Awareness Month

Please see the May Autism series information featured on Page 5.

*Publication of notice in News You Can Use and Trade or Connect does not constitute endorsement by The Advocacy Center.*

This newsletter is published by



590 South Avenue Rochester, NY 14620  
(585) 546-1700 1-800-650-4967  
[www.advocacycenter.com](http://www.advocacycenter.com)

Funding is partially provided by a Family Support Services Grant by the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

Publication within this journal of articles and information should not be considered an endorsement by The Advocacy Center and/or the funders.

EDITOR: Maria Schaertel  
EXEC. DIRECTOR: Paul Shew  
DESIGN & PRINT: Sarah Stein