

News You Can Use: Spring 2011

AAAFDD:

Monday, March 28th, 7:00 - 8:45 pm at the Tucker Recreation Center, Guest speaker Sally Atwell will discuss her work with the Social Security Benefits Navigator Project, in which benefits counselors work with people with disabilities who receive either SSI or SSDI based on a medical condition in their efforts to understand how benefits are affected by paid employment.

Autism Society of America/Georgia Chapter:

The 7th Annual Autism Asperger Conference will be held March 22nd & 23rd at the Gwinnett Convention Center on Sugarloaf Parkway. This conference is aimed at families, caregivers, educators, and other professionals who work with individuals with Autism. Presentation topics range from current research to vacation tips! To register, visit the website. <http://www.asaga.com/>

Childkind:

Childkind hosts a monthly seminar in Atlanta, GA from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm OR from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, "Disability Awareness 101 Workshop for Parents, Grandparetns, Caregivers, Advocates, & all Professionals Who Support Children with Special Healthcare Needs and Developmental Disabilities." Topics addressed include Medicaid, waivers, denials & appeals, and much more. For more information, contact Childkind at 404-248-1980.

The Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD):

An additional 250 waiver slots have been approved for the New Options Waiver (NOW) and the Comprehensive Waiver (COMP) in 2012. This is a small step in the right direction! If your child has a developmental disability and is over the age of 3, you may apply for these waivers. To apply, call the Region 3 Intake & Evaluation Team at 770-414-3052. For more information on the waivers, visit <http://dbhdd.georgia.gov>, click on 'Services', then 'Developmental Disabilities.'

FOCUS (Families of Children Under Stress):

The FOCUS on Transition 2011 Conference will be held Saturday, February 26th from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. Come and learn about Person Centered Planning, NOW & COMP Waivers, SSI, Guardianship, Wills & Trusts, Voc Rehab, and more! Also, see below for information about FOCUS summer camps.

Fragile Kids Foundation:

Parents may apply for a general healthcare grant, support for vehicle lifts, ramps, & seating, or a loaned all-terrain wheelchair. Next deadline for applications is March 31st. www.fragilekids.org

Friends of Disabled Adults & Children (FODAC):

If you haven't swung by FODAC lately, do so! Check out their ever-changing inventory of used, donated medical equipment & supplies. Have medical equipment that needs repair? Interested in a home ramp and other modifications? In the market for a vehicle lift? Call 770-491-9014 to see how FODAC may be able to help. Check out their thrift store as well. Located in Stone Mountain, GA.

Gwinnett County Parks & Recreation:

Parks & Rec offer a Therapeutic Recreation program which serves special needs populations. They offer many activities including a fitness club, swimming, cooking, karaoke, disc golf & more. Contact Beth Sokolowski at 770-822-5414 for more info.

Gwinnett Transition Fair:

Join us March 19 from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm at Peachtree Ridge High School to meet with and learn about agencies and organizations in the Metro area that serve adults with disabilities.

Kiddos Clubhouse Foundation:

Parents may apply for up to \$2,500 for therapeutic services or equipment. The next deadline for applications is March 31st. www.kiddosclubhousefoundation.org

Parent 2 Parent of Georgia:

Friday, March 3rd- Georgia Medicaid Basics and Home and Community-Based Services, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm at Lilburn Elementary School. Contact Vangie Zumuran at 678-245-5140.

Saturday, March 19th- Movin' Up: Planning Your Child's Successful Transition at age 3, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm at Atlanta Public Schools. Contact Keisa Ma at 404-802-1695.

Be sure to check Parent to Parent's website for their archived webinars on topics from bullying, to Katie-Beckett, to Guardianship. www.p2pga.org.

The Parent Mentor Program is a collaborative program between Gwinnett County Public Schools with the Georgia Department of Education. Gwinnett County Public Schools has two parent mentors who help bridge the gap between school & family and provide information to parents. One of the services they provide is a monthly "Balanced Lunch Bunch" meeting for parents with children with disabilities. Contact Ann Ladd or Jackie McNair at 678-301-7110.

Parent-Recommended Respite & Camps

AGAPE:

AGAPE is an outreach program of the special needs ministry at North Metro Baptist Church and meets once a month for two hours in the evening. The church is located in Lawrenceville, GA and serves individuals with high functioning intellectual/physical disabilities (ages 5 to adult). Contact 770-995-9055 for more info.

Camp Big Heart:

Located in Winder, GA, this camp offers recreational activities designed specifically for children and adults who are mildly to moderately mentally challenged (who may also have physical challenges) and who are ambulatory. 678-294-1916

Camp Caglewood:

Located in Flowery Branch, GA, Camp Caglewood provides respite for families and fun experiences for children and adults with developmental disabilities, such as PDD, Autism, Down syndrome, and Cerebral Palsy. Some level of independence is needed of campers due to the physical nature of the program. 678-405-9000

Camp Hawkins/Matthew's Time:

Camp Hawkins is a five day camp located in Mt. Airy, GA, which began as an outreach program for Georgia Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries. Populations served include individuals age 8 - 21 with Down's syndrome, TBI, ADHD, CP, Autism, & DD. The camp is wheelchair accessible. Matthew's Time is a weekend respite program for children with more severe disabilities. Call 770-463-3344 for more information.

First Baptist Snellville:

This church hosts a two-hour respite program once a month for individuals with developmental disabilities. Cost is \$3 and includes dinner. Call 770-978-7000 for more info.

FOCUS (Families of Children Under Stress):

Now is the time to register for summer camps and events, such as Camp Team, Camp Hollywood, Camp Infinity, and Under the Stars weekend at Camp Twin Lakes. Don't forget that FOCUS also offers an Extra Special Saturday Respite Program which serves children with disabilities up to age 13, with several locations in the metro area. Call 770-234-9111 for more information or check out www.focus-ga.org.

Georgia Community Supports and Solutions:

This agency has a department that coordinates a voucher-system which funds respite care for families of children and adults with developmental disabilities. Respite providers may offer support in the home, at a care facility, or in a group home setting. Call for an application and more information. 404-634-4222

Hebron's Parent's Night Out:

This outreach ministry meets one Saturday per month for four hours. The church is located in Dacula, GA and they serve individuals with a wide range of disability and need, from mild intellectual disabilities to medically fragile. There is no age minimum or maximum. Contact Jessica Butterworth at 678-427-5833.

Hope House Children's Respite Center:

This is a facility in Union City, GA that provides respite care on a daily and/or a 24-hour basis for non-ambulatory, medically fragile children ages birth through 21. Contact Majorie Peterson at 770-969-8354 for more info.

Saturday Respite at Hi Hope:

On the third Saturday of each month, Georgia Community Supports & Solutions (GCSS) with Hi Hope Service Center provides a 6-hour respite care program to individuals with mild to severe disabilities, ages 3 to adult. Contact GCSS to register. 404-634-4222

SOURCE & CCSP:

Service Options Using Resources in a Community Environment (SOURCE) & Community Care Services Program (CCSP) are waived programs that provide services to Medicaid-eligible individuals with disabilities. One of the services provided is caregiver respite. For more information contact Terri Jones at 404-463-3248.

Spectrum:

Spectrum Autism Support Group is now registering for summer camps! Check out their website to see what is being offered. While you're there, find up-to-date info on their respite, social, & support programs. www.atl-spectrum.com

Toni's Camp:

The Catholic Center of Atlanta offers a summer camp program for individuals with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities in Rutledge, GA. 404-888-7809

United Cerebral Palsy After-School Program at Hi Hope:

This program is located in Lawrenceville, GA and provides care and supervision to intellectually disabled students after school until 6:00 pm, on teacher workdays, and during the summer months. Contact Trudy Cyers at 770-822-3444.