

Family Support

INFORMATION AND REFERRALS



FAMILY SUPPORT NEWS

WINTER 2011

EASTER SEALS DISCOVERY CLUB OFFERS FUN FOR PEOPLE OF ALL ABILITIES

Easter Seals of Colorado is again teaming up with Imagine! to host the Discovery Club, which will provide a chance for children ages 6 to 18 with disabilities to explore and learn, while parents get some precious time to themselves.

The Discovery Club is held on the second Saturday of each month through May, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Boulder Valley Christian Church.

Kids at the Discovery Club will be able to take part in arts and crafts, sports and games, drama and singing, and group activities. Snacks will be provided, but kids will need to bring their own lunches.

Meanwhile, parents will get some time to meet with their friends, be with their spouses, and have the luxury of time for themselves and for other children.

Professionals and trained volunteers will provide care for kids who need help with mobility, eating, and other special needs, and a nurse is on staff at all times. There is a \$25 registration fee, and the fee for each Saturday is \$20 per person per day, or \$15 per person per day for two or more from the same family.

Call Nancy to reserve your child's space, to volunteer, or for more information: 303-233-1666 x 237.



Easter Seals Also Offers Other Respite Opportunities

In addition to Discovery Club respite opportunities, Easter Seals also provides a respite program at Rocky Mountain Village. There are specific respite opportunities aimed at a variety of age groups, as well as fun themes such as Guys Night Out and Girls Slumber Party. Prices range from \$210-\$410 per weekend. Participants stay for the weekend, and parents drop off and don't need to stay! Learn more by visiting:

http://co.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=CODR_RMVRespiteWeekends

BOULDER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT PRESENTS TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD EDUCATION SERIES

Throughout this school year, the Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) will be presenting a series of seminars designed to help parents navigate the complex process of transitioning their child with developmental disabilities from services and funding mechanisms for children to services and funding mechanisms for adults.

These are hand-on workshops where participants will leave with the correct paperwork, along with a full understanding of options and how to access services.

For more information, contact BVSD Parent Liaison Anna Stewart at 720-561-5918 or anna.stewart@bvsd.org or ACL Director of Member Services Ailsa Wonnacott at 303-527-0888 or awonnacott@aclboulder.org.

UPCOMING TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD EDUCATION SESSION TOPICS

January 13 **Adult Services**—*You'll want to come and learn about what public benefits are available, eligibility requirements, what is covered, what an IP is, who is involved in planning, how to get connected with adult services, and the timeline to do it.*

February 10 **Independent Living**—*We'll discuss the range of options from living with family to buying your own home and how to access support. We'll include housing assistance, who is eligible and how to obtain funds.*

March 10 **Employment**—*We'll cover work experience through the schools and go on to deciding what kind of work you want to do, finding and keeping a job, customized employment, self-employment, work and benefits, as well as supported employment services (SWAP and DVR). Separate session for high school students. Must pre-register.*

April 7 **Financial Planning**—*Join Certified Financial Planner Hal Wright to learn about comprehensive 'special needs' planning that integrates life, resource, financial, and legal planning. Participants will also receive a free copy of "Special Needs Planning for a Person with a Disability: Life, Resource, Financial & Legal."*

May 5 **Live and Learn**—*Representatives from local colleges, along with organizations who offer recreational opportunities, will share how to support young adults in being part of their community including transportation options. Separate session for students ages 15 to 21. Must pre-register.*

VISIT THE FAMILY SERVICES WEBSITE:

www.imaginefamilyservices.org

IMAGINE! CONDUCTING WAITLIST NEEDS ASSESSMENT

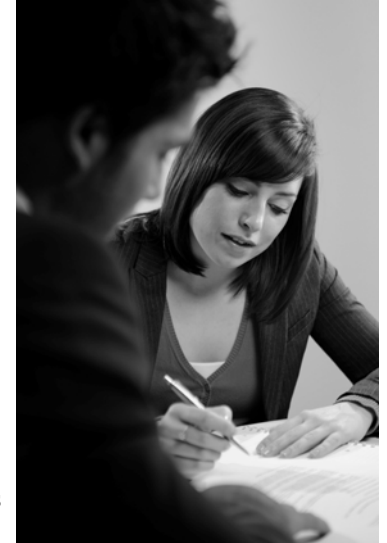
There are many questions surrounding the effectiveness and cost efficiency of the current system of funding and service provision for individuals with developmental disabilities in Colorado. Imagine! would like to be a leader in developing solutions designed to address some of the challenging issues facing the current system, but in order to do that, we first need to gather some data about some of the most underserved members of our community.

That is why Imagine! is conducting a needs assessment for individuals who are on our adult waiting list. In the next few months, Imagine! will be reaching out to individuals (and their families) who are on the adult waiting list for services, are at least 18 years of age, and live in Boulder County.

To begin the process of gathering information, Imagine! will be completing a Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) for individuals who are waiting for services. The SIS was developed by a national organization and is used in Colorado, as well as 15 other states and numerous other countries. It provides information as to the type, frequency, and intensity of supports needed by an individual. Imagine! will also be gathering information regarding resources and information pertaining to the family in order to get a better picture of existing needs.

In addition to gathering information, Imagine! will use this opportunity to establish better lines of communication with those who are waiting for services. This will help ensure that, as we move forward, those who are on the waitlist will have a voice, and a role, in efforts to address the challenges facing all of us.

We will keep you posted as this project moves forward.



CUIDADODESALUD.GOV: INFORMATION AND RESOURCES FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services earlier this month unveiled CuidadoDeSalud.gov, the first website in Spanish of its kind to help consumers take control of their health care by connecting them to new information and resources that will help them access quality, affordable health care coverage. Consistent with the mandate in the Affordable Care Act, CuidadoDeSalud.gov is the partner site of HealthCare.gov, which was launched in July 2010, and is the first website in Spanish to provide consumers with both public and private health coverage options tailored specifically for their needs in a single, easy-to-use tool. Access the website <http://www.cuidadodesalud.gov/enes/> to see how it works.



“CuidadoDeSalud.gov, like HealthCare.gov, is an unprecedented website which provides consumers with the power of information at their fingertips. Individuals, families, and small businesses will be able to easily compare both public and private health coverage options tailored specifically for their needs,” said HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. “CuidadoDeSalud.gov will give Latinos across the nation better information about the choices they have, how much they cost, and what they can expect from their doctor—specific to their life situation and local community.”

PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS HOSTING TWO UPCOMING CONFERENCES

You may want to attend one of these upcoming Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) family-centered conferences designed to bring parents and other professionals together to share ideas, discuss concerns, celebrate successes, and obtain information relating to parenting, educating, and supporting a child with a disability. The conferences are in Ft. Collins from January 20 – 22, and in Colorado Springs from March 31 – April 2.

These conferences are available to persons residing in Colorado who have a child with a disability who is between the ages of birth to twenty-one. Administrators, principals, teachers, medical, and other service providers interested in the family-professional partnership are also invited to participate in a PEP Conference.

For more information on PEP or the conferences, please visit the Colorado Department of Education website at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/PEP.asp>.

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME HOCKEY?

Every Saturday from 4:30-5:30 p.m. during hockey season at the YMCA in Lafayette, people aged 5-35+ with developmental disabilities learn to skate and play hockey with skilled volunteers. Actual games are played, too! Please contact one of the volunteers from Rocky Mountain Special Hockey or stop by one Saturday to learn more.

Contact: JoAnn Stephenson
Phone: 303-423-5729 or 720-810-2386
E-mail: jstephe887@q.com

OR

Contact: Mark Lee
Phone: 303-570-8025
Email: Mark.Lee@Emerson.com

Arena Name: Arapahoe YMCA, 2800 Dagny Way, Lafayette, CO 80026



FAMILY SUPPORT TO OFFER GUARDIANSHIP PRESENTATION AND TRAINING

For families who have children with cognitive, developmental, or intellectual disabilities, the child's transition to adulthood can be a confusing time. One aspect of this transition that often catches parents by surprise is the change in guardianship laws that occur when a child turns 18 (parents must apply for guardianship in order to continue to act as guardian for the child). While guardianship may not be the best option for all families, Imagine! wants to ensure parents make those decisions armed with the best information available.

That is why Imagine!'s Family Support department is teaming up with the Guardianship Alliance of Colorado to offer a guardianship presentation and training this coming spring. Topics to be covered will include:

- *Guardianship and conservatorship for adults*
- *Advance Directives, the Living Will, and Durable Powers of Attorney*
- *Proxy Decision-maker law and procedures*



**Coming
This
Spring!**

Please consult Imagine!'s website calendar (www.imaginecolorado.org/Calendar.htm) in the coming months for more details on this valuable presentation and training.

IMAGINE! PROVIDERS TAKING PART IN EARLY INTERVENTION PILOT PROGRAM

At Imagine!, we believe that quality services demand our commitment to continuous improvement through research, evaluation, feedback, and practice.

In that spirit, staff members from Imagine!'s Dayspring department, Imagine!'s Behavioral Health Services department, Imagine! Service Coordinators, and Imagine! Early Intervention contract providers will be attending a two-day training in early January. This is the beginning of Imagine!'s involvement in the pilot program for Early Intervention Colorado's Autism Guidelines Training.

The purpose of this two-day regional training is to support providers that work with infants and toddlers, birth through two years, who have characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in the delivery of early intervention services based on a child's individualized identified need, and not on a prescriptive curriculum or treatment model.

THE IMAGINE! WEBSITE CALENDAR WAS CREATED FOR YOU

No matter what role you have in the field of developmental disabilities, the Imagine! website calendar was created for you. The website calendar provides information on upcoming events, seminars, and local activities related to the field of developmental disabilities. The calendar is updated frequently, so please check it regularly at www.imaginecolorado.org/Calendar.htm.

UPCOMING CONFERENCE OFFERS SCHOOL AND SOCIAL STRATEGIES FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

On January 20 and 21, AEP Connections will be presenting a conference on school and social strategies for children with autism. Although the conference is geared toward educators, parents may find the information valuable as well.

Presentations include:

Practical Solutions for Increasing Independent Functioning Using Visual Support Strategies

A primary goal when teaching students with ASD is decreasing dependence on adults. However, this can be quite challenging in school-based settings where the education climate fosters adult support. For students with ASD, who can become quite "prompt dependent," this instructional style can be extremely detrimental, resulting in life-long ramifications. This training will address how to appropriately use adult support to teach independent functioning skills.

When My Autism Gets Too Big!

This presentation gives an interesting overview of current thinking in the area of Social Cognition and learning theories as they relate to autism spectrum conditions. The speaker will connect learning style and problems of social understanding to symptoms of social anxiety, relationship building, and challenging behavior. Strategies to address such learning difficulties will be discussed as they relate to individuals of all ages across the autism spectrum.

The conference will take place in Denver, Colorado on January 20-21, 2011, at the Holiday Inn, Denver East.

For more information or to register, please go to www.aepconnections.com/conferences.html.

Family Support News
is the newsletter of Imagine!'s
Family Support Department

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www.imaginefamilyservices.org

**THE MISSION OF IMAGINE! IS TO
CREATE AND OFFER INNOVATIVE
SUPPORTS TO PEOPLE OF ALL
AGES WITH COGNITIVE,
DEVELOPMENTAL, PHYSICAL, AND
HEALTH RELATED NEEDS SO THEY
MAY LIVE FULFILLING LIVES OF
INDEPENDENCE AND QUALITY IN
THEIR HOMES AND
COMMUNITIES.**

Imagine!
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Parents Encouraging
Parents hosting two
upcoming conferences.

Inside on Page 5.

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