



The Parent Network

October 2016

Mission: Idaho Parents Unlimited supports, empowers, educates and advocates to enhance the quality of life for Idahoans with disabilities and their families.

Upcoming Events

Includes non-IPUL community events

Pocatello Support Group:

Second Wednesday of every month at 10:00 am
Double Shot Coffee and Doughnuts- 215 East Cedar Street

Mom's Like us Support Group- Coeur d' Alene:

Second Wednesday of each month from 7-8
Kootenai Medical Center- Heart Health Classroom
Contact Janell Woods at 208-818-3192 for details

Nurturing Skills for Families:

September 13-November 29, 2016
Tuesday Evenings from 5:30-7 PM PST
Community United Methodist Church
1470 W. Hanley Ave, Coeur d' Alene, ID
Advance signup required 208-676-1515 Or email:
melanie@stvincentdepaulcda.org Cost- \$100

Tools For Life-Save the Date:

March 6-7, 2017 in Pocatello
Oct. 15, 2016
General attendee registration opens. Register at:
www.idahoat.org

Nurturing Fathers- Dad's Only- Parenting Class

September 7- December 7, 2016
Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30 PM PST
180 Living Building- 1323 E. Sherman Ave, Coeur d' Alene,
ID
Advance signup required 208-676-1515 Or email:
melanie@stvincentdepaulcda.org Cost- \$110

Idaho Partnerships Conference:

October 5-6, 2016
Boise State University- Boise
Register by [Clicking here](#)



Idaho CEC Conference:

October 6-7, 2016
Red Lion Downtowner- Boise
Register by [Clicking here](#)

Courageous Kids Climbing:

Contact Jeff at: JeffRiechmann@cs.com for locations and details.

Idaho Parents Unlimited Monthly Regional Workshop:

October 12, 2016 from 6-9 PM
Bullying Prevention for Parents and Youth
Regional workshops are held in Boise, Pocatello and
Coeur d' Alene
Visit our events calendar for more information [Click here](#)

Idaho Parents Unlimited Monthly Webinar Series:

Please note all webinars are presented in Mountain
Standard Time (MST).
October 25, 2016 at 11 AM and 9 PM
Bullying Prevention for Parents and Youth
Visit our events calendar to register and for more
information [Click here](#)

Parent Training and Information Center - IDEA Part D

IDEA and Public Virtual Schools



We as parents always want to do what is best for our kids and that can look very different from child to child. There are some families who decide that public school is not the right avenue for their children. Many different factors come into play when making a decision like this. There are a lot of questions surrounding online public schools and what their requirements look like for children with disabilities. Recognizing the need for clarification, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) provided some guidance surrounding this issue in the form of a Dear Colleague Letter. Take a look at some of the key points provided by the U.S. Department of Education:

"Children with disabilities attending virtual schools have the same right to a free appropriate public education as children attending brick and mortar schools," said OSERS Acting Assistant Secretary Sue Swenson. "States and school districts must ensure that children with disabilities are getting the special education and supports that they need to be successful in school."

Virtual public schools, including virtual charter schools, must be held to high standards and be accountable to the students and families they serve. The most important feature of any school is the quality of the learning experience for students. The Department's goal continues to be to ensure that all students-particularly those traditionally underserved-receive a high-quality public education.

Among the letter's key points:

- The educational rights and protections afforded to children with disabilities and their parents under IDEA must not be diminished or compromised when children with disabilities attend virtual schools.
- States are responsible for ensuring that all school districts, including virtual schools that operate as school districts, implement the requirements of IDEA.
- To ensure FAPE to children with disabilities in virtual schools, each school district must implement the evaluation, eligibility, individualized education program (IEP) and least restrictive environment requirements under IDEA.
- Each state also must have policies and procedures that ensure that children with disabilities who attend virtual schools are included in all general state and district-wide assessment programs, including assessments with appropriate accommodations and alternate assessments, where necessary and as indicated in their respective IEPs.
- In addition, each state and school district, must have child find policies and procedures in effect to ensure that all children with disabilities residing in the state, including those who attend virtual schools, who are in need of special education and related services, regardless of the severity of their disability, are identified, located, and evaluated.
- School districts, including virtual schools that operate as school districts, should review the state's child find policies and procedures as well as their own implementing policies, procedures, and practices to ensure that children with disabilities who attend virtual schools are identified, located, and evaluated.

To see more of this article, please visit:

<http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-education-department-releases-guidance-education-children-disabilities-attending-public-virtual-schools> (Source)

You can view the letter by clicking here: [Dear Colleague Letter](#)

If you are considering accessing a public virtual school, please contact Idaho Parents Unlimited for some information and resources that may help you in moving forward with the decision that makes most sense for your child's needs.

Family to Family Health Information Center - Idaho Family Voices

Idaho Healthcare Open Enrollment Dates for 2016/2017



In an effort to keep families informed about insurance details specific to Idaho's Healthcare Marketplace, we attached some information about the Open Enrollment Period for 2017 coverage. See below:

Yourhealthidaho.org Healthcare Marketplace Open Enrollment Period 2017 starts November 1, 2016 and ends January 31, 2017. You can get healthcare insurance through the yourhealthidaho.org Marketplace during the OEP 2017.

For details and coverage options for 2017, visit: <http://healthcareinsurance.company/yourhealthidaho.org/> (Source)

Have you had any Experience with Veyo?



Idaho Parents Unlimited is continuing to collect information regarding issues that people with disabilities (and/or parents of children with disabilities) may be experiencing with non-emergency medical transportation being provided by the new managed care organization Veyo.

These concerns will be shared with the Department of Health and Welfare, legislators, and Veyo in an effort to determine what problems may exist and how to provide immediate solutions.

To share your story, [click here](#).

Understanding the Coverage Gap in Idaho



You've all heard about it. The infamous coverage gap. The uninsured. Most of us probably have an idea as to what exactly the gap means, but how much do we know about the effect's it has on our state, our families, our children, money, options, etc.? Close the Gap Idaho created a chart book to help develop more of an understanding about key issues.

Take a look by [clicking here](#).

Youth Corner

How to Discuss Your Disability With Peers



Disclosing your disability to others is a very personal choice, and you don't have to disclose everything with everyone. It is always helpful to explain your disability in honest terms. Preparation is essential if you've made the decision to educate your peers. You also have to ensure your comfort level in discussing your diagnosis, so you can answer any questions they may have.

A great way to prepare yourself for these conversations, is to practice the discussion. Ask a trusted family member, friend, or mentor to role play the conversation with you. Practice in front of a mirror until you feel confident enough to have the discussion. It is also important to find a quiet, comfortable location that you can have the discussion. You also want to ensure you have enough time and don't feel rushed.

There isn't a "right" or "wrong" answer. We are always available at Idaho Parents Unlimited to brainstorm suggestions with youth one on one.

Here is a great workbook that you can use to walk you through the preparation for disability disclosure:
http://www.ncwd-youth.info/sites/default/files/411_Disability_Disclosure_complete.pdf

VSA Idaho - The State Organization on Art and Disability

Work of Art



This Quarter our arts employment program "Work of Art" provided work experience, skill building and artistic expression opportunities for eighteen students ages 16-21 across the treasure valley.

The summer kicked off with talented students from Victory Academy creating a beautiful painting for the The Lotus Tree, a local business that provides therapy services for children and families.

Mid-summer our Radteam at IPUL designed textiles for Wingtip Press, a printmaking company, which included custom designs for t-shirts, curtains and chair upholstery (photos above).

Our present group of students is part of the STEP program in Boise, an 18-21 class for students with disabilities continuing their high school education, and are currently producing original print designs for the Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force annual summit. Students in this round of "Work of Art" will receive an award for their efforts, along with IPUL, at the Summit on Idaho Hunger and Food Security October 28 th in Boise.

For more information on our "Work of Art" program please contact Heather@ipulidaho.org.

This program is supported by the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. If you would like to know more about our arts education programming, please contact heather@ipulidaho.org.

For more about VSA International please visit VSA, The National Organization on Arts and Disability:
<http://education.kennedy-center.org/education/vsa/>.



Take a look at our upcoming monthly workshops, and mark your calendar!

SAVE THE DATE

IPUL PARENT EDUCATION CALENDAR

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| August 2016 | Success with the IEP |
| September 2016 | Success with the IEP |
| October 2016 | Bullying Prevention for Parents & Youth |
| November 2016 | Parent and Professional Collaboration |
| Decemeber 2016 | Stop Spinning Your Wheels-Advocacy and Coordination Skills for Your Child's Special Health Care Needs |
| January 2017 | Skills for Effective Advocacy for Parents and Youth & Power of a Personal Story |
| February 2017 | Planning for a Healthy Transition |
| March 2017 | Getting and Keeping the First Job |
| April 2017 | Success with the IEP |
| May 2017 | Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports |
| June 2017 | Families are Important (Early Childhood) |
| July 2017 | Support and Resources/ Parent Meet Up |

Boise: Idaho Parents Unlimited
4619 W. Emerald Ste. E
Pocatello: Journey's DDA
1177 Call Place Ste. C
Coeur d' Alene: Kootenai Health Center
2003 Kootenai Health Way (Inside the MRI Conference Room)



***Educational workshops are held from 6-9 PM in all locations on the second Wednesday of the month. Please RSVP by calling 208-342-5884, email parents@ipulidaho.org, or visit www.ipulidaho.org.

[Idaho Parents Unlimited Monthly Regional Workshop:](#)



Idaho Parents Unlimited, Inc
Assisting Families of Children with Disabilities
and/or Special Health Care Needs
Serving Idaho Families Since 1985

October 12, 2016
6:00-9:00 PM

Bullying Prevention for Parents and Youth

- * Learn effective bullying intervention strategies and approaches.
- * Learn how to create an action plan.
- * Connect with other parents within your community.



Boise: Idaho Parents Unlimited
4619 W. Emerald Ste. E

Pocatello: Journey's DDA
1177 Call Place Ste. C

Coeur d' Alene: Kootenai Health Center
2003 Kootenai Health Way
Inside the Cafeteria-Classroom 2

RSVP: 208-342-5884, Parents@ipulidaho.org, www.ipulidaho.org

[Idaho Parents Unlimited App - For Android Phones](#)

Keep up-to-date on all IPUL events and Community news/events through facebook posts right from your phone with IPUL's new app for Android phones. Don't worry iPhone users - we're working on one for you. We hope to have it ready soon:

[Click here](#) from your Android phone, or scan this QR code:





IPUL Staff-

Angela Lindig, Executive Director
Jennifer Zielinski, Program/Parent Education Coordinator
Amy Ireland, North Parent Education Coordinator
Brandi Shaffer, East Parent Education Coordinator
Sarah Tueller, Southwest Parent Education Coordinator
Heather Kirk Skinner, Statewide Arts Education Coordinator
Rosario Beagarie, Bilingual Parent Education Coordinator
Candace Garman, Bookkeeper
Bill Nuttycombe, IT Specialist

IPUL Board-

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Join the IPUL Board of Directors! <http://www.ipulidaho.org/>

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IPUL's parent education programming is always free to families. Consider making a tax-deductible contribution to assist us in assisting families who are raising exceptional children in Idaho. If making a cash contribution is out of reach right now, you can still help by making Idaho Parents Unlimited your charity of choice when shopping at Amazon.com or Fred Meyer thanks to their fantastic giving programs:

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