

PARENT NETWORK



supporting, empowering, educating and advocating for Idahoans with disabilities and their families
spring 2012

Keys to Accessing the Power of Work

Do you have questions like:

- Can I work and still keep my cash/health benefits?
- How will work affect my benefits?
- Which work incentives help transition age youth?

You will find the answers to these questions and many more at this Transition Workshop hosted by Idaho Parents Unlimited, Inc. and presented by Disability Rights Idaho. The workshop will be held at the IPUL Creative Access Art Center, 500 South 8th Street - Boise, ID, Saturday, May 12, 2012 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. The workshop is free and lunch is provided. To reserve your spot please call IPUL at 208.342.5884 or register by going to www.ipulidaho.org.

Thanks to our partners at the Idaho State Independent Living Council this workshop is funded solely by: A Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (CFDA 93.768) from the Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services, US Dept of Health and Human Services.



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Monthly Support Group

IPUL hosts a support group meeting the second Wednesday of each month in our Boise office at 500 South 8th Street at 6:00 pm. Each meeting includes training and information on the various issues that affect families who have children with disabilities and special health care needs. This is always free to families and while we cannot offer childcare on site, we do have a small amount of funds available to assist with childcare or parking costs.

June 13 - Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
 July 11 - Community Supports and Resources
 August 8 - Preparing for School - Building a Legacy - IDEA

IDAHO PARENTS UNLIMITED, INC.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



Image by Masterpiece Studio

Parent Leadership

Parent Leadership Development - North Idaho

IPUL is holding its Parent Leadership Development Training in Lewiston, ID June 18th - 21st. This intensive training, for parents of young children with disabilities under the age of eight, is facilitated by staff to train parent advocates and develop leaders within their own communities. Twelve parents will attend this four day event made possible through Idaho Parents Unlimited, the State Department of Education and the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities. If you are interested in participating, please contact our office. Travel and accommodations as well as a stipend will be provided to parents attending.

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Involving Parents and Students in the IEP Process.

According to a study published online this month in the Journal of Disability Policy Studies Parents and students with disabilities aren't as involved in the process of mapping out their goals with schools as much as they should be.

Federal Law intends for parents and school staff to work together on these plans however, the study found that participation in the IEP (Individualized Education Program) meetings varied according to the type of disability a student has, their family income, and their racial or ethnic background. The study also indicated that parents of students who had demonstrated "challenging" behavior at school, or who had poor social skills, reported they found the meetings about their IEP's or transition from high school to college or work less than satisfactory.

"These findings raise questions about whether schools are doing enough to engage the diversity of children and parents who are part of their communities," the study concludes.

Both schools and families of children with disabilities are apprehensive about IEP's as meetings can be difficult to coordinate, and schools and parents, as well as students in question, may not agree on attainable goals, the services necessary to reach those goals or the setting in which a student will be taught.

The study continued to indicate schools could make this bureaucratic process easier on parents and students by addressing obstacles which might include adjusting meeting times and locations for low-income families or avoid using special education jargon for parents who are less well educated. As states shift to adopt common core standards the IEP plans could become even more important.

"How welcoming are schools to parents whose children struggle academically and/or behaviorally? Findings presented here that parents of students with negative events in their educational histories or with factors associated with behavior issues are as likely as others to attend IEP/transition planning meetings but are less likely to be satisfied with their inclusion in decision making are troubling," the study found. "The students whose parents come to meetings to represent [them] may be the ones who most need and could benefit from a strong parent-school alliance in support of their educational success, yet that alliance seems elusive."

Original Article by Nirvi Shah

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/speced/2012/01/parents_and_students_with_disability.html?cmp=ENL-EU-NEWS2

CALENDAR

May 5th

Children's Redesign Workshop - 1:00 pm
411 N. 15th

Coeur d' Alene, ID

May 5th

AD/HD Workshop - 10:00 am - Noon
411 N. 15th, Suite 115

Coeur d' Alene, ID

May 9th

AD/HD Workshop
IPUL Support Group - 6:00 pm
500 South 8th Street

Boise, ID

May 10th

Rexburg Support Group - NOON
Smith Park
Rexburg, ID

June 13th

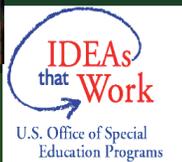
Positive Behavioral Interventions
IPUL Support Group - 6:00 pm
1500 South 8th Street
Boise, ID

June 18th-June 21st

Parent Leadership Development
Lewiston, Idaho
MUST PRE-REGISTER

July 11th

Community Supports/Resources
IPUL Support Group - 6:00 pm
1500 South 8th Street
Boise, ID



Parent Training Information Center - PTI

National Information on Special Education

Early Child Outcomes: Step By Step

The Early Childhood Outcomes Center created this wonderfully cute and helpful video that many are using to train staff or orient families to the three childhood outcomes adopted by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

<http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~eco/pages/videos.cfm>

Native American PTI – National Center

New Native American PTI – please help us welcome back Judy Wiley and the National Indian Parent Information Center. Feel free to peruse the NIPIC website www.nipic.org and help spread the word to Native American families.

Resources For Spanish Speaking Families Regarding Their Child With LD

The National Center for Learning Disabilities has a comprehensive list of resources in Spanish. This easy to navigate section of their website covers topics including basic information on LD, helping your child build skills to enhance their social and emotional wellbeing, and strategies to support their success in school.

<http://www.nclld.org/recursos-en-espanol>

Accessible Instructional Materials

The AIM Commission makes recommendations for improving the ability of postsecondary students with special needs to obtain accessible instructional materials. According to U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, "The AIM Commission's report sheds light on the hurdles students with disabilities too often face in accessing and completing higher education courses...Their recommendations will help our colleges and universities offer more effective resources that meet the needs of all students and provide students with disabilities the 21st century learning tools they need to be successful."

<http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/aim-commission-releases-report-disparities-postsecondary-learning-material-stude>

Bullying And Civil Rights: An Overview Of School Districts' Federal Obligation To Respond To Harassment

This webinar presented by the Federal Partners in Bullying Prevention expands upon three key areas: When bullying triggers obligation under federal anti-discrimination laws; the obligation of school districts to respond to allegations of harassment; and what to do if harassment continues. Also of interest is the Analysis of State Bullying Law and Policies just published by the U.S. Dept. of Ed. in December.

<https://www.nttac.org/index.cfm?event=webinarBullyingJUNE2011>

<http://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/bullying/state-bullying-laws/state-bullying-laws.pdf>

Family to Family Health Information Centers

F2F HIC, are statewide family staffed centers tasked with assuring families of children with special health care needs are able to participate in decision-making at all levels and be satisfied with the services they receive.

Specifically they:

- assist families of CSHCN to make informed choices about health care in order to promote good treatment decisions, cost effectiveness and improved health outcomes
- provide information regarding the health care needs of and resources available for CSHCN
- identify successful health delivery models for CSHCN
- develop with representatives of health care providers, managed care organization, health care purchasers, and appropriate State agencies, a model for collaboration between families of CSHCN and health professionals; 5) provide training and guidance regarding the care of CSHCN
- conduct outreach activities to families of CSHCN, health professionals, schools and other appropriate entities
- are staffed by families who have children with special health care needs and expertise in Federal and State public and private health care systems and by health professionals

F2F Centers are staffed by family members who have firsthand experience navigating the complex maze of health care service for CSHCN so they are uniquely able to help families.

F2F HIC also provide:

- Assistance to families and professionals in navigating health care systems;
- Information, education, training, support and referral services;
- Outreach to underserved / underrepresented populations, including Tribal groups
- Guidance on health programs and policy; and
- Collaboration with other F2F's, family groups, and professionals in efforts to improve services for CSHCN.

In 2010 81% of families surveyed reported that F2F's helped them partner in decision-making with their child's providers. Of those same families 90% report that F2F's helped them navigate community services.

According to the latest statistics F2F's serve 940,833 families and another 427,943 Professionals. Of those served 49% were either African American, Asian, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Pacific Islander, Hispanic, Latino or other Spanish origin.

F2F's provided families and professionals with a variety of information and resources which included Transition, Navigating Systems, Screening, Financing, Medical Home and Partnering.



FAMILY VOICES[®]

Family to Family - F2F

Medicaid Redesign Workshops

In December, IPUL created a parent survey regarding the Children's Benefit Redesign of Medicaid services. We received a very large number of responses from parents with some consistent concerns. Parents reported confusion about the process overall, a lack of understanding of how to appeal their child's assigned budget, and where to go for accurate information.

In an effort to alleviate concerns and assist families in obtaining the information they are seeking, IPUL has been facilitating meetings in different parts of the state. Parents who have attended the meetings were excited to have the opportunity not only to share their concerns but to have their questions answered.

Be sure to check our calendar on our website or call us to find out if there is a meeting near you or if we can help answer any questions you may have.

Medical Home

Children with special health care needs (CSHCN) present a complex challenge to the medical system. By definition, these children require healthcare services beyond those of healthy children presenting difficulties with consistency and continuity of care. One solution is the creation of a medical home for each child. Although it seems to be an easy solution in theory, implementation is complicated. Further complications are presented if the child with special health care needs resides in a rural area. - AMEDICAL HOME FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIALHEALTH CARE NEEDS IN RURAL LOCATIONS

Amy J. McClune, PhD, RN



Images by Masterpiece Studio

Medical Home - Continued

The Children's Healthcare Improvement Collaboration (CHIC) Project is a collaborative effort between Idaho and Utah to improve health outcomes and satisfaction among children and families in both states.

Beginning in May 2012, the CHIC Project will support three pediatric practices in a demonstration of patient-centered medical home.

Practices selected to participate are: Primary Health Medical Group – Pediatrics, Boise -- St. Luke's Developmental Pediatrics, Boise -- Coeur d'Alene Pediatrics, Coeur d'Alene, Hayden, Post Falls Support includes funding a part-time care coordinator embedded in the practice, practice coaching, learning collaboratives, and family partners.

IPUL will be the key contact for the Parent Partners by offering training, support and technical assistance. Additionally, beginning in June 2012 IPUL will offer Medical Home training to providers and parents of children and youth with special health care needs throughout the state. We believe in family-centered care for all children and youth with special health care needs and/or disabilities. More information about a Family Centered Medical Home can be found on our website including upcoming trainings.

Artists In Residence

For the past several years IPUL/VSA Idaho has helped artists and teachers create a rewarding experience for children both with and without a disability through the Creative Access Artist in Residence program.

The program allows an artist to present a program in public schools in an inclusive environment. This program has benefited children and schools throughout Idaho.

Due to budget cuts this may be the last year for this program receives funding through VSA the international organization on arts and disability. However, IPUL/VSA will continue to award teachers and artists between now and October thanks to current funding through VSA, the State Department of Education and the Idaho Commission on the Arts.

If you want to take a part in this enriching experience, please contact Bob McKain at 342.5884 or email: bob@ipulidaho.org

Master / Apprentice Artist Program

IPUL through a Medicaid Infrastructure grant from The Idaho State Independent Living Council is hosting two Master / Apprentice Artist exhibits again this year. The first exhibit will debut Thursday, August 2nd and the second is on Thursday, December 6th.

Each exhibit will feature the work of three artist teams who will have worked together for a minimum of 40 hours three months. Some artist teams are already in progress but there are still opportunities to get involved.

If you are a Master Artist who would like to mentor an Apprentice Artist or an Apprentice Artist with disability who would like to explore the possibility of pursuing your career in the arts contact Bob McKain at 342.5884 or email bob@ipulidaho.org

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VSA Arts



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Contact Us

Idaho Parents Unlimited, Inc.
500 South 8th Street
Boise, Id. 83702
208.342.5884 or
1-800.242.IPUL (4785)
parents@ipulidaho.org
www.ipulidaho.org



Able To Work

We want your employment success story!

The State Independent Living Council (SILC) will be releasing a new website September 3, 2012. The SILC is looking for people with disabilities who would like to share their story for the new website: abletowork.idaho.gov.

The upcoming employment website will be an amazing tool, connecting people with disabilities to employers and service providers. The goal of this project is to build an accessible website, specific to Idaho that will both inform and increase participation in employment for people with disabilities.

To nominate yourself or someone else, please fill out the form at <http://www.silc.idaho.gov/BLR/docs/EmploymentNominationExtend.pdf> and return to the SILC by May 4th, 2012. This will allow us enough time to contact you and schedule a photo shoot at your place of employment.

Guidelines

- Willingness to sign a media release form to allow us to use your name, a photo of you, and your story on the website as well as other marketing materials.
- Must be a person with a disability.
- Must be actively working.

Send completed forms to Ryan Quinn at ryan.quinn@silc.idaho.gov, fax to (208) 334-3803, or mail to 816 W Bannock St. #202, Boise, ID 83702.