



Idaho Parents Unlimited, Inc.
Assisting Families of Children with Disabilities
Serving Idaho Families for over 26 years



IPUL Fall Newsletter

IPUL is Pulling for You!

IPUL is committed to our primary goal of assisting families of children with disabilities and special health care needs. IPUL provides advocacy training, special education workshops, health care information, one to one phone support, conferences specific to the needs of families of children with disabilities and parent scholarships for attending conferences. Idaho Parent Unlimited also promotes support groups and assists in connecting parent groups throughout the state. Will you join us in pulling for IPUL? Your donations help us continue and expand these programs. Visit our web site at www.ipulidaho.org and click on the DONATE button.

Magic Valley Mini Conference

"IPUL is Pulling for Parents" Education • Health • Advocacy - IPUL is hosting a mini-conference in the Herrett Center for Arts and Science at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls November 15th and 16th. Topics will include Advocacy Training for Parents, Special Education, Dispute Resolution, Transition to Adulthood for Youth with Special Health Care Needs and Interactive Roundtable Discussions. Registration is free to parents. Register by November 8th at www.ipulidaho.org.

Upcoming IPUL Workshops

Jennifer Zielinski

November 9th
Monthly Support Group 6 – 8 pm
Working for Change – The Power of a Personal Story
Boise Office – 500 South 8th Street

Lana Gonzales

November 12
Eastern Idaho Technical College
1600 South 25th East
Building Number 6 Health Care – Rooms 6163 & 6164
Idaho Falls

Lorisa Wellock

November 18th
Success with an IEP 4:30-6:30 pm
Panhandle Autism Society
1323 E. Sherman Ave. Suite E, Couer d'Alene

November 19th
Power of a Personal Story
Disability Advocacy Day
411 N. 15th St. Couer d'Alene

November 20th 2:00-4:00 pm
Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports
DS Connections
3839 W. Prairie Ave. – Hayden, Id

Idaho Parents Unlimited are supported in part by the US Department of Education and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)/Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)/Division of Services for Children with Special Health Needs (DSCSHN) - The Creative Access Art Center made possible through funding by the Idaho State Independent Living Council (SIILC) Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG)

Family Voices Idaho

IPUL is the Family Voices State Affiliate Organization. Family Voices aims to achieve family-centered care for all children and youth with special health care needs and/or disabilities.

We provide families tools to make informed decisions, advocate for improved public and private policies, build partnerships among professionals and families, and serve as a trusted resource on health care.

Family Voices National Current Highlights:

- Family Voices is partnering with CDC to collect information about their knowledge/attitudes toward flu prevention and treatment. Participate by visiting www.familyvoices.org.
- Community leaders and families raising children with Autism launched a new website; AutismAfter16. The site will be devoted to issues impacting the lives of adults on the autism spectrum, especially legal, financial, residential, employment and social issues. Visit www.autismafter16.com

Opportunities for Parent Involvement:

Idaho Parents Unlimited - Seeking Board Members:

Idaho Parents Unlimited is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. Are you or someone you know interested in making a difference in the lives of families who have children with disabilities and special health care needs? A majority of the Board must be parents of children with disabilities; however, we do currently have openings for individuals who are simply interested in supporting the IPUL mission. Board members assist in the development and approval of policies, procedures and regulations to govern the operations of IPUL and to monitor the finances, programs and performance of the organization. Positions are open statewide.

Did You Know?

Did you notice all the logos in the banner? IPUL is home to a big family, a family you will want to know.

- PTI (Parent Training & Information Center) has been continuously funded since 1985. This project is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA). Project activities are designed to respond to the training and information needs of Idaho parents of children and youth with disabilities.
- Family to Family Health Information Center - F2F HICs were established in all States and the District of Columbia by the Family Opportunity/Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. The Affordable Care Act of 2010 extended the F2F HIC program through fiscal year 2012. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal Child Health Bureau (MCHB) funds the F2F HICs through a competitive grant process established to provide information and assistance to families of children and youth with special health care needs.
- Family Voices - aiming to achieve family-centered care for all children and youth with special health care needs and/or disabilities. It is our vision that every child and youth with special needs receives family-centered care.
- VSA Arts Idaho VSA, the international organization on arts and disability, was founded more than 35 years ago by Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith to provide arts and education opportunities for people with disabilities and increase access to the arts for all. VSA's mission is empowering and engaging people with disabilities in the creative process through opportunities which are fully inclusive, educational and participatory.
- The Creative Access Art Center – This program was funded through the Idaho State Independent Living Council's Medicaid Infrastructure Grant. The SILC promotes the independent living philosophy for all Idahoans with disabilities: choice, self-determination, and access for all.

Artist Master/Apprentice Art Show

The Creative Access Art Center will host an Art show for the Artist Master Apprentice program beginning December 1st as part of Downtown Boise's First Thursday of December running through December 23rd. Six local Master Artist's and their Apprentice Artists will display work created under the program ranging from portrait art, photography and jewelry.

Thanks to the Following Awesome Folks for Pulling for IPUL!

Ted Dumont HVAC • Hazel Asphalt • Jerry Todd and Joanne Miller • Darin and Angela Lindig • Bob and Fran McKain • Heidi Caldwell and Family • Rocky Mountain Sail Toads • Jon and Cindy Caudle • Lana Daniel • Rebecca Johns • Preston Roberts & Family • Living Independence Network Corporation

Community News

The Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health -SIBSHOPS

Sibshops is a program designed for brothers and sisters of kids with special needs. The Federation of Families will be hosting two separate dates on October 20th and November 19th. To register call 208.433.8845.

Idaho Dept. of Health and Welfare - Children's System Redesign

The goal of the Children's System Redesign is to implement a system of care that has an improved array of Medicaid benefits for children with developmental disabilities. Beginning July 1, 2011, children will be phased into the new system according to their birth dates. Be sure to visit the updated website for new information. www.redesignforchildren.medicaid.idaho.gov.

Idaho Department of Health & Welfare – Newborn Screening Text4baby

Text4baby is an exciting new mobile information service, which sends three text messages each week to pregnant women and new moms to help them care for their health and give their babies the best possible start in life. Learn how to sign up at <http://www.text4baby.org>

Disability Advocacy Day

Greetings!

Legislative decisions that impact individuals with disabilities impact the lives of ALL members of our community. You are cordially invited to attend this year's Disability Advocacy Day Workshop created to empower and educate individuals to navigate and advocate through these challenging times of change. We will focus on this year's state level decisions, how the Medicaid system and the legislative process work, and how we can advocate as individuals on issues of concern to us all.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND? Everyone! Individuals with disabilities, parents, service providers and all community members. And, thanks to our sponsors, registration is free.

We offer these workshops in 4 locations throughout the state: Idaho Falls, Twin Falls, Boise and Coeur d'Alene.

We look forward to your joining us at the location nearest you!
<http://medicaidmattersinidaho.com/DADMmain.html>

Restore • Rebuild • Renew

FREE Advocacy Workshops- Nov/Dec 2011:

Date	Location	Address
Nov 12th	Idaho Falls	E. Id. Tech College: 1600 S. 25th E. Bldg #6, Health Care, Room # 6163 and #6164
Nov 19th	Coeur d'Alene	Harding Center: 411 N. 15th St.
Dec 3rd	Twin Falls	TF Reformed Church: 1631 N Grandview Dr. N.
Dec 10th	Boise	Idaho State Capitol Bldg, 700 W. Jefferson St.

You may attend mornings, afternoons or all day. Space is limited, to register visit <http://www.medicoidmattersinidaho.com/DADMmain.html>

Regional Early Childhood Committees and State Early Childhood Coordinating Council (EC3) Opportunities for Parents

Idaho's Regional Early Childhood Committees seek parent participation: 20% of total membership will be parents of children with disabilities. Child with disabilities must be under age 13. RECC's advise and assist the implementation of the Infant Toddler Program (ITP) in the region. Infant Toddler Program operations are under the guidance and direction of the Regional Program Manager and Early Intervention Specialist. The RECC will facilitate the discussion of transition issues, eligibility issues and inter-agency issues in regard to early intervention services. A formal process exists for dispute resolution. REEC's disseminate public awareness materials for typical and atypical child development, infant toddler program information and education and evidenced-based practices for early childhood programs will take place annually.

The Early Childhood Coordinating Council also seeks parent participation. The EC3 is responsible for developing a sustainable and coordinated statewide-plan to achieve mutually defined goals for early care and learning with evidence-based outcomes and approval and support from stakeholders, as well as the Governor and will facilitate the activities of the Early Childhood Coordinating Council which will establish an ongoing communication network between state agencies, policymakers, families, stakeholders and communities for the purpose of planning and implementation of a coordinated system of early care and learning in Idaho. 20% of Council membership will be parents of young children with developmental delays or disabilities.