

focus facts on community living

CENTER FOR LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP

OKLAHOMA'S FEDERALLY DESIGNATED

UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (UCEDD)

April 2015

April is Autism Awareness Month

First 100 Days with Autism Kit

Autism Speaks offers an information kit for families who have a child recently diagnosed with autism. The kit provides information about the diagnosis of autism, tips from experienced parents, information about community services, different approaches available to support children with autism and how important it is to develop a support team for the family and the child. The back of the guide provides a blank form for families to write down medical information about the child in case of an emergency, record information when comparing treatment methods and a place for contact information on different service providers and medical professionals. To download the guide, visit <http://tinyurl.com/ob9klxp>.

A Sibling Shares His Experiences

This month, the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) joins people with autism, their families, and friends in an effort to increase awareness and acceptance of autism and recognition of the variety of abilities and talents of people with autism. In honor of this month, AUCD presents an interview with a staff member whose brother has autism. To see the interview, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/nb2vbdj>

Blue Ribbon Panel Sends Recommendations to Governor

Nearly 60,000 men, women and children have intellectual and developmental disabilities in Oklahoma. For more than a year, the Oklahoma Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel for Developmental Disabilities has been reviewing services and supports for people with developmental disabilities, recently sent its recommendations on how to improve services to the Governor. The recommendations are: establish one point of entry when people try to obtain services, provide an initial screening for those requesting services to help determine their level of need, and develop a system to prioritize a waiting list for services. Currently the waiting list is on a first-come, first-served basis unless there is an emergency situation. More than 7,000 people with disabilities are on Oklahoma's waiting list.

Partners in Policymaking Graduate Institute

The Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council is hosting a Graduate Institute, for people who completed a Partners and Policymaking class. The Institute is scheduled for September 12-13, 2015 in Oklahoma City. This intensive weekend workshop will identify advocacy opportunities, create bill and legislative strategies for the upcoming year and identify aging issues for people with disabilities. All materials for the Institute (including lunch) will be provided. Applications are due to the Council by June 1, 2015. If you are interested in applying, contact Erin Taylor at erin.taylor@okdhs.org.

Learn & Lead

Vision

All people with disabilities and their families are valued participants in community life.

Mission

Partners making a positive difference in the lives of people with disabilities and their families through learning and leadership.

focus facts is published for the Center for Learning and Leadership, Oklahoma's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). It is disseminated to a statewide and national network of people interested in developmental disabilities.

If you would like to submit information to be published in the newsletter, please e-mail or mail our Editor. Be sure to include the source, description, and contact information relevant to the information you are submitting.

Email:
Learn2Lead-UCEDD@ouhsc.edu

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New *focus facts* Editor

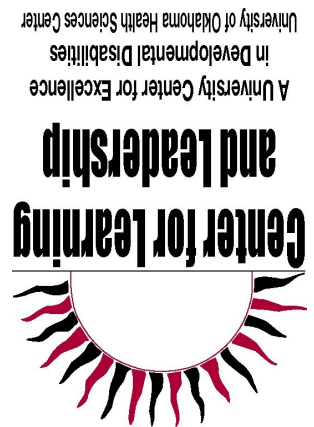
The Center for Learning and Leadership welcomes Brian Smith as the new editor for *focus facts*. Brian replaces Melissa Fenrick, who resigned her position at the end of March. We will miss Melissa and want to wish her well in her new job at the Oklahoma State Department of Health. Please send any news articles for *focus facts* to brian-smith@ouhsc.edu.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- April 20:** Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day, 10 a.m.
Oklahoma State Capitol
2300 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, OK 73105
- April 21:** On the Road Family Perspective Conference, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
1700 W. Shawnee Street, Muskogee, OK 74401
Visit <http://tinyurl.com/lw2zmtq> to register.
- April 29:** My Mind Matters Day at the Capitol
Oklahoma State Capitol
2300 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, OK 73105
- May 7:** Children's Behavioral Health Legislative Day at Capitol
Oklahoma State Capitol
2300 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, OK 73105
- May 13:** OK-APSE Conference
Embassy Suites
2501 Conference Drive, Norman, OK 73069
- May 22:** Oklahoma Parents Center Statewide Conference
Reed Conference Center
5800 Will Rogers Rd., Midwest City, OK
<http://tinyurl.com/o688rb2> to register.

Looking for more events?

Visit our website at www.ouhsc.edu/thecenter/newsandevents.



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