



### February is Black History Month

February is Black History Month. [Black/ African American advocates with disabilities have historically worked to promote inclusion, diversity, and equality.](#) Celebrate Black History Month at an inclusive celebration, sponsored by [Sooner SUCCESS](#) and the [Supporting Minorities With Disabilities Coalition](#), on February 25<sup>th</sup> from 3-6pm at the Willa D. Johnson Recreation Center in Oklahoma City. For more information, contact Mayra Rocha at [Mayra-Rocha@ouhsc.edu](mailto:Mayra-Rocha@ouhsc.edu) or 405-534-8000. [Register to attend.](#)

### Study Finds Oklahoma Leads the Nation in Long COVID

A recent study has found that 34% of adults in Oklahoma are experiencing Long COVID, [the highest rate in the country.](#) Dean of OU's Hudson College of Public Health [Dr. Dale Bratzler](#) says that "patients who are not vaccinated have a greater risk of getting COVID-19 long term symptoms." [Learn more about where to get a COVID-19 vaccine.](#)

### SoonerCare and SoonerSelect Information

Most SoonerCare members will get their health care services covered in a new way starting in April of this year – through health and dental plans under [a new program called SoonerSelect.](#) While most SoonerCare members will be required to pick a medical and dental plan, not everyone who qualifies for SoonerCare will be eligible for SoonerSelect. The Oklahoma Health Care Authority made an [English](#) fact sheet and a [Spanish fact sheet](#) available with more information.

### Redlands Partners: State & Federal Legislative Watch Newsletter

The Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma partners with Oklahoma Disability Law Center and The Center for Learning and Leadership in following pending disability-related legislation that may impact Oklahomans with developmental disabilities. [Sign up for the legislative newsletter to stay up-to-date on disability policies and legislation.](#)

### Call for Proposals: Neurodiversity in the Workplace Conference

The Kennedy Krieger Institute will present the Neurodiversity in the Workplace Conference in Washington DC from October 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> 2024. This conference will offer information and support to employers to build a dynamic workforce and enhance the workplace. A call for proposals will open on February 14<sup>th</sup>. [Learn more about the proposal process and the Neurodiversity conference.](#)

### Events and Announcements

#### February 16<sup>th</sup> | Lunch and Learn: Your Child and SSI Benefits | 10am-12pm | In-person

Do you have a child or other family member with special health care needs and/or a disability? A representative from the Social Security Administration will lead the presentation and address some questions that you might have. Come out and join us for this opportunity to meet in person! This event will be held at 800 NE 15<sup>th</sup> St. OKC, OK 73104 from 10am-12pm. To register, please email LaKisha Cobb Family Support Coordinator [LaKisha-Cobb@ouhsc.edu](mailto:LaKisha-Cobb@ouhsc.edu) **Space is Limited!**

#### February 29<sup>th</sup> | Long-term Planning – Financial and Employment Options | 12p-1pm | Virtual

The Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD and the Oklahoma Disability Law Center invite you to the family training on Long-term Planning - Financial and Employment Options. This training is designed to help plan for the future by sharing options to ensure the protection of long-term supports and benefits, including waiver supports and methods for saving money beyond the typical Medicaid asset limits. [Registration is required for the family training.](#)

#### March 12<sup>th</sup> | 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Disability Resource Fair | 4pm-7pm | The Well, Norman OK

The [Cleveland County disABILITY Coalition](#) presents their second annual disability resource fair on March 12<sup>th</sup>. The event will connect people with disabilities, professionals, families, and allies to their local agencies, organizations, and resources. This is a FREE event with door prizes.

#### March 14<sup>th</sup> | 2024 Oklahoma Fatherhood Summit | 9am-4pm | Tulsa Tech Lemley Memorial Campus

The 2024 Oklahoma Fatherhood Summit is coming to Tulsa on March 14<sup>th</sup>. The goal is celebrate the important roles fathers/caregivers play in their children's lives and provide community resources and engagement opportunities for fathers. This event is FREE and will be held from 9am-4pm. [Learn more about the Fatherhood Summit and register for the event.](#)

#### March 14<sup>th</sup> | Writing Meaningful Individual Plans| 12-1:30pm | Virtual

The Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD and the Oklahoma Disability Law Center invite you to our newest training on writing Individual Plans (IP) for waiver services. In this training, you will learn how to be a part of writing your individual plan. We will cover some basics and help you better understand setting measurable goals. [Registration for the Writing a Meaningful Plan is required.](#)

#### March 27<sup>th</sup> | Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day at the Capitol | 11am-3pm | OK Capitol

Save the date and plan to attend the 2024 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day at the Capitol. This year's theme is We're All In. [You can RSVP to the event and stay posted on the latest information through the event page on Facebook.](#)

#### Save the Date | April 19<sup>th</sup> | 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Joining Forces Conference | In-person and Virtual Options

The 17th Annual Joining Forces Conference is coming up on April 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be an in-person option in OKC or remote locations throughout Oklahoma: Poteau, Duncan, Enid, and Tulsa. The conference offers learning opportunities and support for individuals and families by establishing partnerships with community members, agencies, and organizations throughout Oklahoma. [Joining Forces Conference - Register now.](#)

### We want to hear from you!

Do you have news or an event to share? Please send all information including a link (if applicable) to [learn2lead-ucedd@ouhsc.edu](mailto:learn2lead-ucedd@ouhsc.edu). All submissions should be in no later than the fourth Friday of the month before publication (ex: 4<sup>th</sup> Friday in June for July's newsletter).

Sign-up to receive our free monthly newsletter *focus facts on community living* <http://tiny.cc/focusfacts>

Or use your cell phone camera and point it to this QR code



The University of Oklahoma advances a diverse, equitable, and inclusive university community by embracing each person's unique contributions, background, and perspectives. OU Norman, OU Tulsa, and the Health Sciences Center recognize that fostering an inclusive environment for all, with particular attention to the needs of the historically marginalized populations, is vital to the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of our institutional mission and enhances the OU experience for all students, faculty, and staff. *focus facts* is published for the University Affiliated Developmental Disabilities Network members. Its purpose is to highlight specific information and data items relevant to developing and sustaining positive community environments. Individual information items are provided for use in this form, or for further circulation. When re-printing information please reference *focus facts* and the month of issue noted below the banner at the top of this page. The name of a contact person for additional information on items referenced in the newsletter is provided for your convenience. If you have data, information or a story to report relevant to community living, please send it to *focus facts* Editor at the Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD OU Health Sciences Center, PO Box 2690, Oklahoma City, OK 73126. Please include the information source, by title, a one paragraph (or less) description or story, a contact name who can provide additional information on the subject, and a daytime or evening telephone number for the contact.

If you have questions regarding the format for submissions, please call the Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD Headquarters Office at (405) 271-4500. The University Affiliated Developmental Disabilities Network is open to membership by any organization or individual who shares the interests of Network members. The Network is dedicated to identifying opportunities for collaboration and information exchange among its participating members, which leads to improving our statewide, regional or local capacity to provide a better living environment in Oklahoma for people with developmental and other disabilities and their families. The Network is partially supported through a grant from the U.S. Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Department of Health and Human Services, and by the Offices of the Designated Representatives of the Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD Collaborating Partners.

If you have a disability (Deaf/hard-of-hearing, Blind/low-vision, mobility, cognitive, etc.), and require accommodations, please reach out to [Learn2Lead@ouhsc.edu](mailto:Learn2Lead@ouhsc.edu). It is helpful if you share what type of accommodations will be needed to ensure that you are able to use the resource materials.