



## May Awareness Days

May is [Mental Health Awareness Month](#). 988 Oklahoma is providing a self-care calendar and feature events all month long to help learn about mental health and the resources available for you and your loved ones. May 14<sup>th</sup> was Apraxia Awareness Day. Here is a list of [apraxia resources around Oklahoma](#). Finally, May 18<sup>th</sup> is [Global Accessibility Awareness Day \(GAAD\)](#). The purpose of GAAD "is to get everyone talking, thinking and learning about digital access and inclusion" for people with disabilities.

## Spotlight: Representative Ellyn Hefner is an OK LEND Graduate

Representative Ellyn Hefner was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives in November 2022. Before her election, she was a parent advocate and attended [Oklahoma Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities \(OKLEND\)](#), an interdisciplinary leadership education program. Read more about [Representative Hefner's advocacy and leadership journey](#).

## End of the Federal COVID-19 Emergency Orders

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, the Federal COVID-19 Emergency Order ended. The World Health Organization Director-General states, "COVID-19 is now an established and ongoing health issue which no longer constitutes a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC)". The [CDC has updates on their website](#) letting people know how this change in classification will affect vaccines, tests, and data reports for the general public.

## Summer Camps for People with Disabilities

Summer is right around the corner! Sooner SUCCESS has a [list of camps for people with disabilities](#) across the lifespan. [Metro Family Magazine](#) also has a list of camps for kids that are available this summer; this list is not specific to kids with disabilities.

## Announcements and Events

### DDS Regional Family Meetings for Families in Cohort 5 Waitlist Group

DDS Waitlist families that are in Cohort 5 (who applied between February 2016 and May 2019) can register for the next round of regional family meetings in OKC and Broken Arrow. There will be meetings in Oklahoma City on May 24<sup>th</sup> and June 28<sup>th</sup>. Broken Arrow will host meetings on May 25<sup>th</sup> and June 29<sup>th</sup>. For more details and to sign up, visit the [DDS Family meetings registration link](#).

### Free Virtual Trainings

Join Wanda Felty, CLL Assistant Director and Community Leadership & Advocacy Coordinator, along with partners from the Oklahoma Disability Law Center and Oklahoma Family Network for these free trainings offered via zoom. Pre-Registration is required for each session.

### Virtual WAIVER Meetings:

May 17, 12 PM: **Using Lifecourse Tools to Plan for Long Term Waiver Supports** [Pre-Registration Required](#)

June 8, 12 PM: **Self Directed Services** [Pre-Registration Required](#)

June 21, 12 PM: **Long Term Planning Financial and Employment Options** [Pre-Registration Required](#)

### Virtual OKSTABLE Meetings:

May 23, 2 PM: **OK STABLE Account 101** [Pre-Registration Required](#)

June 13, 6 PM: **OK STABLE Account 101** [Pre-Registration Required](#)

## 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>

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*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.