



focus facts on community living

THE CENTER FOR LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP | OKLAHOMA'S FEDERALLY DESIGNATED UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (UCEDD)

May 2024

Access our website at: <https://ouhsc.edu/thecenter>

PLEASE REVIEW THE CENTER FOR LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP'S WEBSITE AND TAKE THE ANNUAL WEBSITE SATISFACTION SURVEY

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

[May is Mental Health Awareness Month. 988 Oklahoma](#), Oklahoma's mental health crisis line, is offering [daily affirmations via text for those who sign up](#) throughout the month of May. Have you watched *Unmasking Autism with AFO*, the video podcast hosted and produced by Carley Dummitt? Carley is the Autism Foundation of Oklahoma's (AFO) Marketing and Community Outreach Coordinator and recently released a podcast titled, "Let's Get Real About Autism and Mental Health".

Spotlight: Oklahoma LEND Co-Director Receives IEPA Leader of the Year Award

Oklahoma Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) Director, [Dr. Megan Roberts](#), was recently awarded the [University of Oklahoma 2024 Interprofessional Educators and Practitioners Association \(IEPA\) Leader of the Year](#) award. Dr. Roberts is a dynamic force in disability advocacy and education. Through [her leadership of the OKLEND program](#), she effectively brings together trainees and faculty from 16 different disciplines, teaching them how to work together respectfully and ensure all voices are heard. As an Associate Professor in the College of Medicine at the Oklahoma City campus, she mentors students across Oklahoma. She also chairs the Southern Region LEND Consortium and serves on the National Training Directors Council for the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD).

Her influence extends globally as she has mentored eight Professional Fellows from Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania through the [Professional Fellows Programs in Inclusive Disability Employment and Inclusive Civic Engagement](#), sponsored by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Dr. Roberts provides technical assistance to improve disability-related systems, policies, and services at local, state, and national levels. Her dedication continues to drive positive change in the field. Congratulations, Dr. Megan Roberts!

Supporting Access for Everyone Releases Statement on Healthcare for Children with Developmental Disabilities

[Supporting Access for Everyone or "SAFE"](#) is an interdisciplinary group comprised of doctors, experts, and other stakeholders who want to improve the healthcare kids with developmental disabilities receive in hospitals and clinics. Recently, SAFE released a statement that summarizes their goals to make great care a reality for all children. [The plainer language summary can be found here.](#)

New Adaptive Equipment and Professional Services Program

[Sooner Success](#) and the [Maternal and Child Health Services Title V](#) has a new Adaptive Equipment and Professional Services program that will offer children with disabilities up to \$1,500 for professional services or adaptive equipment. Professional services such as camps and therapeutic, recreational, and tutoring services are also included. Families who have children with disabilities or special health care needs, birth through 17 years, who are not covered under Medicaid or another program [are encouraged to apply.](#)

Department of Justice Finalizes Web Accessibility Rule for State and Local Government Sites and Apps

The [Department of Justice \(DOJ\)](#) has approved a new rule for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to make websites and mobile apps easier to use for people with disabilities. [This fact sheet](#) explains what state and local governments must do to ensure their online content is accessible.

Title V Needs Assessment—Public Input Wanted

The Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant, Title V of the Social Security Act, is the only federal program devoted to improving the health of all women, children, and families. Title V legislation (Section 505(a)(1)) requires Oklahoma to conduct a comprehensive Needs Assessment (NA) every five years that identifies needs in the maternal and child health (MCH) population. [Just a few minutes of your time will help shape programs and guide funding of resources for pregnant women, mothers, and children in Oklahoma.](#)

Events and Announcements

May 16th | OHS DDS Webinar: Specialized Foster Care | 12-1pm | Virtual and FREE

Oklahoma Human Services | Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) invites those who are interested in becoming Specialized Foster Care (SFC) parents to attend a free webinar from 12-1pm on May 16th. Specialized foster parents support individuals ages 3 and up who receive DDS waiver services. An SFC parent is supported by a DDS case manager, a foster care specialist, and any other professional providers working with the individual in the home. Experience with people with intellectual or developmental disabilities can be helpful but is not required. [For more information and to register, visit the events page.](#)

May 30th | IEP and Parent Rights Training | 6-8pm | Virtual and FREE

The Pervasive Parenting Center (PPC) is offering a FREE virtual training on May 30th from 6-8pm discussing IEP and parent rights hosted by parent advocate and PPC Director, Kodey Toney, M.Ed. Topics will include understanding your child's IEP, SMART Goals, learning the basic rights of IDEA and more. [Pre-Registration is required.](#)

June 13th | DDS Waitlist Meeting | 1:30pm-3pm | In-person and virtual option

The DDS Waiting List Meeting will be held in-person on June 13th at 1:30pm at the Oklahoma State Capitol, Room 450. There will also be a virtual option for those who cannot attend in person. The DDS Waiting List Meeting was created by family members for family members. It is a time for those on the waiting list and those who want to learn more to interact with the DDS Director, DHS leadership, and other state agencies and programs that support people with developmental disabilities and their families. Individuals, family members, and community allies share information, resources, ask questions, and raise concerns. [Virtual Waiting List Meeting pre-registration is required.](#)

June 23rd – 28th | Visually Impaired and Blind Empowerment (VIBE) Transition Program

[The Transition VIBE Program](#) helps students figure out what they want to do after high school and how to get there. This week-long program teaches students skills to live on their own, ace job interviews, communicate clearly, use technology, work in a team, write a good resume, and get around town. To learn more, contact your DRS Counselor, Deitra Woody at 405-522-3410, or Magan Rowan at 405-522-3380.

June 28th and 29th | OK Parent's Center 15th Annual Statewide Conference | Midwest City, OK | FREE

The Oklahoma Parents Center (OPC) will host their 15th Annual Statewide Conference "Navigating Special Education and Beyond" on Friday June 28th from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday June 29th from 8:30am – 3:30pm. The conference will be held at the Reed Conference Center in Midwest City. The conference is designed to educate parents, families, and professionals in building partnerships that meet the needs of children and youth with a full range of disabilities, ages birth to 26. [It is free to attend, but you must register.](#)

Throughout June and July | 2024 DRS STEM Camps | Various locations across Oklahoma

[The Department of Rehabilitative Services](#) is hosting STEM Camps across Oklahoma all summer. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. The STEM Camp is open to all Oklahoma students with disabilities, ages 14-19. Participants must be able to follow verbal instructions with limited support. Participants will learn to use computers, software, and related technologies to design and create patches, buttons, and more. [Location and Registration Information.](#)

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. All submissions should be in no later than the fourth Friday of the month before publication (ex: 4th 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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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. It is helpful if you share what type of accommodations will be needed to ensure that you are able to use the resource materials.