

THE ARC OF BENTON
COUNTY
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Advocate

August 2004

A NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
ADVOCATING FOR AND
PROVIDING SERVICES, AS
NEEDED, TO
INDIVIDUALS WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES AND THEIR
FAMILIES.

Regular Meetings

Membership
Committee 9 AM
Louise Teater's
Home
1st Tuesday

The Arc Board 7:30 PM
Meeting
1st Thursday

Resale 10 AM
Committee
Arc Office
3rd Monday

Safety 10 AM
Committee
Arc Office
3rd Tuesday

Bingo 11:30
Committee AM
Springfield
4th Monday

Finance Comm. Noon
Arc Office
Monday before
BOD Meeting

Use It or Lose It!

Have you heard the ads about your rights and responsibilities as a citizen in a democracy? They say you need to stay informed, think about how you want your world to operate, and vote to express your preferences. They plainly say "Use it or lose it."

Do you have values and needs that are being ignored? Do you share your experiences that will illustrate your reasons for your position? Do you tell your elected officials what you expect of them? Do you announce what you need from your government, and very importantly, what you don't need from your government?

Here is what I have discovered about talking or writing to our elected officials. Their staff reads the letters and takes the calls. Input is tallied and then filed by topic. Your grammar, your spelling, your stationery, or the originality of your letter is of no consequence. It all boils down to a tally mark. Each mark represents the interest expressed by people in the voting constituency who hold a certain opinion. The more voters who care about an issue, the more likely the elected official will support that view.

Please use it! Protect democracy and the welfare of your loved ones.

Karin Frederick, Executive Director

AOL Debuts Service

<http://www.disabilitygrapevine.com>

America Online announced an instant messenger relay service for users who are hard of hearing or speech disabled.

AIM Relay Service will let hearing- and speech-disabled users place relay telephone calls using their AOL Buddy List or AIM Buddy List feature, the company said. The service can be accessed from any PC or device running AOL services

and will be free for AOL members and Apple Computer's iChat users.

The AIM offering provides an additional access point for telecommunication relay services. In this case, customers will use instant messages instead of typing text into a TTY device.

"We've seen the immense popularity of the AOL and AIM services within the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities, and we are excited to extend its value by providing easy access to relay services," Tom Wlodkowski, director of accessibility at AOL, said in a statement."



Special Needs Picnic

Sponsored by Greater Corvallis Rotary
 Thursday, August 19, 2004
 FROM 5:30pm - 7:00pm
 Avery Park Lyons Shelter

Games
 Water Balloon Toss

BBQ
 Hamburgers
 German Sausage



Need Furniture?

Benton Furniture Share is a non-profit organization that receives donated furniture from the community and distributes it to households and organizations in need. We have recently been awarded a grant from the City of Corvallis (Community Development Block Grant funds) to serve individuals with developmental disabilities and the organizations that serve them.

We have beds, tables and chairs, couches, easy chairs, and other furniture items available. Delivery is possible within the Corvallis area.

In order for folks to access needed furniture, individuals' case workers can make a referral to Benton Furniture Share by calling 754-9511 and leaving a message. This is our warehouse phone, and one of our part-time employees will return your call within one or two business days. Organizations that house people with developmental disabilities (foster homes, group homes, or even families) can call the same number and leave a message as to the need, and who to contact to arrange delivery.

The community of Corvallis has been very generous to Benton Furniture Share over the years, and the organization is now in its seventh year of operation to fill the needs of low-income households. Give us a call!

New Free Newsletter Available

Intersection, a new free electronic newsletter for and about workforce development system and working with youth with disabilities is available through the National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth) website at <http://www.intersectionnewsletter.org/intersection>. This website also includes useful information for youth with disabilities, families of youth with disabilities, workforce development professionals, youth service providers, employers and policymakers.

To sign up to receive *Intersection*, go to http://www.ncwd-youth.info/intersection/signup_form.php.

NCWD/Youth is composed of partners with expertise in disability, education, employment, and workforce development issues. NCWD/Youth is charged with assisting state and local workforce development systems to integrate youth with disabilities into their service strategies.

New Adult Support Services Offered

Time-Limited Employment Supports:

Job Development and Placement

Trained, supervised staff provide up to 20 hours assessment to help the individual choose a type of work, get a job and learn tasks related to paid community employment in an integrated setting. Interventions are designed to maximize the use of typical co-workers and natural supports in providing initial or on-going job performance training.

Job Exploration and coaching; Employment Consultation

Provides up to 80 hours training relative to a series of short-term job placements that serve as an assessment of potential areas of employment reflecting the individual's interests and strengths. Services may also include job adaptation, provision of communication systems and environmental worker training with the goal of assisting the individual to meet job expectations with as much independence as possible using natural supports.

Community Inclusion:

Assessment and Skill Training:

Helps individuals acquire, retain or improve productivity and independence away from home in activities related to integration, productivity and independence. We emphasize building and utilizing as much natural support as possible from typical members of the chosen environment.

Supervised training staff identify essential environmental supports and build relationships and skills relative to independence and naturally supported participation in local group activities.

Family Training:

Licensed counselors are available to provide several hours of training and counseling for a family to increase their ability to care for and maintain an individual with developmental disabilities at home. Training can be provided about disability, about a medical or behavioral condition, care requirements, treatment regimens or equipment specified in the ISP.

Special Behavioral Supports:

Provides a few hours of treatment, training or consultation when those services are not available through the State Medicaid Plan. Potential supports include needs assessment and functional analysis, plan development, caregiver training, plan monitoring and revision of behavior plans.

For more specific funding information contact John Ayres at 929-4569 or Robin De La Mora at Integrated Services Network.

This is a non-discriminating agency, open to the public and offering services to persons both with and without disabilities.

*New Disability Policy Website and
Advocacy Training Materials*

ROBERT "BOBBY" SILVERSTEIN, Director of the Center for the Study and Advancement of Disability Policy (CSADP) in Washington, D.C. and former staff director and chief counsel to the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Disability Policy, chaired by Senator Tom Harkin, has developed a new disability policy website. The website address is <http://www.disabilitypolicycenter.org>.

Bobby has also developed comprehensive training materials on how to become effective disability policy advocates. These materials are on a CD-Rom and include PowerPoint overheads and handouts, memos, a published article on disability policy, and comprehensive guides. The order form for the training materials is located on the aforementioned website.

WEBSITE:

- * Advocacy Training Materials
- * Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- * Disability Policy, In General
- * Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- * Olmstead Supreme Court Cases
- * Personal Assistance Services (PAS)
- * Rehabilitation Act
- * State Medicaid Buy-In Programs and State Work Incentive Initiatives (See also Ticket to Work

and Work Incentives Improvement Act)

- * Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- * Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act (TWWIIA)
- * Vocational Rehabilitation
- * Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

ADVOCACY TRAINING MATERIALS:

- * Historical Treatment of People with Disabilities
- * Emerging Disability Policy Framework: A Guide For Developing Public Policy for Persons with Disabilities
- * Top Ten Tips On How To Be An Effective Disability Policy Change Agent
- * Guidelines For Meeting With a Policy Maker
- * Building Effective Coalitions
- * Strategic Planning
- * Principled Negotiations: A Tool for Getting to Yes
- * Pressure Points in the Federal Budget process
- * Pressure Points in the Legislative Process
- * Summary of ADA Decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court
- * Disability Policy Web Sites

Fully Accessible House For Sale

Hello,

I am probably moving to Vancouver, Washington next month. Our house is for sale. It is fully accessible to the disabled, 1800 sq. ft., 3 bedroom, 2 tile bathrooms, and large two car garage. Major remodel in 1990 and wood floors expanded and refinished 1992.

Large lot, 1620 NW Menlo Drive. A desirable neighborhood close to schools and shopping. Menlo goes south off Circle (near Albertsons) where 16th would be if it existed and curves around to 13th at Garfield.

Disability Access Features:

Accessible front entrance with 48" front door, 3 other accessible exits – master bedroom, living room, and dining room. Grab bars and railings throughout. Custom roll-in shower in tile bathroom, high toilet, grab bars, removable vanity cabinet to make room for side transfer to toilet. Bedroom pre-plumbed for small sink installation (plumbing accessible behind finished dry wall). Small bar sink in kitchen with electric valves for modification to remote control or automatic water control. Wide master bedroom door. Wood floors throughout except for the three bedrooms. Large flat driveway. Wonderful neighbors willing to provide emergency backup if I need to call for help.

Great location for ham radio, complete with 40ft. high long-wire antenna (about 200ft.). Ten and Six meter antennas negotiable. Den set up as ham shack with many antenna cable runs and extra electrical outlets.

Premium features: Power Velox skylights in both bathrooms, telephone and AV distribution patch panel to every room, twisted pair Ethernet cables most rooms. Yard full of rhododendrons. Partial automatic irrigation system, irrigation well 40ft. deep with pressure tank and submersible pump. Water source forced air heating and air conditioning using the well provides very efficient and low cost heating. Furnace provides pre-heated water to storage tank feeding gas fired hot water heater. Ceiling heat functional in bedrooms and den as optional auxiliary heat. Natural wood cabinets throughout, built in bookcases. Gold Fish Pond outside dining room window. Lots of glass opening on to back yard. Dual remote control ceiling lights and fans in living room, gas log fireplace.

Wayne Yarnall (541) 757-7143

Self-Advocates Needed: Help Create a Web Site That Everyone Can Use

Upcoming research studies that examine how persons with developmental cognitive impairments use computers. August 17th, 24th & 25th the Council on Developmental Disabilities, in Salem, offers an open study date and location.

Since 1970, the CDRC has provided an integrated approach that combined research with a high level of clinical service to persons with developmental disabilities and special health needs.

So much information exists on the Internet, but it is not easy to use. Add-up.org site will be the location that helps individuals quickly and easily access information.

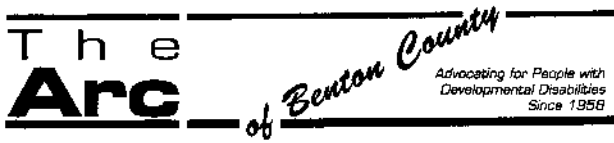
The Arc of Washington Trust fund study examines how persons with developmental cognitive impairments use web sites. Participants will be a part of a focus group that looks at web usage. Both studies have been approved by the Oregon Health and Science University's institutional review board (IRB).

Participants are asked to arrive at 10:30. It will take about 45 minutes to complete the consenting process. Most individuals will need to bring either a guardian or legal representative to help with the consenting process. Please call for the complete schedule. OHSU CDRC (503) 418-1477.

Kennedy Foundation Fellowship

Joseph Kennedy Jr. Foundation invites parents or close family members of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (mental retardation) to apply for a one-year fellowship in Washington, DC. Learn how Congress initiates, develops, and passes legislation, or to find out how federal agencies promulgate and administer programs and regulations. Candidates should have solid policy experience in state-level advocacy, education, development of community supports and services, or similar areas, beyond activities undertaken to benefit their own children.

The one-year program provides full-time exposure to the federal public policymaking process and includes a stipend and relocation expenses in a package totaling \$75,000. Applicants must be from the United States. Selected fellows must be prepared to live in the Washington area during their fellowship year! And devote themselves full-time to the fellowship. The application deadline is September 1, 2004. For more information, visit www.jpkf.org/FELLOW.HTML#Parent



1885 NW 9th Street
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Visit our website and click on Action Center to learn about current issues of importance to people with disabilities. Tell your own story or join voices across the nation to influence the lawmakers in Washington, D.C.

www.arcbenton.org