

THE ARC OF BENTON
COUNTY
ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE
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CORVALLIS, OREGON
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Advocate

March 2005

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

Help Oregon Make Wise Decisions

Most major state agencies and departments are headed by policy making boards appointed by the Governor. Many additional committees, councils, boards and commissions establish policy in given areas or serve in advisory roles. The Arc community would be pleased to see one of our own sharing their insights.

Positions are currently open in many groups, including:

Family Services Review Commission
Oregon Public Health Advisory Board
Statewide Independent Living Council
State Interagency Coordinating Council (for Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education)
State Advisory Council for Special Education.

To learn more, go to the Governor's website:

<http://governor.oregon.gov/>

The Arc Board
1st Thursday

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

Resale Committee 10 AM
Arc Office
3rd Monday

Safety Committee 10 AM
Arc Office
3rd Tuesday

Bingo Committee 11:30 AM
Springfield
4th Monday

Public Policy 11:45
Arc Office
1st Wednesday

Finance Comm. 12:30
Arc Office
Monday before
BOD Meeting

Pictures for Sara Gelser

Sara Gelser is the new *Children with Disabilities and Family Support Coordinator* at the Department of Human Services (DHS). Through the efforts of Family Action Coalition Team (FACT) and the DD Coalition, the Department of Human Services (DHS) created the support coordinator position to oversee services for children with disabilities. She is also the parent of a child with developmental disabilities and her background includes Oregon Parent Teacher Information experience, teaching, member of the Corvallis School Board, past president of The Arc of Benton County.

Children with Disabilities falls under Seniors and People with Disabilities Department (SPD) at the DHS, so as Sara's office cubicle is surrounded by staff that just deal with adults and seniors, Sara would like to remind them of Oregon's children with disabilities, by plastering the walls around her desk with photos.

She would like to encourage families whose children are in the Developmental Disabilities system to send her photos of their child.

Please mail them to:

Sara A. Gelser
Department of Human Services
Office of Home &
Community Supports
500 Summer St NE, E-10
Salem, Or. 97301-1076

TAX INFORMATION

As we head into tax season, parents need to be aware of some IRS changes to the tax code as it relates to kids with disabilities.

A good overview of this topic can be found at:

<http://www.schwablearning.org/articles.asp?r=773>

For those of you paying out of pocket for transportation, special schools, OT, PT, etc., please read this carefully and learn all you can so you know what you are entitled to.



Computer Workstation for Patrons with Disabilities

The Library is now offering a new computer workstation for patrons with disabilities. The computer has magnification and voice recognition software as well as physical components that will make the Internet and other computer applications more accessible. (Excerpt from, "Check it Out" Vol. 13 No. 2 March-April 2005)

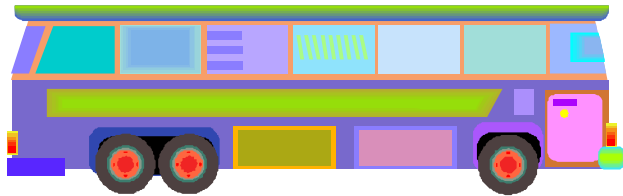
The Arc of Benton County Has a New Public Policy Director

The Arc of Benton County is pleased to announce the hiring of George Grosch as the Public Policy Director of The Arc of Benton County. The Public Policy Director engages the public and policy makers on key issues impacting the quality of life of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families by implementing the direction of the Arc's Public Policy Committee.

George began his service to the community as the Resource Developer for the Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence where he was responsible for fund development and Board training and recruitment. He then moved to Benton County Information and Referral where he served for 13 years as an Information and Referral Specialist helping people access health and human services. While at Benton County he helped found the OR211 Coalition which is working on implementing a statewide system of information and referral to health and human services using the three digit telephone dialing code 2-1-1. The volunteer position turned into the professional role of OR211 Project Manager where he was instrumental in developing the 2-1-1 system Business and Financial Plan that will bring this important service to Oregon by 2007.

He is active in the Corvallis community and is currently serving his fourth term on the Corvallis City Council representing Ward 3 in South Corvallis. In both his professional and public role George has been an advocate for affordable housing opportunities for low and moderate income people. He was a founding Board Member of Corvallis Neighborhood Housing Services and served two terms as Chair of their Board of Directors. During his tenure with CNHS the organization created over 50 units of housing and became recognized as the community leader in the development of affordable housing.

George's career has been marked by his commitment to the service of people who are in need of community support. He has been a leader in making services accessible to all citizens and is a skilled facilitator and communicator. He is married to local realtor Angelica Rehkugler and has a 15 year old daughter Emily.



CORVALLIS TRANSIT SYSTEM

CTS offers these discounted fares for persons with disabilities (same prices for seniors and youth.)

- * Cash (fare box) price for a one-way trip (includes one free transfer if need be to get to the destination) is \$0.35 while the regular adult fare is \$0.75 – so it's more than ½ off the regular adult fare.
- * Day pass good for unlimited rides on one day; price is \$0.75 versus \$1.50 for adults.
- * 20-ride ticket booklets are \$6.50 which makes each ride less than \$0.33 each, while the regular adult 20-ride ticket booklet costs \$11.25 or less than \$0.57 each ride.
- * A one-month bus pass is \$10.00 versus \$18.00 for adults; a twelve-month pass is \$70.00 versus \$108.00

Autism Society of Oregon (ASO) Sponsored Events in April

ASO & Portland Trail Blazers partnered to present Autism Awareness Night on Saturday,

April 2, 2005 7:00pm. The Blazers vs. Denver Nuggets game. Lower Level seats are \$56 and Upper Level seats are \$20. Purchase price includes registration for the Autism Walk-a-thon. Ticket order form can be downloaded at www.autismwalkathon.com.

Any questions, call Genevieve Athens at (503) 774-8811.

Volunteer/Internship Opportunities & Special Projects Of The Arc of Benton County

If you, or someone you know, are interested in volunteering for The Arc, please visit our website www.arcbenton.org for an extensive list of volunteer and internship opportunities.

Your talents, skills, and hobbies can enrich the lives of others. OSU students can get HDFS internship credits or Special Projects credits.

Opportunities that involve direct contact with individuals with developmental disabilities have specific requirements that may take some advance planning on the student's part to meet.

OREGON PARENT TRAINING AND INFORMATION
CENTER WORKSHOPS

March 31, 2005 –Transition: Postsecondary Options for Education and Employment, 6:00-9:00 pm, Newberg School District Offices, 714 East 6th St., Newberg. Sponsored by the Newberg SD. Registration is required, please contact Shelley Joyce at 503-581-0018 or email sjoyce@orpti.org

April 12, 2005 – Statewide Assessment in Albany at the Fairmont Building from 6:30-8:30 pm. Registration is required, please contact Shelley Joyce, 503-581-0018, or email sjoyce@orpti.org.

April 25, 2005 – Behavior in the IEP in Klamath Falls at the Lucille O’Niell Education Center from 1:00-3:30 pm. Hosted by Klamath City Schools. Reservations are required. Please call Kirsten Thompson at 541-608-8586 or kthompson@orpti.org to register or for more information.

May 10, 2005 –Assistive Technology in Albany at the Fairmont Building from 6:30-8:30 pm. Registration is required, please contact Shelley Joyce, 503-581-0018, or email sjoyce@orpti.org

Save The Dates!

For an extraordinary opportunity to learn and network.

Plan to attend

**Conference on Direct Supports of the DD Coalition
and
The Arc of Oregon Convention**

In the LaSells Stewart and the Alumni Centers of
OSU in Corvallis, Oregon

June 15-18, 2005

The Arc of Benton County will need volunteers to help with these events. Barbara Sackett or Karin Frederick may call you.

*March –April Workshops –Friday Series
At AUTISM TRAINING AND SUPPORT, Inc.*

1355 –B River Road –Eugene

*Strategies for Working with
Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder*

*\$49 per workshop
if registered by March 7. \$59 if registered after*

(These workshops are geared towards parents, but are appropriate for anyone who works with people with Autism Spectrum Disorder, including teachers, educational assistants, foster parents, support staff, managers, and counselors.)

Friday, April 1, 2005
8:30 am – 12:00 pm

Teaching Socializations Skills
Presented by Doris Germain, M.Ed.

Doris will present strategies for teaching socialization skills to students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and will share resources that she uses in her social skills classes at Autism Training and Supports, Inc.

Friday, April 8, 2005
8:30 am – 12:00 pm

Strategies for Sensory Processing Problems
Presented by Kay Monroe, OT

In this hands-on workshop, Kay will demonstrate activities and equipment for helping the student with Autism Spectrum Disorder cope with sensory processing problems.

Friday, April 15, 2005
8:30 am – 12:00 pm

Empowering Parents with Teaching Skills
Presented by Valerie Alexander, M.S.

Valerie will teach parents skills to help them become teachers of their own children and will focus on successful educational strategies.

Friday, April 22, 2005
8:30 am—12:00 pm

Understanding the IEP Process
Presented by Dr. Cindy Herr and Mary Ann Winter-Messiers

In this seminar especially designed for parents and guardians, we will focus on understanding the Individual Education Program, or IEP, and how to interact positively and effectively with teachers, principals, and other school personnel to achieve legal, useful IEP's.

BENTON COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES DD ADVISORY OPEN MEETINGS

(All meetings are open to the public)

2005
(Proposed Schedule)

Benton County Health Department
530 NW 27th St. Corvallis, OR

March 31 st	11:30 am	Direct Care Staff (Brown Bag Lunch) Updates, Issues & Concerns Location: <i>Columbia Room</i>
April 21 st	3:00 pm	Quality Assurance & Quality Improvement BCDD Plan, 2004 Report and 2005 Recommendations Location: <i>Columbia Room</i>
May 19 th	7:00 pm	Residential Services Current Programs and Future Needs Location: <i>Main Lobby (Willamette Rm.)</i>
June 16 th	3:00 pm	Transportation Services Current Programs and Future Needs Location: <i>Columbia Room</i>
July 21 st	10:30 am	Foster Care Provider issues & Foster Care ISP Location: <i>Columbia Room</i>

For additional information regarding any of the above meetings please contact Jasper Smith at 766-6158 or Susie Peters at 766-6196.





1885 NW 9th Street
Corvallis, OR 97330

Special Olympics

Track & Field * Softball * Golf * Bocce

Spring/Summer Sign-up

March 29, 2005 7:00pm

Benton County Health Department