



MCDD QUICK NEWS

Here's What's Happening in Council Offices
for the month of December 2006 - January 2007

PROVIDER INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON PHHS WEBSITE

The Developmental Disabilities Program announces the posting of the quality assurance reports of providers statewide on the DPHHS website. You can search providers by region and by year. The website address to access the reports is www.dphhs.mt.gov/dsd/dds/qualityassurance.shtml

2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION SET TO BEGIN JANUARY 3

The 2007 Legislative Session officially begins on January 3, 2007. There will be many issues facing this session, chief among them the \$900 million dollar "surplus" and numerous suggestions as to how those funds should be allocated. Congratulations go out to Sen. Carol Williams (and MCDD Council member) who was elected as the Democratic Majority Leader in the Senate (the first woman ever to hold the position).

Let your voice be heard on the issues facing the Legislature. You can contact your legislators at the following addresses and phone numbers:

Postal Mail

Representative

MT House of Representatives

PO Box 200400

Helena, MT 59620-0400

Senator

Montana Senate

PO Box 200500

Helena, MT 59620-0500

Online Message

Send a message to your Legislator by using the Legislative Branch online message form. Go to www.mt.gov, click on Legislative Information and follow the link to the online message form.

Fax

House Fax number 406/444-4825

Senate Fax number 406/444-4875

By Phone

For legislative information, or to leave a message for a legislator call 406/444-4800

TTY (Telephone Device for the Deaf) 406/444-4462

Hours: 7:30am to 5:00pm (M-F) 8:00am to adjournment on Saturday

COURAGE AWARDS AND LEGISLATIVE DINNER TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 25 AT THE RED LION COLONIAL INN

Co-hosted by the Montana Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Montana Advocacy Program and the Rural Institute on Disabilities the **COURAGE AWARDS AND LEGISLATIVE DINNER** will be held on January 25 at the Red Lion Colonial Inn in Helena. The outstanding opportunity brings together legislators and advocates to honor recipients of the Courage Awards and Solidarity Award. It is not too late to submit your nomination for a Courage Award by filling out the applications included in this newsletter. Please mail your completed application to the Montana Advocacy Program, PO Box Helena, Montana 59624. The **Courage Award** is awarded to an organization, business or individual in recognition of outstanding achievement in advocacy for the rights of Montanans with disabilities. Any nomination should outline recent advocacy efforts which are to be considered. The **Courage Award** is awarded to a Montanan with a disability whose courageous actions have made a positive impact on our society. Nomination should identify achievements, actions or self-advocacy efforts which are to be considered.

Missoula Comedian Michael Beers will be the evening keynote address and entertainment.

To make a nomination you will need to submit the following information on a piece of paper.

- Written statement not to exceed 500 words in length
- Name, address and phone number of the individual, organization or business being nominated.
- Name, address and phone number of the person making the nomination.
- Additional materials (pictures, news articles, etc.) may be provided, however we cannot guarantee the return of these items.

Mail or fax your nomination to:
Raylynn Lauderdale, Montana Advocacy Program
PO Box 1681
Helena, MT 59624

Nominations must be received by January 15, 2007

"COMBATING AUTISM ACT" AWAITING PRESIDENTS SIGNATURE

US Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY) and Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP Committee) praised the passage of the "Combating Autism Act" Senate Bill 843, on December 7, 2006 stating the bills passage is "an important victory for improving the lives of persons with autism and families affected by autism". The bill now awaits the Presidents signature.

Up to 1 in 166 children are being diagnosed in the United States and there must be effective programs in place to meet the diverse needs of persons with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). ASD is usually defined as a developmental disorder that begins in children before the age of three and typically delays their social interaction and communication skills.

Key provisions of the bill include:

- developing and implementing a strategic plan for research related to ASD;
- Reauthorizing Autism Centers of Excellence and providing funds to the centers for coordination of services and information for patients;
- Supporting basic and clinical research into key fields of developmental studies;
- Improving coordination of federal, state and local supports and services available to persons with autism and their families;
- Increasing the number of providers that can screen, diagnosis and provide interventions to persons with autism; and,
- Promoting research to determine evidence-based best practices for diagnosis, early detection, prevention, intervention and possible/potential cure(s) for ASD.

VICTORY FOR LIFESPAN RESPITE

After a 4-year advocacy effort, the Lifespan Respite Care Act was unanimously passed by the Senate. This action follows House passage of the bill. The legislation now goes to the President for his signature. The Act provides \$30 million in the first year and almost \$300 million over five years for competitive grants for state and local bodies to increase availability of respite care services for family caregivers of individuals with special needs regardless of age. The bill also promotes a coordinated system of accessible respite care at the state and federal level.

CONGRESS RECESSES WITHOUT APPROPRIATIONS ACTION

Congress adjourned last Saturday without completing their work on 9 of 11 Appropriations Bills, including appropriations for Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services. Entities receiving federal funds will be on a continuing resolution extended until February 15, 2007.

New Senate and House Chairs of the Appropriations Committees, Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-WV) and Rep. David R. Obey (D-WI), say that they are in favor of a moratorium on all earmarks until Congress passes lobbying reforms, fulfilling one of the election promises to "clean-up" the legislative process.

The good news for Councils, sister programs and other domestic programs is that Sen. Byrd and Rep. Obey say they plan to work toward changing spending levels, particularly for increases in labor, health and education programs.

LUVYUMS FEATURED ON NATIONAL WEBSITE

Congratulations to out to Lissie's LuvYums Gourmet Dog Biscuits who are now featured on the national website www.picketspoodles.com. To access Lissie's link click on the icon for puppies available and scroll down to the near bottom of the page. This is wonderful exposure for the dog biscuits and Lissie's business. Be sure to check out the website!

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Council offices have received communications from two members who have recently left the Council. We are passing along their addresses and phone numbers so we can all keep in touch!

Suzie Twedt	Ramona Weber
7950 So. Riviera Court	1612 ½ Russell Avenue
Aurora, Colorado 80016	La Grande, OR 97850
303/955-7763 home	541/910-1409
303/909-8009 Suzie Cell phone	

COUNCIL DEVELOPS CFI/HOLDS JOINT MEETING AT JANUARY MEETING

The January Council meeting is rapidly approaching and one of the tasks before the Council will be the development of our FFY2008 Calls for Investment. The Council has traditionally set early February as the release date for the Calls for Investment once finalized by the Council. The Council will follow the areas of emphasis as identified in the Councils 5-year plan of action (2007-2011) of Education, Employment, Community Supports, Quality Assurance and Self-Determination.

Also at the January meeting will be a joint meeting between the full Council and sister program, the Montana Advocacy Programs Board of Directors. This will be the first opportunity that both groups have had to hold a joint meeting. We look forward to much information sharing and brainstorming between our organizations.

Dates of Interest

MCDD Meeting	Helena	Jan 24-26
MT Assc of Community Disability Services	Helena	Jan 17
Courage Awards and Legislative Dinner	Colonial Inn	Jan 25
Developmental Disabilities Hearing	Helena	Jan 18

Please contact Council staff for additional information on these meetings.

Next time you hear the honking of geese overhead (or are in a meeting of some sort) we think you'll think of these lessons

A FLOCK OF LESSONS



FACT: As geese flap their wings, they create and "uplift" for the birds that follow. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

LESSON: People who share a common direction and sense of community get where they are going quicker and easier when they lift each other up along the way.

FACT: When the head goose tires, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies to the point position.

LESSON: It pays to share leadership and take turns doing the hard work.

FACT: Geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up the pace.

LESSON: It is important that our honking be encouraging. otherwise it's just. . . well honking.

FACT: When a goose is sick or wounded, two geese drop out of formation to follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it passes, or is able to fly again.

LESSON: When one of us is down, it's up to the others to stand by us and encourage us in our time of trouble.

