



MCDD QUICK NEWS

Here's What's Happening in Council Offices
Spring 2010

Sharon Lewis Named Commissioner on Developmental Disabilities

Sharon Lewis has been named Commissioner on Developmental Disabilities, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced on February 26, 2010. Sharon has over ten years of experience as a disability policy advocate. Prior to her announcement Sharon served as Senior Disability Policy Advisory to US House Committee on Education and Labor Chairman George Miller. In that capacity she advised the Committee on legislative strategy and disability related policy in education, employment and healthcare. Sharon served as a member of President Obama's Education Agency Review transition team. Previously Sharon worked as a Kennedy Public Policy Fellow for Sen. Chris Dodd. Welcome Sharon!

HEALTHCARE LEGISLATION ONE-PAGE UPDATES

Council offices recently received a call from Sen. Jon Tester's office sharing information on the recently passed healthcare legislation. **Attached to our cover email** message sending are three easy to read, one-page information bulletins on 1) [basic health care reform](#), 2) [how health care reform will affect Medicare](#), and 3) [progress on prevention and wellness care through health care reform](#).

REP. TIM FUREY JOINS MCDD

The Council is pleased to welcome its newest member Rep. Tim Furey (D-Missoula). Rep. Furey came on board with MCDD at the January meeting. Rep. Furey fulfills the membership requirement to have a member of the House of Representatives on the Council and replaces Rep. Carol Lambert. We welcome and

thank Tim for making time in his busy schedule to participate on MCDD.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION HOSTING WORK INCENTIVE SEMINARS

The Social Security Administration (SSA) is hosting a series of free community events around the country for beneficiaries with disabilities and their families. These Work Incentive Seminar Events (WISE) are held by local organizations and can help people receiving Social Security disability benefits (SSDI or SSI) learn more about the Ticket to Work project, connect with local training and employment resources and explore opportunities to increase income. For more resources in Montana go to www.Disability.gov homepage and select Montana from the drop-down menu under "information by state".

TEXT4BABY MOBILE HEALTH INFORMATION SERVICES FOR PREGNANT WOMEN AND NEW MOTHERS

The Administration on Developmental Disabilities announces an exciting new public-private initiative called Text4Baby. Led by the National Healthy Mothers and Healthy Babies Coalition, in partnership with the US Department of Public Health and Human Services, Text4Baby is a mobile health information service that will provide free, health-related text messages to pregnant women and new mothers who voluntarily enroll in the service. Brief text messages will be sent to new and expectant mothers three times per week to inform them on widely accepted and highly vetted scientific guidelines to promote healthy births, especially among traditionally underserved populations.

2010 DIRECTORY OF SERVICES PUBLISHED

Hot off the presses is the 2010 Directory of Services! Thanks to a new database, and hours of additional work by Dee Burrell, the new Directory can be located on our website as a PDF file, has expanded pages of information including the regional map of Montana, and is now spiral bound to lay flat. Although the paper version of the Directory is published annually, the website version is updated monthly. If you have changes to your listing in the Directory please contact Dee Burrell at 443-4332 or dee@mtcdd.org. Kudos to Dee for a job well done!

SPECTRUM PARENT SOCIAL CLUB

Nanette Whitman-Holmes hosted the first meeting of the Spectrum Parent Social club on March 22, 2010. Nanette shares, she is working to establish a support group for parents with children who have Asperger's/HFA. The open-house style gathering included refreshments and a play room with toys and video games so everyone (parents and children) could make social connections. If you'd like more information about the Spectrum Parent Social Club contact Nanette at 5homes@q.com



UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST

MACDS, Glasgow

May 4, 5, 6 2010

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Should you have any questions regarding the information contained in this issue of Quick News please feel free to contact Council Offices at 1/866-443-4332 or 443-4332.