



SUNCOAST REGION NEWS

Mission: To support persons with developmental disabilities in living, learning & working in their communities.

Volume 1 Issue 4

October 2007

GET THE FACTS

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities is committed to providing up to date and accurate information to consumers, providers, stakeholders and other interested parties. As a result, the agency is publishing a series of articles entitled "Get the Facts." These articles will address agency changes and updates, and will serve as a means to ensure correct information is distributed. The latest "Get the Facts" volume addresses Governor Crist's budget reduction recommendations relating to support coordination, forensics clients, partial rate reduction for providers, waitlist issues, fiscal responsibility, state commitment, cdc plus, personal care assistance, waiver changes and prior service authorizations. Additional volumes to be released as needed. Review "Get the Facts" publications at www.apd.myflorida.com.

FSECC

The Florida State Employees' Charitable Campaign is underway. Each year Florida State Employees' participate in a campaign to raise funds to aid United Way in its effort to provide services and assistance to those in need. Through FSECC, state employees have an organized and effective method by which they can provide donations to the charities of their choice. Contributions to United Way of Tampa Bay, America's Charities, Community Health Charities of Florida, Earth Share, Global Impact, Independent Charities of America, and Neighbor to Nation are issued to their umbrella groups for distribution. Contributions to unaffiliated or independent organizations are transferred directly to the agency. Undesignated contributions are issued to local charities receiving contributions from other state employees. Donation allotments are accepted through payroll deduction, a one-time gift or through participation in various fund raising activities. The Florida State Employees' Charitable Campaign is the only state-sanctioned charity drive among state employees in the workplace. Each year, Florida State Employees contribute more than \$4 million to their favorite charities.

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"It was ability that mattered, not disability..."

Marlee Matlin

Disability Employment Awareness Month

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. This month is dedicated to educating the American public about employment issues related to job seekers with disabilities. Disability Employment Awareness month began in 1945 and the tradition continues as the nation recognizes and appreciates the contributions of a very valuable workforce. Following is a partial list of resources for individuals with disabilities who are seeking employment:

~The FDDC Employment Task Force, in partnership with USF, has created a website designed for students transitioning into employment...<http://www.fyitransition.com>

~Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program is a nationwide initiative intended to bring positive change to the lives of individuals with disabilities <http://www.yourtickettowork.com>

~The Center on Self Employment is a training and technical assistance resource for persons with disabilities interested in starting their own business. ... 866-599-3367

~ Tampa Bay Work Force Alliance specializes in services for individuals with disabilities <http://workforcetampa.com>

~Vocational Rehabilitation is an employment program designed to assist individuals with disabilities in pursuing their employment goals <http://www.rehabworks.org>

~Goodwill-Suncoast 's mission is to help people achieve their full potential through the dignity and power of work <http://www.goodwill-suncoast.org>

Happy Birthday!

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities became an agency in October of 2004. The agency was specifically tasked with serving the needs of Floridians with developmental disabilities. Prior to that time, the agency existed as the Developmental Disabilities Program. The Agency for Persons with Disabilities strives to provide quality services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities in hopes that they may be able to live and work in their community. Throughout the years, the agency has faced many challenges and obstacles; however, it remains strong and diligent in its commitment to persons with developmental disabilities and their families.

" Disability is a matter of perception..."

Martina Navratilova

Laptop Rollout

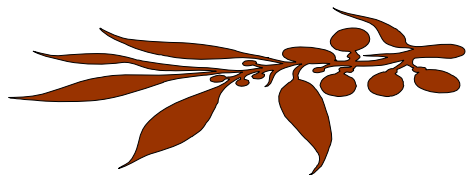
The Dell Latitude D520 notebook computers have arrived. The laptops are equipped with security system, docking station, USB mouse and keyboard. They do not have a CD writer nor off-site access to the network. Deborah Decker, APD's Computer Systems Analyst, is in the process of distributing the laptops. "I want the transition to go as smoothly and quickly as possible," she said. Debra asks that all personnel receiving new laptops follow the pre-installation instructions as issued. "The set up process took about forty-five minutes," said Alicia Burns, Secretary Specialist. "It's so much faster than my old computer. ❖"

FLORIDA DIAGNOSTIC &
LEARNING RESEARCH CENTER

FREE*FREE*FREE

INFANT, TODDLER, PRE-SCHOOL
DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING
AGES BIRTH TO FIVE BY APPOINTMENT
ONLY

FDLRS will conduct free vision, hearing, motor, speech, language, and cognitive, behavioral and medical screenings from 8:30a.m. until 11:30a.m. **October 12, 2007 • St. Andrew's Methodist**
3315 Bryan Road, Brandon 33511. Please call (813) 837-7723 to schedule an appointment. ❖



Disability History

- Louis Braille invents the raised dot alphabet known as Braille (1829)
- American Civil War results in 30,000 amputations in the Union Army which caused Americans to take a closer look at disability issues (1861-1865)
- Franklin D. Roosevelt ~ first person with a physical disability elected President of the United States (1933)
- Civil Rights Act passed~ creating the groundwork for the disability rights movement (1964)
- Education of All Handicapped Children Act passed (1975) ~name changed to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)1990
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) signed by President George Bush (1990)

Family Care Council

Families often feel they will lose their

dream of self-sufficiency and independence for their children, when they receive a diagnosis of a developmental disability (DD) for their child. However, with proper support, both families and individuals with DD can thrive and achieve their chosen goals.

Caring people, that is what it takes! The

Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) and our State and Federal government support the principles of inclusion, self-determination, community living, successful transition to adult life and integrated employment.

Families, individuals with developmental disabilities and their support workers must keep the dream of a full and rich life the goal at all times.

Collaboration is a powerful tool. If this philosophy is to succeed, families must be the driving force. Barriers need to continually be identified and broken down and necessary programs and policies put into place. We must all work together for the benefit of all persons with developmental disabilities. Together - we can make this happen.

Families are the Driving Force

Florida State Employees' Charitable Campaign

October 8

FSECC Kick-Off

Upcoming Events, Pledge Cards, Prizes & Advance Tickets Sales
1313 N. Tampa St, Suite 516
9am-11am

October 12

Cake-Walk

Desserts, Desserts & More Desserts!
\$1.00 to join the fun and a chance to win your choice of select desserts
\$2.00 for the chance to win a certificate redeemable for a special dessert from **Special Occasions Bakery**
1313 N. Tampa St, 6th Floor DMS Conference Room
2pm-3:30pm

October 15

Peanut Sale

Hot Boiled Peanuts for Sale ~ Two Locations
10:30am-12:30pm 1201 N.102nd Ave, St. Pete. FL 2:00pm-3:30pm 1313 N. Tampa St. Ste. 516, Tampa, FL

October 22

Silent Auction

Item Preview October 21 (photos issued by email)
Up Close and Personal view October 22
1313 N. Tampa St, FL 5th Floor Conference Room
08:30am-1:30pm

October 26

APD Movie Moment

Entrance fee \$3.00
Popcorn and Soda Included
1313 N. Tampa Street, 6th Floor DMS Conference Room
Movie TBA
11:30-2:30pm

FEELING LUCKY?

Purchase a ticket for \$1.00 for a chance to win a **\$75.00 Wal-Mart Gift Card**. (Drawing October 26)

SPARE CHANGE....PLEASE

Two five-gallon water bottles will be available to accept your spare change donations at two locations: 1313 N. Tampa Street Suite 515, Tampa, FL and 1201 N. 102nd Avenue St. Petersburg, FL.

“DRESS DOWN DAYS”

Purchase tickets for \$1.00 each to “Dress Down” during our FSECC.
Campaign October 8 through October 26

*SunCoast Region Training Calendar

OCTOBER 3

MEDICATION ADM. TRAIN THE TRAINER FOR RN'S

9:00am-1:00pm

1201 102nd Ave N. St. Petersburg, FL

OCTOBER 8

PROVIDING EFFECTIVE IN HOME SUPPORTS

9:00am-4:00pm

1201 102nd Ave N. St. Petersburg, FL

OCTOBER 9

AIDS/HIV

9:00am-12:00pm

1201 102nd Ave N. St. Petersburg, FL

OCTOBER 12

BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS OVERVIEW

9:00am-12pm

1201 102nd Ave N. St. Petersburg, FL

OCTOBER 16, 17, 18, 19

WAIVER SUPPORT COORDINATORS PRE-SERVICE

9:00am-4:00pm

1002 E. Palm Ave Tampa, FL

OCTOBER 22

MEDICATION ADM. FOR MANAGERS PD#01-01

9:00am-12:00pm

1201 102nd Ave N. St. Petersburg, FL

OCTOBER 23

CHRONIC MEDICAL CONDITIONS

9:00am-2:00pm

1201 102nd Ave N. St. Petersburg, FL

OCTOBER 24

ABC TRAINING FOR WAIVER SUPPORT COORDINATORS

1:00pm-4:00pm

1201 102nd Ave N. St. Petersburg, FL

OCTOBER 29, 30, 31

SUPPORTED LIVING PRE-SERVICE

9:00am-4:00pm

1201 102nd Ave N. St. Petersburg, FL

*Pre-Registration is required for all classes

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

October 15

Family Care Council

1501 North Belcher Road
Clearwater, FL
6:30pm-8:30pm

October 31

Family Care Council

1313 N. Tampa Street Suite 516
Tampa, FL 33602
11am-12pm

October 17

Disability Mentoring Day

SunCoast Region

October 18

Waiver Support Coordinator

1002 N. Palm Ave.
Tampa, FL
9am-12pm

October 24

Strategic Planning Workshop

SunCoast Region, Area 8, Area 14, Gulf Coast

by invitation only

1313 N. Tampa Street Suite 515
10:00am-3:00pm

October 25

Area Steering Committee

1201 102nd Ave N.
St. Petersburg, FL
9am-12pm



Conferences & Workshops



October 5

7:45-5:00pm

Expo 2007 Educational Seminar

Legal and medical topics relating to guardianship, fiduciary responsibilities, personal care of the ward/client and clinical health care

Presented by the Guardian Association of Pinellas County
St. Petersburg, FL

October 6

10:00am-4:00pm

Information Fair

Resources, services and provider information to families with disabilities.

Sponsored by A.F.I.R.E & Family Care Council
Clearwater, FL

October 6

08:30am-3:30pm

Celebrate Inclusion

A free educational conference for families & professionals to assist in understanding the needs of children, youth and young adults with disabilities. Sponsored by Hand of Angels, Inc. 'Advocating for the Exceptional Community'

Arcadia, FL

October 18- October 20

DCDT Conference

Division on Career Development and Transition

Building Castles...Building Dreams...The Magic of Transition!

The conference will feature topics of interest for educators and those with an interest in transition nationwide.

Orlando, FL

October 31-November 1

Partners in Transition

The goal of the Summit is to support local districts cross-agency leadership teams with improving post-school outcomes for students with disabilities.

Orlando, FL

AUTISM

Autism is a developmental disorder characterized by impairments in social interactions and communication. It was first recognized in 1943 because of the research findings of child psychiatrist, Dr. Leo Kanner. Autism, categorized as a pervasive developmental disorder (PDD), affects the following areas:

- ~ Communication
- ~ Social skills
- ~ Behaviors
- ~ learning

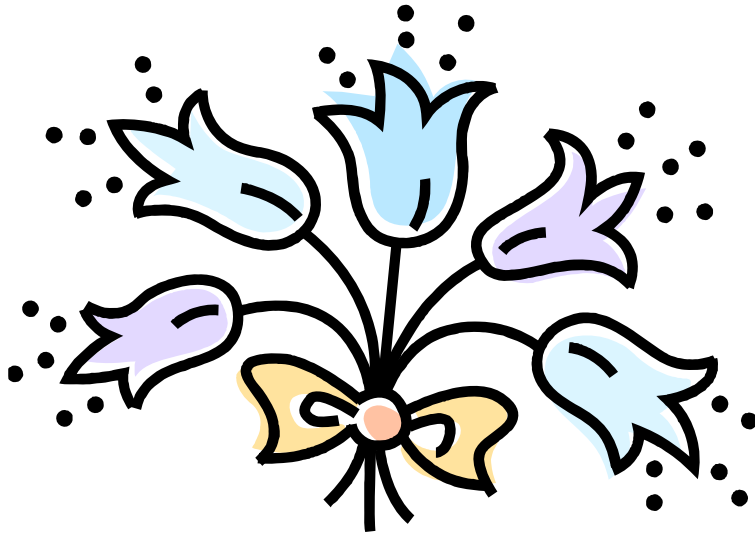
A diagnosis of Autism usually occurs during the first three years of life. The Centers' for Disease Control findings show that one in every 150 children is diagnosed with Autism. Autism affects all racial, ethnic and socio-economic groups (males four times more often than females). The symptoms of Autism vary greatly. Some individuals are severely affected; non-verbal, requiring constant care and life-long assistance and others are able to communicate and manage well on their own. This variation is known as the Autism Spectrum. Autism has no cure; however, with an individualized treatment plan those diagnosed may experience significant improvement. Treatment may include behavior modification, communication therapy, dietary modifications and medication. The success of treatment depends upon numerous factors.

The Organization for Autism Research issued a publication entitled "[Life Journey through Autism: A Parent's Guide to Research](#)". This publication was created to serve as a tool designed to address the needs of parents and caregivers with children diagnosed with Autism.

This information is provided for informational purposes only. Always consult your child's doctor regarding his or her individual needs.

Resources: Autism of Florida <http://www.autismfl.com> eMedicine Health <http://www.eMedicinehealth.com>

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov>



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