



THE VOICE
 Anne Arundel County Chapter
 of the
 Autism Society of America
 August 2005 Volume 10, Issue 1

President's Message

AACC-ASA meetings are held the last Tuesday evening of each month at Ruth Parker Eason School, 648 Old Mill Road, Millersville. Meetings begin at 7:00 pm.

The meetings begin with introductions and general announcements, along with time for open discussion. A refreshment break is followed by a discussion led by the guest presenter.

Ample time is allowed for questions and follow-up discussion, as well as further opportunity for group support and socialization.

New members and new ideas are always welcome.

I hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer. Seems like before we know it, it's time to begin focusing again on getting ready to return to school.

Our August meeting will feature a discussion about **IDEIA 2004**, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act. The discussion will be led by **Ellen Meyer**, Coordinator of Special Education Compliance and Related Issues with Anne Arundel County Public Schools, and **Leslie Seid Margolis** with the Maryland Disability Law Center.

I'm pleased to announce that, as part of the new **Autism Spectrum Disorder Awareness and Education Program** that our chapter is helping to develop and implement in our county's public school system, we have helped to create two **brochures**: one about **autism spectrum disorders** and one about **Asperger Syndrome**. Please feel free to download and print them for your use. They are available at http://www.aaccasa.org/awareness/Autism_Spectrum_brochure.pdf and http://www.aaccasa.org/awareness/Asperger_Syndrome_brochure.pdf.

Ms. Meyer and Ms. Margolis will share information about the changes in the Federal law and what these changes mean for students with disabilities, as well as their parents and the professionals who work with them. I encourage parents and other family members, as well as professionals and service providers who work with individuals with autism spectrum disorders, to join us on August 30th.

I'm also pleased to announce that our chapter is now participating in the affiliate program of the **Autism Asperger Publishing Company**. Through this program, our chapter will receive 20% of any sales of books and other materials when you go to them through the link on our web site (<http://www.aaccasa.org>). By doing so, you will help to provide funding for our chapter's projects, activities, and initiatives.

Chapter Phone Line:
(410) 923-8800

Next Meeting:
August 30th
7:00 pm

Partners in Policymaking

Partners in Policymaking is a leadership-training program designed for parents of young children with developmental disabilities and adults with disabilities. The program teaches leadership skills, and the process of developing positive partnerships with elected officials, school personnel and other individuals who make the policy decisions about services.

They are seeking a diverse group of highly motivated and enthusiastic individuals to participate in the next class. The goal is to recruit participants who come from every part of Maryland and who represent many different types of developmental disabilities. They are looking for individuals and parents who have and have not held a leadership position in any support group or disability organization. They encourage applications from young adults with disabilities who have been involved in self-advocacy or are interested in becoming leaders in the disability movement. Candidates must be interested in advocating for themselves and for others. The program is free for applicants accepted into the program. Applications are due by **August 15th**.

For further information or to obtain an application, please go to http://www.thearcmd.org/programs/partners_in_policymaking.



Disclaimer:

Please note that all information provided or published by the Anne Arundel County Chapter of the Autism Society of America (AACC-ASA) is for informational purposes only. Reference to any treatment or therapy option or to any program, service, or treatment provider is not an endorsement by the AACC-ASA.

Celebrating Friends

Celebrating Friends provides social opportunities for young adults (age 16 and older) with cognitive disabilities who are living at home. The upcoming schedule of events is as follows:

Friday August 12th from 6:00 - 10:00 pm

Friday Night Flick at the Park

The cost is \$25. The group (up to 8 people) will go to Kinder Farm Park to enjoy carnival games, contests, giveaways, safety demonstrations and entertainment. The movie "Shark Tale" will be shown at dusk under the stars. Bring spending money for food and games.

Saturday August 20th from 6:00 – 10:00 pm

Maryland International Raceway

The cost is \$55. The group (up to 6 people) will enjoy funny cars, fire-breathing dragsters, motorcycle stunt show and more! Bring spending money for food or souvenirs.

Thursday August 25th from 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Book club

Meet new people, learn new things, listen to stories and tell about your favorite book, magazine, picture or story. Hosted by Book Friends, this event will be held at the Severna Park Library. Book Friends does not charge for the event. You may choose to drive yourself at no charge or Celebrating Friends will charge \$15 for transportation. Can accommodate up to 8 individuals.

Tuesday August 30th from 5:30 – 10:30 pm

Bowie Baysox

The cost is \$25; can accommodate up to 8 individuals. Come watch professional baseball close up. All seats give a great view of the field, lots of giveaways, food and nothing is more entertaining than the Bowie Baysox mascot, Louie. Bring spending money for food or souvenirs.

To register for an event, please contact **Ouida and Melanie Fluck** at (301) 912-3220 or fsesoffluck@hotmail.com

Celebrating Friends is looking for 2 individuals to serve as Event Leaders. This position will require 10—15 hours per month and includes coordinating with registration, organizing event pick up/drop off schedules for clients and attending at least 1 event per month.

For further information, please contact **Kerrie Mansfield** at (410) 923-2882 or Kerrie@CelebratingFriends.org.

Workshop on preparing for new school year

On Friday August 19th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, the Parents' Place of Maryland and the Learning Disabilities Association of St. Mary's County will sponsor a free workshop entitled "Preparing for back to school". It will be held at the St. Mary's County Library on Hollywood Road in Leonardtown.

Are all of your ducks in a row for the beginning of school? How can you make sure that all of your child's supports are in place before school begins in August? How can you make sure that all of your child's teachers are informed about your child's unique needs before school begins in August?

In this interactive workshop, participants will learn effective ways to help transition their special needs child into their new school setting in August, including how to prepare meaningful information packets for their child's new team of teachers and specialists. Whether your child is progressing to the next grade, or is changing schools, all parents and caregivers will benefit from participating in this workshop.

Registration is required; please register by contacting **Missy Alexander** at (301) 884-4662 or Alexander@gmpexpress.net.

Book Friends meeting

On Thursday August 25th from 7:00 – 8:30 pm, the book club for individuals with disabilities will hold their meeting at the public library located at 45 McKinsey Road in Severna Park. The book club is for persons with disabilities who are 18 years of age and older and are generally independent in their self-care.

The August meeting will feature motivational speaker **Wolf Dunaway**. Wolf will share his personal story and tell how during his early years books were his friend. He is the prospective author of "From survival to success: Insights and experiences of an Autistic Wolf."

For further information and to reserve a seat, please call **Chrystal Irving** at Service Coordination at (410) 923-5751.

Partners for Success: New e-mail address

The Anne Arundel County Partners for Success Resource Center has a new e-mail address: Partnersforsuccess@aacps.org.



Disabilities Awareness Night

On **Sunday August 21st** the **Bowie Baysox** will hold a **Disabilities Awareness Night**. This is an opportunity for families of children with disabilities to enjoy a free evening at the ballpark. The event is sponsored by Exceptional Parent magazine, Mass Mutual partnership and the West Financial Group.

For tickets and further information, please contact **Jenny Bignell**, West Financial Group at **(301) 941-9123** or jbignell@finsvcs.com

TSA survey

Through **August 23rd** the **Transportation Security Administration (TSA)** is conducting a **“Persons with disabilities and medical conditions customer satisfaction survey”**. If you have a disability and have recently taken an airplane trip, the TSA would like to know about your experience with airport security. The TSA is trying to reach a broad sector of the disability community and planning to use the survey results to shape future educational and training activities.

To access the survey, please go to <http://websurveyor.net/wsb.dll/29926/pwd.htm>

Leadership Award

The **Paul G. Hearne/AAPD Leadership Award Program** will provide cash awards for up to two people with disabilities who are emerging as leaders in their respective fields to help them continue their progress as leaders. They will also have an opportunity to meet and network with national disability leaders at the AAPD Leadership Gala in Washington, DC in March of 2006. U.S. residents with any type of disability are eligible to apply. Applications are due by **September 9th**.

For further information, or to obtain an application, please go to <http://www.aapd.com/awards/leadership.php>.

National Disability Summit

On **Thursday September 22nd** and **Friday September 23rd** the **Alliance for Full Participation**, a collaboration of ten national organizations and networks that work in the area of developmental disabilities, is sponsoring a national disability summit with the theme **“Many Voices, One Vision”** at the Washington Hilton in Washington, D.C. The summit will focus on themes of leadership for the future (advocacy, self advocacy, etc.), community membership and self-determination, and quality of life and workforce issues.

For further information, please go to <http://www.allianceforfullparticipation.org>.

Comments sought on NIDRR long-range plans

The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services has released the proposed **National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research's (NIDRR) Long-Range Plan** for fiscal years 2005 through 2009. The proposed plan has several purposes:

- * To set broad general directions that will guide NIDRR's policies and use of resources.
- * To establish objectives for research and related activities from which annual research priorities can be formulated.
- * To describe a system for operationalizing the Plan in terms of annual priorities, evaluation of the implementation of the Plan, and updates of the Plan as necessary.
- * To direct new emphasis to the management and administration of the research endeavor.

The full text of the plan is available at <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-14741.htm>. Comments regarding the proposed plan are requested by **August 26th**. Address all comments to **Donna Nangle**, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 6030, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20204-2700. If you prefer to send your comments through the Internet, send them to donna.nangle@ed.gov. Be sure to include “Long-Range Plan” in the subject line. For further information, please contact Donna Nangle at **(202) 245-7462**.

Workshop focuses on successful skills at school and home

On **September 17th** from **9:00 am - 2:30 pm** the **Special Education Parent Resource Centers** from Arlington Public Schools, Alexandria City Public Schools, Fairfax County Public Schools and **The Arc of Northern Virginia** will co-sponsor a workshop entitled **“Survival skills for September and beyond”**. The event will be held at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Building on Wilson Boulevard in Arlington, Virginia. The workshop will focus on tools that families of individuals with disabilities need to build a foundation for a successful year at home and at school.

For further information, or to register, please contact **Anne Lipnick** at **(703) 706-4552** or alipnick@acps.k12.va.us.

“Spotlight Autism” TV show

New York Families for Autistic Children (NYFAC) has posted several episodes of their television program on their website. For further information, or to view the programs, please go to <http://www.nyfac.org/spotlightau.html>.



Teleconference series on positive behavior supports

TASH and the Arc of the United States are co-sponsoring a telephone conference series entitled **“Positive Behavior Supports and eliminating the use of aversives, seclusion and the inappropriate use of restraint”**. This series includes a range of topics on positive behavior support to increase knowledge of understanding the function of problem behaviors, collaboration with families and teams, and designing person-centered support plans for school-aged youth and adults. Topics also include information on the eliminating the use of aversive techniques, seclusion, and inappropriate use of restraint.

Tuesday September 13th

“School-age supports:

Understanding problem behaviors in school settings”

Thursday September 15th

“Supports for adults:

Functional Behavioral Assessment in community settings”

Tuesday September 20th

“School-age supports:

Designing effective support plans for students”

Thursday September 22nd

“Supports for adults:

So, we know the function - designing a quality Positive Behavior Support plan”

Tuesday September 27th

“Supporting one another in the behavior change process”

Tuesday October 12th

“What families need to know about behavior and Positive Behavior Support”

Friday October 14th

“Eliminating aversives, seclusion and restraint:

Best practices and shifting cultures”

Thursday October 20th

“Advocating to eliminate the use of aversives, seclusion, and restraint: What advocates are doing”

Tuesday November 1st

“School-wide approaches to behavior supports”

For more information, including complete session descriptions and registration fees, please go to <http://www.tash.org/teleconferences> or call (410) 828-8274.

Autism Fundraising Event at Camden Yards

On **Saturday September 17th** at 4:35 pm, the Orioles game (vs. Tampa Bay) will provide a fundraising opportunity for **Pathfinders for Autism**, with \$5 of each ticket going to support their organization. To purchase tickets, please go to <https://www.groupticketwindow.com/groupticket/mlb/orioles/group> (Login: PATHFINDERS, Password: ORIOLES.)

For further information, please contact **Max Guba** at (410) 547-6214 or mguba@orioles.com.

New social skills groups

Two new social skills groups for teens and pre-teens with autism spectrum disorders will be held this fall. The groups will meet for weekly sessions for 8 weeks and will be co-led by Cathy Goucher, an art therapist and licensed counselor, and Sandy Miller, a licensed social worker and certified special educator. The groups will meet at Earthwalk Center for Wholeness on Cromwell Bridge Road in Towson. The groups are as follows:

“Exploring the good, the bad, and the ugly of relationships”

Ages 15 – 19

Tuesdays from 6:45 – 8:00 pm beginning September 27th

“Managing ourselves: Learning through puppets”

Ages 10 – 14

Tuesdays from 5:30 – 6:30 pm beginning September 27th

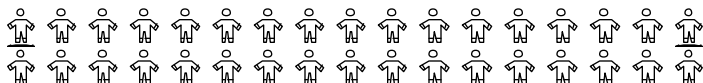
The fee is \$280 for each 8-week session. For further information, or to register, please call (410) 321-0530.

New MSDE publications about IDEIA 2004

The **Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)** has published a series of Informational Updates about the changes in Federal law with IDEIA 2004. These publications cover many topics, including the following:

- * State and district wide assessments
- * Discipline of students with disabilities
- * Early intervening services
- * Evaluations and eligibility determinations
- * IEP process
- * Part C (Infants and Toddlers)
- * Transition from Part C to Part B and other community-based services
- * Procedural safeguards

The Informational Updates can be accessed at http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/earlyinterv/idea_2004_md_book.htm.





New monitoring equipment

Bluespan®, Inc., has established a partnership with the **Autism Society of America (ASA)** to provide the company's state-of-the-art monitoring equipment to ASA's members at a discount. Their product, **ionKids®**, is an easy-to-use system designed to assist parents and guardians with keeping tabs on children and other dependents. The equipment consists of a tamper- and water-resistant bracelet that requires no interaction on the part of the child and contains a strong locking mechanism that cannot be easily opened without a key and a small handheld device or base unit used by the parent or guardian to monitor the location of the wristband wearer, which also allows parents to monitor up to four wristbands simultaneously.

The device is being offered to ASA members for \$165. To order, please go to https://secure2.convio.net/asa/site/Donation?Action=Show_DONATIONS_OPTIONS&CAMPAIGN_ID=1922&JServSessionIdr006=64ueeux192.app24a. For more information, please go to <http://www.ion-kids.com>.

New Partners In Policymaking online course

Partners In Policymaking has available a new free on-line course entitled "**Partners in Education**". This six-hour self-directed e-learning course is designed to help parents with children with developmental disabilities better understand and maximize the benefits of special education services and inclusion for their children. It is available at <http://www.partnersinpolicymaking.com/education>.

Also available is "**Making your case**", a free three-hour self-directed course on how to communicate with public officials by effectively telling your personal story, writing a letter, providing testimony, and communicating in positive ways. It can be accessed at <http://www.partnersinpolicymaking.com/makingyourcase>.

In addition, "**Partners in Employment**" is a free six-hour self-directed course on how to find a job, write a resume, participate in an interview, and plan for your career. It is available at <http://www.partnersinpolicymaking.com/employment>.

Newsletter focuses on inclusion

The "**Welcoming Spiritual Communities**" newsletter is a quarterly e-mail publication of **Community Connections** at the University of Maryland. It includes tips on how to include families of children with disabilities in the spiritual community, as well as resources and spotlights of spiritual communities who are family-friendly. For further information, please go to <http://www.communityconnections.umd.edu/news/spiritualnewsletter/index.htm>.

Information about Parents' Place of Maryland

Do you need information about: Special Education, Specific Disabilities, Access to Health Care, Support Groups, Free Workshops, or someone to attend IEP Meetings with you?

The **Parents' Place of Maryland** is a non-profit family-centered organization. We help parents in need. All of our services are free.

How do we help? Education - Information - Technical assistance - Supportive activities

- * We conduct regular parent education courses and workshops
- * We help parents find information
- * We provide referrals to other individuals or organizations
- * We work with parents directly to help them obtain the best possible services for their children
- * We have our own library with books, video tapes, etc. that parents can sign-out
- * We actively promote support groups and parent-to-parent networking
- * We maintain an up-to-date list of support groups for parents in Maryland
- * We publish a quarterly newsletter for everyone interested in children's needs
- * We attend school or IEP meeting

If you are in need of assistance, please call us at **(800) 394-5694** or go to <http://www.ppm.org>.

New publication about disability disclosure for youth

The **National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability (NCWD/Youth)** has developed a new publication entitled "**The 411 on disability disclosure: A workbook for youth with disabilities**". The publication is designed for youth and adults working with them to learn about disability disclosure.

The workbook will help young people make informed decisions about whether or not to disclose their disability and understand how that decision may impact their education, employment, and social lives. Based on the premise that disclosure is a very personal decision, the workbook is designed to help young people think about and practice disclosing their disability.

The workbook is available at http://www.ncwd-youth.info/resources_&Publications/411.html. Printed copies can be ordered at <http://www.ncwd-youth.info/order.php>.



Anne Arundel County Chapter
 Autism Society of America
 P.O. Box 1304
 Millersville, MD 21108

Postage
 here

**** Chapter News and Notes ****

We have available for purchase **autism awareness puzzle ribbon cloisonne lapel pins** and **car magnets**, as well as autism puzzle piece **bracelets/wristbands**. They are available for \$5 at our meetings and \$6 by mail; order forms are available at <http://www.aaccasa.org>.

We are participating in the Affiliate Programs of **Future Horizons** and of the **Autism Asperger Publishing Company (AAPC)**. Through these programs, when you follow the link at <http://www.aaccasa.org> to their web sites and purchase their products, our chapter will receive a portion of the purchase price. By making your Future Horizons and AAPC purchases through our web site you will help fund our chapter's projects and activities.

Our **lending library** is located at the **Partners for Success Resource Center**, Oakwood Elementary School, Portable "B", 330 Oak Manor Drive, Glen Burnie. To see a full listing of the items available from our lending library, as well as related items available from the Partners for Success library, please go to <http://www.aaccasa.org>.

To request an item, please contact **Partners for Success** at **(410) 222-3805** or partnersforsuccess@aacps.org. They will provide information about the various ways in which library materials can be obtained.

Subscribe to our **e-mail action alert** by sending a message through <http://www.aaccasa.org>. It is an easy way to learn the latest information about Federal, State, and local legislative initiatives, lobbying efforts, or other action items related to autism and disabilities.

**Anne Arundel County Chapter
 Autism Society of America
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 (410) 923-8800 <http://www.aaccasa.org>**

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AACC-ASA Options Policy:

All information provided or published by the Anne Arundel County Chapter of the Autism Society of America (AACC-ASA) is for informational purposes only. Reference to any treatment or therapy option or to any program, service, or treatment provider is not an endorsement by the AACC-ASA. You should investigate alternatives that may be more appropriate for a specific individual. AACC-ASA assumes no responsibility for the use made of any information published or provided by the AACC-ASA.