



GO! Bulletin

March 11, 2010

Hello from the Grassroots Oregon Project. The *GO! Bulletin* is a statewide source of updates on issues, events and activities related to people with developmental disabilities. You are receiving this *GO! Bulletin* as a Member of The Oregon Disability Network, a collaborative effort of the Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities, and the Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition.

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STATE NEWS

ATTENTION: STAKEHOLDERS & ADVOCATES!!! SAVE THE DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17TH

The Oregon Seniors and People with Disabilities (SPD) division will be hosting two meetings in Salem on March 17th to share information and receive input from you on the following topics:

- Review of Budget Realities 2009-2011 and 2011-2013
- Rebalance - Current Budget Status 2009-2011
- Policy Option Packages for the 2011-2013 Legislative Session

Wednesday, March 17th Meeting Times:

9:30 AM - 11:30 AM - Aging and Physical Disabilities (APD) Issues

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM - Developmental Disabilities (DD) Issues

Location: 3420 Cherry Avenue - Salem, Oregon 97303
Large Conference Room, Suite 110

Supplemental information will be provided prior to the meetings.

If you are unable to attend the meeting in person and would like to participate, conference call information for both APD and DD meetings is Toll Free: 1-888-232-0371 | Access Code: 438-914

NOTE: Reasonable accommodations will be provided, as needed, for individuals requesting assistive hearing devices, sign language interpreters or large-print materials. Individuals needing these types of accommodations should contact staff at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. This document can be obtained in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities upon request by contacting staff at 503-947-1136, Fax: 503-373-7823, or TTY: 1-800-282-8096. Available formats are: large print, Braille, audio tape recording, electronic format and oral presentation.

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY 2010 COMMUNITY FORUMS

The Oregon Department of Human Services and Oregon Health Authority are hosting a series of statewide public forums this spring. You are encouraged to share ideas about local needs and priorities for the 2011–2013 budget and beyond. What are the priorities for your community?

Take part in conversations about how to protect and empower children, families, seniors and people with disabilities. Get involved with OHA's work to build a healthier Oregon by lowering health care costs, increasing access, and improving quality of care.

The Oregon Department of Human Services and Oregon Health Authority are hosting a series of statewide public forums this spring. Attend any or all of these events:

Pendleton: Thursday, April 15 at 1:00PM

DHS Office - 1555 Southgate Place

Teleconference from Baker City, Burns, Hermiston, John Day, La Grande or Ontario. Visit the [DHS Website](#) for details.

Salem: Monday, April 19 from 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Cascade Hall, Oregon State Fairgrounds - 2330 17th St. NE

Portland: Wednesday, April 21 from 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Oregon Convention Center - 777 NE Martin Luther King Blvd.

Redmond: Thursday, May 6 from 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center / Three Sisters Conference Center - 3800 SE Airport Way

Eugene: Wednesday, May 12 from 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Lane Community College - Center for Meeting & Learning
4000 SE 30th Ave.

Medford: Thursday, May 13 from 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Rogue Regency Hotel - 2300 Biddle Road

Newport: Tuesday, May 18 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Best Western Agate Beach Inn - 3019 N. Coast Hwy.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

HB 3618, the legislation designed to include individuals hired by people with developmental disabilities and mental illness or their families into the Home Care Commission, was passed during the last week of the February Legislative Session. The bill will provide worker's compensation, training, and a registry for personal support workers beginning in January 2011. Additionally, the bill would allow for organizing of workers and possible unionization after 2011. The fiscal impact for 2009-2011 is \$1 million; for 2011-2013 the fiscal for the workers compensation, training, and registry is projected to be \$2.5 million GF. This does not include the cost of possible collective bargaining if the workforce chooses to unionize.

The DD Coalition supported the bill as amended, supporting the access to workers compensation, training, and the registry, but also expressed concerns that the long term costs of implementing the bill could affect services. Despite the assurances of legislators that implementation would not jeopardize the integrity of DD services, DD self advocates, families, and other advocates will need to be continuously engaged and vigilant.

BUDGET

Passage of Measures 66 & 67 meant that legislators were not forced into making huge cuts in education, human services, and public safety during the February session. \$200 million dollars that had been set aside during the 2009 legislative session for K-12 education was released to schools and helped minimize additional reductions in education. However, revenue continues to decline and the number of people eligible for and seeking social services continues to increase. "Stimulus" dollars from the federal government are due to expire in early 2011. Further cuts in services are very possible during this biennium.

For more information about legislation passed during this February 2010 Special Session check the [Oregon DD Coalition](#) Website.

DECADE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT CELEBRATION

The celebration of a Decade of Accomplishment drew over 250 people to the Capitol. Awards were presented to James Toews, MaryLee Fay, Bob Clabby and the staff at Eastern Oregon Training Center, Katherine Palmer and Jan Schroth. For pictures and more information check the websites for the [DD Council](#) and [DD Coalition](#).

EMPLOYMENT FIRST CAMPAIGN

The *Employment First* campaign was unveiled on Wednesday, February 24 at the state capitol in Salem to kick off Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, being celebrated in March.

An audience of hundreds, including people with developmental disabilities, their caregivers, advocates, service providers and legislators, were introduced to Carlos who works at an Oregon bagel shop. Carlos is featured on a new poster that highlights his experience because both he and his employer recognize that his developmental disabilities are no barrier for him to deliver great customer service.

The Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities designed the new state initiative to create job opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. By increasing awareness of the untapped abilities of this important segment of the workforce, the goal is to move the overall unemployment rate down from the current level of 78 percent.

The campaign calls attention not only to people with developmental disabilities who want to work, but also to the benefits realized by businesses that employ them. Real jobs, paychecks and the dignity of employment enables Oregonians of all abilities to provide for themselves and their families at least a portion of essentials like housing, food, clothing and the supports and services needed in their lives.

There are many ways that employers can participate in the Employment First movement. Contacts include the [Arc of Oregon](#), the [Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities](#) or the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services at the Department of Human Services at 503-945-9815. Source: [Oregon Department of Human Services](#)

FEDERAL NEWS

Seclusion and Restraint bill passed in the federal House of Representatives, but *two Oregon Congressmen voted against it!*

The use of seclusion and restraint with children in schools is a concern of many Oregon families. Disability Right Oregon has been tracking incidents in Oregon. DRO has published a Restraint and Seclusion [Booklet](#) and [Survey](#) that feature important information on the subject.

H.R. 4247 will prohibit restraint and locked seclusion of students unless there is an imminent risk of physical injury that less restrictive interventions would not stop. H.R. 4247 is designed to encourage schools to use positive interventions and de-escalation, instead of abusive tactics. The bill prohibits schools from using mechanical and chemical restraints or restraints that impede breathing. The bill bans aversive techniques that harm health and safety, such as using electric shock and denying children food and water or forcing foul substances into their mouths and eyes. HR 4247 passed in the House of Representatives in the US Congress. The bill has yet to be heard in the Senate.

Oregon Congressmen Rep Kurt Schrader and Rep Greg Walden voted against this very important legislation that protects children!

ACTION NEEDED: It is important that we let these congressmen know that we watch how they vote and that we care! **Call and/or email these Congressmen today to let them know Oregonians believe the use of seclusion and restraint is NOT how we should treat children!**

[Representative Kurt Schrader](#)

Salem Office 1-877-301-5878

Oregon City Office 503-557-1324

[Representative Greg Walden](#)

Medford / Southern Oregon 1-800-533-3303

Eastern Oregon 541-624-2400

Central Oregon 541-389-4452

SHARON LEWIS APPOINTED TO FEDERAL POSITION

Announcement and Welcome from Secretary Sebelius, US Secretary of Health and Human Services - "I'm pleased to announce that Sharon Lewis will be joining HHS as Commissioner of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities at the Administration for Children and Families."

Sharon has extensive experience as a disability policy advocate. She has worked as the Senior Disability Policy Advisor to U.S. House Committee on Education & Labor Chairman George Miller since 2007. In that role, she has advised Chairman Miller on legislative strategy and disability-related policy in education, employment and healthcare, and has served as the lead staffer on the disability provisions of key pieces of legislation and on implementation oversight. Sharon will begin her work at HHS next month.

Sharon Lewis has over ten years of experience as a disability policy advocate. She currently serves as the Senior Disability Policy Advisor to U.S. House Committee on Education & Labor Chairman George Miller, a position she has held since 2007. In this capacity, she advises Chairman Miller and members of the Committee on legislative strategy and disability-related policy in education, employment and healthcare. Sharon also serves as the lead staffer on disability provisions of key pieces of legislation and on implementation oversight. During President Obama's transition, Sharon served as a member of the Department of Education Agency Review Team.

Previously, Sharon worked as a Kennedy Public Policy Fellow for U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Children & Families Chairman Chris Dodd. Prior to her work in Congress, Sharon coordinated Oregon's Partners in Policymaking program and *worked with the DD Coalition as the GO! Project Coordinator and the editor of the GO! Bulletin*. Sharon received her BFA from Washington University in St. Louis.

The Oregon DD Community Congratulates Sharon Lewis!

NEWS YOU CAN USE

THINK BEYOND THE LABEL

Think Beyond the Label is a national campaign that launched February 1, 2010 targeted at employers and hiring individuals with disabilities. It was developed by the Oregon MIG /CEP project along with 4 other states and is now being kicked off in 32 states. Those that have not already seen the video and web page, click on the following links for the Think Beyond the Label [Video](#) and [Website](#).

CONFERENCES

2010 ALL BORN 'IN' CROSS-DISABILITY INCLUSION CONFERENCE

April 17 2010 | 8:30AM - 5:30PM
Ambridge Event Center in Portland

The 2010 ALL BORN 'IN' Inclusion Conference for parents and professionals is hosted by the Northwest Down Syndrome Association (NWDSA). For more information, visit the [NWDSA](#) website.

AUTISM SOCIETY OF OREGON (ASO) 8TH ANNUAL AUTISM WALK-A-THON

April 18 2010 | 9:30AM registration 10:30AM walk begins

Oaks Park located at 7805 SE Oaks Park Way in SE Portland

The short one mile walk around Oaks Park property starts at 10:30am. And afterwards, many people stay to partake in the exciting rides or take in a picnic at Oaks Park. Autism Society of Oregon (ASO) will have discounted ride bracelets to purchase. Join us to celebrate the many faces and talents of autism at the largest autism awareness event in Oregon during Autism Awareness Month! For more information, visit the [ASO](#) website.

21ST ANNUAL OREGON PARENT TRAINING & INFORMATION CENTER (ORPTI)

CONFERENCE: RISE = Respect, Inspire, Support & Educate

April 30, 2010 - May 1, 2010

Salem Conference Center at 200 Commercial Street NE Salem

Cost: Parents \$150.00 / Professionals \$175.00

(Five meals are included with registration)

Vendors and exhibitors are invited share products and/or information. Please contact 503-581-8156, Ext. 105 or send the coordinator an [email](#) for additional information. This year's conference sponsors include Oregon Department of Education, Student Learning & Partnerships; The Swindells Child Resource Center; and Juntos Podemos Family Center. For more information visit the [OrPTI website](#) or [event registration](#).

THE 2010 OREGON DISABILITY MEGACONFERENCE

June 3-5, 2010

Hilton Eugene & Conference Center

CALL FOR PRESENTERS IS NOW AVAILABLE!

- Please visit the [event website](#)
- The deadline for submitting proposals is March 26, 2010.
- If you have any questions or need help completing the Presenter Application, please contact Family and Community Together (FACT) at 1-888-988-3228 or send the coordinator an [email](#) for additional information.

GO! Bulletins are published by the Oregon DD Coalition

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The mission of the Oregon DD Coalition is to promote quality service and supports which respectfully further the rights, equality, justice, and inclusion for all Oregonians with developmental disabilities and their families.