

October - December
2015

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Northshore Families Helping Families

It's who we are. It's what we do.



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Thank you for supporting Northshore Families Helping Families!

Providing programs & support to individuals with disabilities to build an inclusive community



Touch a Truck 2015 raised over \$17,000 to help Northshore Families Helping Families continue to provide resources to families in the community. Thank you for supporting our vision of building an inclusive community for individuals with disabilities. We truly appreciate it!

The work of NFHF, including publication of this newsletter, is funded by Florida Parishes Human Services Authority, Louisiana State Department of Education, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council, and is supported by corporate and individual contributions. Northshore Families Helping Families is a United Way recipient.

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BOARD

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MICHELLE ANDERSON
Advisory Board Members

You are always welcome at NFHF Board Meetings. Six meetings are held each year on the third Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be held Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 5:30 pm at the NFHF office. If you would like to address the board, call Sue Ellen Stewart at 985-875-0511.



NFHF Office:

204 W. 21st Avenue
Covington, LA 70433
(985) 875-0511
(800) 383-8700

info@fhfnorthshore.org

Office Hours:
9:00 am—4:00 pm
Monday—Friday

You can help make a difference by directly donating to our organization. Many companies are interested in donating to non-profit organizations and will match an individual's contribution.

Please contact Sue Ellen Stewart with questions.

DONATE

CLICK HERE TO GIVE >>



Mission: To provide the individualized services, information, resources and support needed to positively enhance the independence, productivity and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Vision: To ensure all individuals with disabilities have the opportunity to attend school, live, work, recreate in their own communities.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING NFHF!

Northshore Families Helping Families extends deepest thanks to the businesses and individuals who donated items for the raffle at Touch a Truck 2015:

Adventure Pets
 Alchimie Holistic
 Aloft Hotel
 Atlas Tire & Automotive
 Bella Style Salon
 Black & Gold Sports Shop
 Culinary Kids
 The Danenhower Law Firm LLC
 Hair We Are Salon
 Honey Baked Ham
 Learning Express of Mandeville
 The Little Gym of the Northshore
 Macaroni Grill
 Kristen Matherne - Thirty One Consultant
 Michael's Restaurant
 The Movie Tavern

Northshore Families Helping Families
 Oak Harbor Family Dentistry
 Painting with a Twist
 Personalized Stationery by Kelly Matherne
 Pinkberry
 Playville
 Salon Versailles
 Sam's Club
 Smoothie King
 Spokesman Bike Shop
 Trainer's Choice
 Villere's Florist
 Zoe's Bakery

Shout out to our volunteers! We could not have done it without your help!

Adelaide Lowery
 Alex Gatling
 Amy Kussman
 Angelina Peppers
 Ann Kallauner
 Ashleigh O'Neill
 Ben Robinson
 Bill Blain
 Bonnie Dutruch
 Caroline Puig
 Cole Cameron
 Derek White
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 Jeff Arseneaux
 Jennifer Brunning
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Justine Fucci
 Kathleen Kelly
 Larry Malter
 Luke Arceneaux
 Lynne Renihan
 Matthew Gardner
 Michael Holmquist
 Rebecca Ellis
 Roman Malter
 Sarah Danenhower
 Scott Smith
 Sharon Delvisco
 Sheilia Blain
 Sophia Jeminson
 Stacy Alexandria
 Sue Ellen Stewart
 Teresa Brown



Quarterly Events

OCTOBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Craft Time	3 Fall Festival Denham Springs
4	5	6 Region 9 Candidate Forum	7	8 Pagans, Piety and Pumpkins	9	10 Touch a Truck
11	12	13	14	15 Supported Employment Workshop	16 RICC Meeting	17 Breakfast and a Flick
18	19	20 RAC / Dinner Club - Mugshots	21 People First Northshore	22 Resource Information Workshop	23	24 Election Day / Pagans Piety, Pumpkins
25	26	27	28	29	30 Halloween Cookie Decorating	31 Halloween

NOVEMBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Bayou Jam Concert	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Louisiana Renaissance Festival	9	10	11	12	13	14 Three Rivers Art Festival
15 Three Rivers Art Festival	16	17 Dinner Club - Mellow Mushroom	18 People First Northshore	19 Advocacy Leadership Conference	20	21 Breakfast and a Flick
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Holiday	27 Book Fair Office Closed	28 Barnes & Noble Book Fair
29 Barnes & Noble Book	30					

DECEMBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Adult Program Holiday Party	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Breakfast with Santa
13	14	15	16 People First Northshore	17	18	19
20	21 Office Closed	22 Office Closed	23 Office Closed	24 Office Closed	25 Office Closed	26
27	28 Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30 Office Closed	31 Office Closed		

Free Education & Resource Webinars



Families Helping Families of Jefferson invites you to free webinars full of rich content. A webinar event is viewed right from your computer where you can watch, listen, and have the option to post questions and get LIVE responses. For a listing of webinars visit www.fhfjefferson.org and then click on “[What’s Going On](#)” and choose a topic and register. Families Helping Families of Jefferson, 201 Evans Road Building, Suite 100, Harahan LA 70123, 800-766-7736.

Louisiana Family to Family Health Information Center

[Slowdown in Healthcare Cost Increases are Real!](#)
[So Why Do Families Feel that Health Care Costs are Rising?](#)



NFHF NEWS



Northshore Families Helping Families, Louisiana Citizens for Action Now (LaCAN) and Louisiana Together Educating All Children (LaTEACH) Collaborated on an even that brought several Region 9 candidates together to share their views on disability related topics of interest to constituents. Questions were presented by two moderators: Mary Pirosko, FPHSA Board Member, and Chad Danenhowe, NFHF Board Chairperson.

Candidates who participated in the event were:

Louisiana Representative: Representative John Schroder and Reid Falconer

Louisiana Senator: Brett Duncan, Sharon Hewitt

Board of Elementary and Secondary Education: Lee Barrios, Jason Engen, Jim Garvey

[Click here to read the transcript from the Candidate Forum.](#)



LaTEACH is a statewide grassroots advocacy network created for the purpose of effecting systems change. LaTEACH promotes appropriate, inclusive education for all students. LaTEACH works to make parents, educators, the general public, and state leadership

informed and supportive of research-based and effective practices used appropriately for each student. If you believe all students, with or without disabilities, should be provided the same opportunities to be educated in neighborhood schools as their sisters, brothers, friends and neighbors, and should be provided the support to learn together effectively, then you should consider becoming a LaTEACH member. For more information, contact Region 9 LaTEACH Leader, Tammy Roblez at 985-710-0472 or Tammy.Roblez@lateach.org.



LaCAN is a statewide grassroots network of individuals, families and advocates who have worked together since 1988 advocating for a service system that supports individuals with disabilities to live in their own homes rather than having to be segregated from their communities in a facility to receive support. For more information, contact Region 9 LaCAN Leader, Sharon Delvisco at 985-875-0511 or laican.region9@gmail.com.



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 12th

9:00 am – 11:00 am

The Clarion Inn & Suites Conference Center

501 North Hwy 190

Covington, LA 70433

A Christmas Party for the families served by NFHF
to enable children with disabilities to enjoy the Christmas spirit of
Santa's sharing, caring and giving in an inclusive environment.

Every child receives a toy from Santa's Toy Shop
Mrs. Claus prepares a hot breakfast buffet

*Sponsored by Northshore Families Helping Families, Clarion Inn & Suites, Shot by Joel Photography
and funded by generous donations from the community*



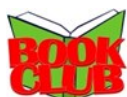
info@fhfnorthshore.org
www.fhfnorthshore.org
985-875-0511



Meet and Greet: Try It to See If You Like It Events - Adult Programs

The purpose of these events is to provide folks who are 16 and older with the opportunity to meet new people, have fun and try new things!

For more information call (985) 875-0511
or email SharonDelvisco@fhfnorthshore.org or JustineFucci@fhfnorthshore.org



Book & Journal Club meets on Wednesdays at 1 pm at St. John's Coffee Shop, 535 E Boston St in Covington. Upcoming dates: October 7, October 14, October 28, November 4, November 11, December 2, December 9



Friday, October 2nd at 12:30 pm - Craft Time at NFHF, 204 W 21st Avenue in Covington. Join us to create your own duct tape bag! Bring two rolls of duct tape (1 solid and 1 with a pattern). All other supplies will be provided.



Saturday, October 3rd at 10:00 am - Join us for the Fall Festival at Denham Springs Antique District on Range Avenue. Over 150 vendor booths line up in the middle of Range Avenue to sell antiques, art, greenery, crafts, and many more items. There is plenty of food, such as jambalaya, hamburgers, funnel cakes, and much, much more. Come stroll down Mattie Street a.k.a.

"Art Avenue" and hear live music at Train Station Park. All of the stores are open in the village with plenty of sales, so come and enjoy the day with us in the Antique Village. Contact Sharon Delvisco by October 1st for the meeting spot.

sharondelvisco@fhfnorthshore.org or 985-875-051



Thursday, October 8th from 6:00 pm until 7:30 pm - Pagans, Piety and Pumpkins: The Horrifying, Holy and Horticultural History of Halloween at the Madisonville Library, 1123 Main Street. Join us and learn about the history of Halloween and its ever changing celebrations throughout history presented by Dr. William Robinson. This event is organized by the St. Tammany Parish Library and is free and open to the public. Registration is recommended <http://register.stpl.us/evanced/lib/eventcalendar.asp> or 985-845-4819. Light refreshments will be available. Seating space is limited to adults.



Saturday, October 17th at 8:30 am - Breakfast and a Flick at Movie Tavern Northshore in Covington, 201 N Highway 190. "Bridge of Spies" (rated PG 13, Theatre 5). Breakfast items are \$5 to \$8 and drinks are \$3 to \$5. Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased in advance online at www.movietavern.com/locations/northshore.



Tuesday, October 20th at 6:00 pm - Dinner Club at Mugshots, 1950 Highway 190, Covington



Wednesday, October 21st from 1:00 pm until 2:30 pm - People First Northshore at the Arc of GNO Northshore Community Center, 106 E 25th Avenue, Covington. Stephanie Patrick from the Advocacy Center will present Voting Rights and Responsibilities Training. Come learn about People First and self-advocacy. Co-leaders are Perry Evans and Scott Smith. Advisors are Sharon Delvisco and Dawn Culbreath.



Saturday, October 24th from 3:00 pm until 4:30 pm - Pagans, Piety and Pumpkins: The Horrifying, Holy and Horticultural History of Halloween at the Madisonville Library, 1123 Main Street. Join us and learn about the history of Halloween and its ever changing celebrations throughout history presented by Dr. William Robinson. This event is organized by the St. Tammany Parish Library and is free and open to the public. Registration is recommended <http://register.stpl.us/evanced/lib/eventcalendar.asp> or 985-845-4819. Light refreshments will be available. Seating space is limited to adults.



Friday, October 30th at 1:00 pm - Halloween Cookie Decorating at NFHF, 204 W. 21st Avenue, Covington. More details soon!



Sunday, November 1st at 5:30 pm - Bayou Jam Concert Series at Heritage Park, 1701 Bayou Lane, Slidell. Join us for a free concert by Vince Vance and the Valiants as part of the Halloween Weekend Bash. We will meet under the tree on the right side of the state at 5:00 pm.



Sunday, November 8th at 9:45 am - Louisiana Renaissance Festival Mask Weekend, 46468 River Road, Hammond. Keep your Halloween mask for one more week and wear it again to the Ren-Fest. You are welcome to wear your entire costume to this family friendly event or dress as you would for an outdoor event. Price per ticket is \$12. Call Sharon Delvisco at NFHF to reserve your ticket - 985-875-0511. If you reserve your ticket, but do not attend the event, you will still owe Sharon \$12.



Tuesday, November 17th at 6:00 pm - Dinner Club at Mellow Mushroom, 1645 Highway 190, Covington.



Wednesday, November 18th from 1:00 pm until 2:30 pm - People First Northshore at the Arc of GNO Northshore Community Center, 106 E 25th Avenue, Covington. Come learn about People First and self-advocacy. Co-leaders are Perry Evans and Scott Smith. Advisors are Sharon Delvisco and Dawn Culbreath.



Saturday, November 21 at 8:30 am - Breakfast and a Flick at Movie Tavern Northshore in Covington, 201 N Highway 190. Movie TBA. Breakfast items are \$5 to \$8 and drinks are \$3 to \$5. Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased in advance online at www.movietavern.com/locations/northshore.



Friday, December 4th from 6:30 pm until 8:30 pm - Holiday Potluck Party at the West St. Tammany YMCA, 71256 Francis Road, Covington. Bring your favorite dish to share! Bring a present for a child between 5 and 10 years old to donate to Santa for the NFHF Breakfast with Santa event!



Wednesday, December 16th from 1:00 om until 2:30 pm - People First Northshore at the Arc of GNO Northshore Community Center, 106 E 25th Avenue, Covington. Come learn about People First and self-advocacy. Co-leaders are Perry Evans and Scott Smith. Advisors are Sharon Delvisco and Dawn Culbreath.

EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT NFHF!

Shop at AmazonSmile

and Amazon will make a donation to:
Northshore Families Helping Families

Get started

amazon smile

AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of your purchase total to Northshore Families Helping Families when you shop online at [AmazonSmile](https://www.amazon.com/smile). Be sure to select NFHF as your organization of choice and add the link to your bookmarks!



Visit www.goodsearch.com and select Northshore Families Helping Families as your cause.

Create a user profile that will allow you to keep track of your individual amount raised.

Use the search box on www.goodsearch.com or download a Good To-Go add-on to search the Internet just like you normally would, with the added bonus that you are earning a donation for virtually every search.



Louisiana Developmental
Disabilities Council

LaDDC NEWS

Community Inclusion and the ADA Resources to Fulfill the Promise

Two recent publications provide information on how we can work together to ensure all people with disabilities are fully included and participating members of their communities. One of the publications, timed to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), used five decades of research and the statements of people with disabilities themselves to conclude that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) have the best quality of life outcomes when they live in their own homes or with their families, with appropriate supports. The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) and the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) released [Community Living and Participation for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: What the Research Tells Us](#) to describe how their organizations “think the next 25 years of the ADA should translate into access, opportunity, and support for people with disabilities,” according to their Executive Directors.

The paper includes recommendations for policy makers and advocates to consider that will move us closer to realizing the goals of the ADA - equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities.

In another recently released publication, [The Case for Inclusion 2015](#), Louisiana is ranked 24th in the nation on how well State Medicaid programs serve people with I/DD and their families. This is a huge improvement from 2007 when the state was ranked 44th in the annual report produced by United Cerebral Palsy. Louisiana is ranked third in the nation in the provision of family support services that keep families together and individuals at home. However, Louisiana is one of nineteen states that do not meet the 80/80 Home and Community Standard of serving at least 80 percent of all resources spent on those with I/DD are for home (less than 7 residents per setting) and community support. There has been vast improvement in this area however, and Louisiana is listed as one of the most improved states.

In addition to state rankings, this publication includes strategies states have used to reduce waiver waiting lists, best practices on transition, and much more.

Both documents will prove valuable in our advocacy efforts to fully realize the promise of the ADA in Louisiana.

www.laddc.org



Louisiana Developmental
Disabilities Council

LaDDC NEWS

Invite Support Coordinator to IEP Meetings

Is your child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) coordinated with his Plan of Care? A simple step to improve communication and planning is inviting your child's support coordinator to the IEP meeting. Coordination of plans requires communication and communication is best done in-person. If your child has an IEP and receives services through the Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, consider informing your support coordinator of all key meeting dates held with your child's educational team. Support Coordination agencies were informed recently by the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities that participation in IEP meetings is permissible and recommended.

Having your child's support coordinator participate in school-based meetings is a great way to build relationships and ensure accurate and timely information goes into planning the services and supports your child needs. Information provided during school-based meetings may save you time in not having to repeat things later and offers the support coordinator the unique perspective from other professionals working with and caring for your child.

Voting Accommodations for Citizens with Disabilities

The Council has posted information to assist citizens with disabilities as they prepare to head to the polls on **Saturday, October 24, 2015**. Visit the [Voting Accommodations for Citizens with Disabilities](#) page for information on:

- * important dates, including the **September 23, 2015** registration deadline,
- * links to register to votes and find ballots on the [Secretary of State's website](#),
- * accommodations/accessibility laws and the voting hotline from the [Advocacy Center](#), and
- * survey results of candidates posted by [People First of Louisiana](#) and the [Advocacy Center](#).

This is an important election for Louisiana. Remember that your vote counts!

www.laddc.org



Louisiana Developmental
Disabilities Council

LaDDC NEWS

Registration Now Open for 2015 Advocacy Leadership Conference

Registration is now open for the 2015 Advocacy Leadership Conference: Creating a Meaningful Life that will be held in Baton Rouge on November 19, 2015. The conference will demonstrate that engaging in systems change advocacy and building natural supports for community inclusion create a meaningful life for individuals with developmental disabilities, as well as other in the community.

National speaker Al Condeluci and Deborah Whitfield will teach specific strategies for becoming systems change agents and building social capital and natural supports. The Council's [website](#) has more information about the conference speakers, registration costs, hotel reservations, and stipends for individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members.

Make plans to attend today!

2015 Advocacy Leadership Conference: Creating a Meaningful Life
Thursday, November 19, 2015
(Registration 8:00 - 8:45)
Marriott Hotel
5500 Hilton Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA

REGISTER NOW

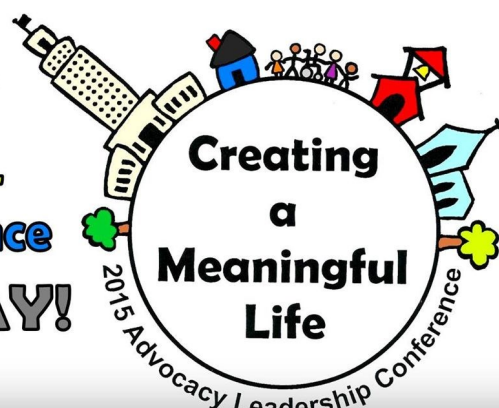
When: **NOVEMBER 19, 2015**

Where: **BATON ROUGE MARRIOTT**

Hosted by: **LOUISIANA DD COUNCIL**

More information: www.laddc.org/conference

REGISTER TODAY!



- * Individual and Family support;
- * Flexible Family Fund (formerly known as Cash Subsidy);
- * Personal Support Coordination;
- * Residential Placement (Community Homes and facilities);
- * Crisis Support; and
- * Home and Community Based Waiver Services such as New Opportunities Waiver (NOW); Children's Choice Waiver (CC); Support Waiver (SW); and Residential Options Waiver (ROW).

[View Brochure](#)

The Flexible Family Fund (FFF) program requires Florida Parishes Human Services Authority (FPHSA) to verify the FFF Service Request List. If you have applied for the FFF program, you will be receiving an “Annual Notice of Status and Request for Current Information” letter in the next two weeks. Once you receive the letter you will need to mail a current application and supporting documentation within 30 days of the date of the letter. If your child is a waiver recipient, you will need to submit a current copy of proof of income (copy of the most recent tax returns and all scheduled attachments for each family member). Included with your letter will be a Voter Registration application form and a Declaration form. Please complete these two forms and return them with your FFF application and supporting documentation. [View the letter](#)

FPHSA Provider Meeting

Florida Parishes Human Services Authority / Developmental Disabilities Services would like to invite you to attend the next provider meeting. All Region 9 providers who serve people in the New Opportunities Waiver, the Children's Choice Waiver, Supports Waiver and the Residential Options Waiver are strongly encouraged to attend. The building manager has requested that no one park in the rear of the building, as that is for employees and judges only. Park in the front and side parking lots of the building or on the street. The next meeting is:

1711 Nashville Ave., Hammond, LA 70401

Get Involved

NFHF is currently looking to grow our volunteer base.

If you are interested, [sign up here](#).

Regional Interagency Coordinating Council (RICC)

Each region in the state has a Regional Coordinating Council (RICC). This gives parents an opportunity locally to stay current with the latest information and provide valuable feedback to EarlySteps. Parent participation is needed at our Regional Interagency Coordinating Council Meetings. The next RICC meeting is:

January 2016

9 am - 11 am

Louisiana Workforce Commission

1711 Nashville Ave., Hammond, LA 70401

Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)

The Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) for Developmental Disabilities Services for Florida Parishes Human Services Authority, established by legislative act, ensures public input in an advisory capacity in the development and implementation of policies, procedures, and the allocation of resources to the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities. This input shall be derived from communication with, but not limited to, individuals with disabilities and their families and other concerned groups or individuals.. Give comments about an interest, need or concern about issues facing families or individuals with disabilities. Get information about resources that may be available for you or others. Region 9 RAC wants to hear from you! For more information on the Regional Advisory Committee, email: reachwithdisabilities@gmail.com. The next RAC meeting is:

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

10 am - 12 pm

Florida Parishes Human Services Authority , Room 58

835 Pride Drive, Suite B, Hammond, LA

RAC is Seeking New Members!

The Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) for Developmental Disabilities Services for Florida Parishes Human Services Authority, established by legislative act, ensures public input in an advisory capacity in the development and implementation of policies, procedures, and the allocation of resources to the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities. Over the next few months, the terms of several members will expire and the committee wants you to join! Positions needed: 2 adults with disabilities

If you live in the parishes of Washington, Tangipahoa, St. Tammany, St. Helena or Livingston please complete the [nomination form](#) and return it to Tamara Cannon - reachwithdisabilities@gmail.com.



Changes Are Coming to Behavioral Health Services

Starting Dec. 1, 2015, Medicaid behavioral health services and substance use treatment will be arranged through one of our five Medicaid Bayou Health Plans. This will include the following services:

- Outpatient behavioral health and substance use treatments
- Inpatient psychiatric hospital services
- Residential substance use treatment
- Other specialized behavioral health services for individuals meeting set criteria

Home and Community-Based Waiver recipients have received letters giving them the opportunity to choose a Bayou Health Plan for behavioral health services. If a Plan is not chosen, DHH will assign the recipient to one of the five Plans. To choose a Bayou Health Plan for behavioral health services, waiver recipients can call 1-855-BAYOU-4U (1-855-229-6848), enroll on-line at www.bayouhealth.com or fill out the Enrollment Form and mail using the return envelope that was provided with the letter.

Completion of the enrollment form on-line or by mail will not result in a waiver recipient being enrolled for any Medicaid health care services except behavioral health. **Choosing or not choosing a Bayou Health Plan for behavioral health services will not affect their waiver services.**

Some waiver recipients can also "opt in" to Bayou Health for other, physical health services. If they wish to receive other Medicaid health services such as physician or hospital care through a Bayou Health Plan, they must call-in to make the request by phone at 1-855-BAYOU-4U (1-855-229-6848). This also will not affect waiver services. If recipients do not call to opt-in to Bayou Health, they will continue to receive other Medicaid health care services in the same way they do today.

Bayou Health customer service representatives are available at 1-855-BAYOU-4U (1-855-229-6848) to assist members in selecting a Plan. Representatives are available Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The Bayou Health Plans are:



Visit www.MakingMedicaidBetter.com for news and to sign up for email updates on changes to Bayou Health.

[Learn the Impact of Bayou Health on Individuals with Disabilities](#)
[Join the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities and Medicaid](#)
[for 1 of 2 Webinars on October 27, 2015](#)



About EarlySteps

EarlySteps provides services to families with infants and toddlers aged birth to three years (36 months) who have a medical condition likely to result in a developmental delay, or who have developmental delays. Children with delays in cognitive, motor, vision, hearing, communication, social-emotional or adaptive development may be eligible for services. EarlySteps services are designed to improve the family's capacity to enhance their child's development. These services are provided in the child's natural environment, such as the child's home, child care or any other community setting typical for children aged birth to 3 years (36 months).

Services

Services the EarlySteps program provides include:

- * Assistive technology
- * Audiology
- * Health Services (family education, assistance with other EarlySteps services only)
- * Medical Services (evaluation only)
- * Nutrition Services
- * Occupational Therapy Services
- * Physical Therapy Services
- * Psychological Services
- * Service Coordination
- * Social Work Services
- * Special Instruction
- * Speech Language Pathology
- * Translation Interpreter Services (foreign language and sign language)
- * Transportation (to and from an EarlySteps service only)
- * Vision Services

Effective October 1, 2013 EarlySteps implemented a cost participation system which allows families to share in the cost for some early intervention services. Financial information is gathered during intake for children who are eligible for EarlySteps. Family size and income are used to determine if a family will be required to pay for some services.

The EarlySteps Process

Anyone can make an EarlySteps referral. Children can be referred to EarlySteps by contacting the [System Point of Entry](#) (SPOE) in their region. Once the [SPOE](#) receives the [referral](#), the family will be contacted to begin the eligibility determination process.

For more information call: 985-429-1252 or 1-866-327-5978



ADVOCACY CENTER

SOUTH LOUISIANA BENEFITS PLANNING PROGRAM

Provides Free Help for People who
Receive Social Security Disability Benefits

CALL 1-855-877-8599
for answers to the following questions:

- How does work affect my Social Security or SSI?
- Can I work and keep my Medicaid or Medicare coverage?
- How will work change my other benefits like Food Stamps, Subsidized Housing, Waiver Services, VA Benefits and Workers Compensation?
- How do I report my income to Social Security?
- What is a PASS plan?

This document is funded through the Social Security cooperative agreement. Although Social Security reviewed this document for accuracy, it does not constitute an official Social Security Communication.



ADVOCACY CENTER

Understanding the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act

The Advocacy Center (AC) is a statewide non-profit agency providing **FREE** legal services to people with disabilities and seniors.

What is an ABLE Account?

An ABLE account is a tax-free account that can be used to save for disability-related expenses for a person who became blind or significantly disabled before age 26.

Why is there a need for an ABLE Account?

People with disabilities have many expenses that others do not have. Yet, to qualify for public benefits like SSI, individuals have to remain poor, having no more than \$2,000 in cash savings, retirement funds and other items of significant value. This means that they cannot afford to pay for the extra expenses engendered by their disability. For the first time, eligible individuals will be allowed to establish ABLE savings accounts that will not affect their eligibility for SSI, Medicaid and other public benefits.

Who can set up an ABLE account?

ABLE accounts can be created by individuals who became significantly disabled before the age of 26, or by families to support their dependents with disabilities.



How much can an individual put in an ABLE account?

On an annual basis, an individual can contribute up to \$14,000. (This is equal to the federal gift tax exclusion amount in 2015, and will be adjusted annually for inflation). The total amount in an ABLE account is subject to the Louisiana limit for its education-related Section 529 START accounts, which currently is \$300,000.

Does an ABLE Account have an impact on other benefits a person with a disability might receive?

If the account grows to more than \$100,000, the beneficiary's SSI benefits will be suspended, but not terminated. The beneficiary would continue to be eligible for Medicaid. It is unclear whether other benefits, e.g. those provided by the State, would be affected if the account grows to more than \$100,000.

Which expenses are allowed by ABLE accounts?

Any expense associated with disability-related expenses. These include: education, housing, transportation, employment training and support, health care expenses, financial management and administrative services, assistive technology, personal support services, and other expenses which will be further described in regulations to be promulgated by the U.S. Treasury Department.

Can a person with a disability set up more than one ABLE account?

No. Each person is limited to one ABLE account.

Where can I go to set up an ABLE account?

States are charged with establishing and operating ABLE accounts before the end of 2015. The Advocacy Center will update this flyer when we have a definitive answer to this question.

What are the tax consequences of setting up an ABLE account?

- There is no federal tax on funds held in an ABLE account
- There is no federal tax when funds from the account are used for qualified expenses such as those listed above
- There is no federal tax deduction for someone who contributed to an ABLE account.

What happens upon the death of the person for whom an account was set up?

Upon the death of an eligible individual, any amounts remaining in the account must first be paid to any state Medicaid agency that provided assistance from the day the ABLE account was established, not to exceed the cost of care provided. Any excess over the Medicaid reimbursement amount will go to the deceased's estate or to a designated beneficiary and will be subject to income tax, but will not be subject to a penalty.

How is an ABLE account different than a special needs or pooled trust?

An ABLE account will provide more choice and control for the beneficiary and family. The cost of establishing an ABLE account will be less than that of establishing a trust. However, for some people, a trust will be preferable than an ABLE account. Determining which option is the most appropriate will depend upon individual circumstances. For many families, the ABLE account will be a significant and viable option in addition to, rather than instead of, a trust account.

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NOTE: The committee charged with establishing regulations governing Louisiana ABLE accounts is meeting but has not completed its work. As regulations are promulgated, AC will update this flyer. The purpose of this flyer is to provide general information about ABLE accounts and is not a substitute for legal advice based on individual circumstances.

If you need help or have questions about how the Advocacy Center assists people with disabilities and seniors, call or email us.

TOLL-FREE 1-800-960-7705 (Voice or Via Relay)
8325 Oak St • New Orleans LA 70118

www.advocacyla.org
advocacycenter@advocacyla.org
www.facebook.com/advocacyla

UP21 FOUNDATION IS PLEASED TO SPONSOR A DAY WITH DR. GEORGE T. CAPONE



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:00 - 8:30
Check-In

8:30 - 10:00
Pharmaceuticals
The past, the present,
and into the future

10:00 - 10:15
Break

10:15 - 11:30
Sleep and related issues

11:30 - 11:45
Break

11:45 - 1:00
Emotional, social, and
behavioral components of
Down syndrome

1:00 - 1:30
Lunch (provided)

1:30 - 3:00
Questions and answers for
medical professionals

AN OVERVIEW OF DOWN SYNDROME

Presented by Dr. George T. Capone, M.D.
Director of the Kennedy Krieger Down Syndrome Clinic and Research Center

Saturday, November 14, 2015
Courtyard Marriott, Covington, LA
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



Dr. Capone was born and raised in Connecticut and graduated from the University of Connecticut Medical School in 1983. He completed a pediatric residency at Children's Hospital and a clinical Fellowship in Neurodevelopmental Pediatrics in Cincinnati. Dr. Capone then moved to Baltimore where he completed a research fellowship in Neurobiology at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in 1990. From there, he joined the staff of Kennedy Krieger Institute. He has served as the director of the Down Syndrome Clinic and Research Center since 1991. Dr. Capone serves on several Advisory Boards and regularly publishes in areas related to Down syndrome, such as neurobehavioral, mental health, medical, sleep, and pharmaceutical trials. Dr. Capone currently resides in Maryland with his family and beloved dog; he has a daughter in California.

REGISTER ONLINE BY NOVEMBER 7TH
www.up21foundation.org



LOUISIANA HEALTHY
COMMUNITIES COALITION

HEALTHY FEST

A TOBACCO-FREE EVENT

MAKING IT FUN TO GET HEALTHY!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14
10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

City of Hammond Recreation Center • 601 W. Coleman St. • Hammond
9 A.M. 5K TANGI 100 WALK TO FIGHT DIABETES

FREE SCREENINGS FOR:

BREAST* | COLORECTAL | ORAL | HIV | DIABETES | BMI

*Appointment required for breast cancer screenings. Please call (888) 616-4687 to make an appointment.

There will also be blood pressure checks, health education,
fun activities for the entire family, food and entertainment,
Gospel Music Showcase provided by local churches.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Charity Gay
cgay@marybird.com
(225) 215-1207

Cheryl Klein
cklein@lphl.org
(985) 630-7640



LOUISIANA HEALTHY
COMMUNITIES COALITION
Florida Parishes

SAVE THE DATES
REACH 2015
December 3 - 4

Topics Include:

- Benefits
- Transition
- Post-Secondary Education
- Employment

For More Info:
laapse.org
facebook.com/LouisianaAPSE

Louisiana APSE
Association of People Supporting EmploymentFirst

Conference will take place at:
LSU Human Development Center
411 South Prieur Street, New Orleans



Louisiana Developmental
Disabilities Council



Family Game Night RELOADED!

August 7th, October 2nd, &
December 4th, 2015
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

SMH Wellness Pavilion/Community
Outreach Center (2nd Flr. Conf. Rm.)
501 Robert Blvd., Slidell, LA 70458



- New games + new format = the same ole fun!
- Every other month beginning in August, 2015.
- Family Jeopardy, Family Hangman, Carnival Games, Trivia, and more!
- Friendly family competition!
- Door prizes given with a grand prize in December!

WANTED: Volunteer host, timekeepers, and a rousing, engaging audience to cheer them on!

AUTISM SOCIETY
Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism
of Greater New Orleans
Phone: (504) 464-5733 • Email: info@asnngo.org • Website: www.asnngo.org