Welcome to the Future
Wearable Technology Helps Some Individuals with Disabilities

Wearable technology -- ranging from smartwatches to motion sensors -- is improving the quality of life for many individuals with disabilities. Bluetooth-enabled hearing aids allow users to adjust the device's settings with a smartphone application. Meanwhile, researchers at Georgia Institute of Technology are developing tongue magnets to allow individuals with limited mobility to control wheelchairs and other devices. Thanks to the Centers for Disease Control Disability Health Branch Updates for catching the article! Click here to read more.

Accessibility for All
by the Disability and Health Program (DHP)

Holiday Gift Ideas
With the holiday season right...
around the corner, this blog "about kids with special needs who kick butt" provides some great ideas for holiday gifts. Here's the list.

"Quiet Santa"
A Christmas Calm
Many children with autism miss out on spending time with Santa due to the overwhelming noise and crowds. This year, shopping centers and other venues around the country are hosting "quiet Santa" events by making their spaces "sensory friendly" for kids with special needs. Read more here!

Commit to Inclusion
Commit to Inclusion is a multi-partner campaign that supports the implementation of guidelines and programming to empower people with disabilities to lead healthy, active lifestyles. Their website features advocates for inclusion, upcoming events, and more. Visit their page by clicking here.

Get Involved!
Opportunities to Have Your Voice Be Heard

Call for Comments
Deadline: December 22, 2014
Seeking comment on amending the definition of

Webinars
Health Care Transition Training for Health Care Professionals
A series of 10 online modules that last approximately 15 minutes each, now available from FloridaHATS. This course (appropriate for any practitioner or support staff involved in the care of adolescents and young adults) offers free CME/CE for Florida physicians, nurses and allied professionals. It assists with developmental, legal, financial and social considerations in planning for transition from a pediatric to adult care model. The modules integrate new evidence-based materials and interactive tools and links to local services and resources. The modules can be accessed at www.FloridaHATS.org (available to all) or www.aheceducation.com (CME/CE for Florida practitioners).

About the DHP
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Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities; and waiver of iTRS Mandatory Minimum Standards. Click here for more information.

Advisory Committee
Nominations Needed
Deadline: January 12, 2015
The Federal Communications Commission has announced the formation of a Disability Advisory Committee and seeks nominations for membership. Click here for more information on the committee and the nomination process.

Tell Them What You Think
The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Idea Lab is looking for your thoughts, ideas, and input! The question is "What can we do to help use the power of information and communication technologies to reach every population that HHS serves?"
Comment here or send your input to allyn.moushey2@hhs.gov or tweet at @HHSIDEALab.

Call for Membership Extended
The Florida Department of Health's Community Resilience Program has established the new Functional and Access Needs (FANs) Workgroup and is in the process of seeking individuals who are interested in serving on this group. The interest
application survey is linked here.

Input Needed!
The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council is asking for you to take the Vocational Rehabilitation Needs Assessment Survey to help improve services throughout Florida. Click here to access the survey and here for a flyer with more information.

Wishing you Happy Holidays and a Healthy New Year!

Florida Disability and Health Program

Disclaimer: These links are provided for informational purposes, not to solicit donations to an organization nor to promote one organization or resource over another.