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

New Disability Awareness Training on Disaster Training

A new Disability Awareness Section has been added to the Just In Time Disaster Training Library. The section contains training videos on subjects such as "Autism and First Responders Seeing Beyond the Smoke", "Disability Awareness for Responders", "Disability Training for First Responders", and "Guide to First Responders for Evacuating People with Disabilities." With other 1,700 disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery training videos the library is the most comprehensive, easy to search, FREE internet based source for training curriculum for today's emergency responders. The library can be accessed here.

Long Term Outcomes in Children with Congenital Heart Disease

In a new study published in the Journal of Pediatrics, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) researchers examined the impact of congenital heart disease (CHD) on a child's daily life, other illnesses or conditions, and healthcare use. Researchers found that children with CHD are more likely to report worse health overall, to need more healthcare services, and to have other health conditions (e.g., autism, intellectual disability, or asthma), compared to children without CHD. This information will be helpful to parents and healthcare providers to ensure that children with CHD receive needed services. Please visit here for a summary of the key findings from this paper or view this article's abstract here. For more information on heart defects, please visit CDC's congenital heart defects website: http://www.cdc.gov/heartdefects

New Concussion Guide Helps Parents Support Recovery

Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center released a 26-page guide that offers practical advice to parents on how to recognize the signs and symptoms of a concussion, information on treatment and recovery, and what a parent can do to support a child's recovery and successful return to school.

The new "Parent's Guide to Returning You Child to School After a Concussion" advises parents of children who have been diagnosed with a mild traumatic brain injury also known as concussion, on how to help their
child successfully return to school and related activities. To view the guide, please visit: http://dvbic.dcoe.mil/

Use Medicines Wisely

The U.S. Food an Drug Administration's Office of Women’s Health now has a new version of Using Medicines Wisely for self-advocates and women with vision issues based on Association of University Centers on Disabilities -led discussion groups with women who have a disability. Use Medicine Wisely, reviews important questions to ask health care professionals and other helpful tips. Now there are three new versions available including, "Use Medicines Wisely" large font version, "Use Medicines Wisely" printable/refreshable braille, and "Use Medicines Wisely" for women with intellectual disabilities and self advocates. To access these guides, please visit: http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ByAudience/ForWomen/ucm118574.htm

Fashion Forward: Designing Fashionable and Functional Clothing For Clients with Disabilities

Project Runway may have a bigger following right now, but Michigan Institute Technology’s (MIT) Open Style Lab is sure to change more lives than the designers alone. The Style Lab is dedicated to design clothing for clients with amputations, spinal cord injuries, early-onset arthritis, and other disabilities. Launched with funding from MIT and other sponsors, The Style Lab is comprised of eight student teams dedicated to making fashionable and functional clothing for their clients. Thanks to FAAST 411 for bringing this article to our attention! To read more on this, click here.

iOpening: iPad Optimization for Children with Special Needs

BridgingApps is the internet’s largest database of special needs apps and reviews, co-founded by Sami Rahman. Rahman recently released his book Getting Started: iPads for Special Needs and shares 10 of his top insights here.

New Source for Emergency Preparedness Efforts News

The Community Resilience Program’s Vulnerable Populations Emergency Preparedness Section has created the FANsCOMM newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide periodic updates on the Florida Department of Health's Community Resilience Program's projects related to emergency preparedness efforts to address the needs of people with disabilities and functional and access needs; and to circulate press releases, training opportunities, and other news items pertaining to the national, state and local levels. For more information, contact Janet Collins

Get Involved

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

Tell us 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.

About the DHP

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Social Security Increase for 2015

On October 22, the Social Security Administration announced a 1.7 percent cost of living increase for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income beginning in January 2015. Read more here.

Notable Resources

Planning for the Long-Term Well-Being of Your Loved One: The Special Needs Alliance (SNA) is a nonprofit, national organization committed to helping individuals with disabilities, their families, and the professionals who serve them.

Supporting the Development and early language and literacy: ZERO TO THREE recently launched a new multimedia web portal designed to provide parents, professionals, and policy makers with resources to help close the "word gap." It features resources in both English and Spanish, including mobile apps, interactive online tools, videos, infographics, podcasts, policy materials, and more.

Best,

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.

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