



Connecticut Disability Advocacy Collaborative Bulletin

“Enhancing the effectiveness of disability activism by organizing and empowering individuals, families, groups, and organizations!”

Empowerment! Opportunity! Justice!

June - July, 2010

To include information in next month's Bulletin please contact us!

Stan Kosloski, 860-614-8351 or StanKosloski@ct-dac.org
Jayne Kleinman, 203-631-4800 or JayneKleinman@ct-dac.org
Website: <http://www.ct-dac.org/contactus.htm>

In This Issue	Page
Details on 2010 Disability Convention and Expo	1
Rev. John Carr elected DAC President	3
20 th Anniversary of signing of the ADA	4
Other news: artists with disabilities, summer camps, DD Council looking for members, LD & Disability Service Coordinators, Judy Heumann appointed to new position, CACT Annual Meeting, CPAC summer picnic, & BRS Council to meet	4

With the 2010 Disability Convention and Expo only ten weeks away, and the 20th anniversary of the signing of the ADA just five weeks away, the editors of the Bulletin decided to focus this month's publication of those two events. Additional news items appear beginning on p. 4.

The 2010 Disability Convention and Expo is set for Saturday, August 28, 2010 at the CT Expo Center, 265 Reverend Moody Overpass in Hartford (off I-91, Exit 33). Doors will open at 10 am and close at 4 pm. There is no charge to attend.

The 2010 Convention and Expo is the 3rd event of this type the Disability Advocacy Collaborative has put on, the initial Convention and Expo having taken place in 2006. Initially conceived as a candidates' forum, the then Steering Committee of the Collaborative thought that

by including an exposition feature more people would be inclined to attend. They were correct, as 700-800 individuals with disabilities, their families and friends, advocates and service providers made their way to Hartford on a sticky September Saturday. The 2nd event in 2008 drew between 800-900 attendees.

The Candidates' Forum

This year's event promises to be particularly interesting as there are no incumbents in the running for Governor, U.S. Senate, Attorney General, and Secretary of State. All offices will be filled with newcomers, and at this point, all the races promise to be close. Candidates for these offices will receive a special invitation to attend, as will candidates for the five Congressional seats that will also be on the ballot in November. Although all candidates will be invited, the Collaborative is focusing its energies on the Governor's race.

With substantial input from a broad cross-section of the disability world, the Collaborative has developed a ten point agenda it intends to present to the candidates for Governor. It also is asking local advocacy groups to share the agenda with the candidates for state Representative and state Senate.

The Collaborative's agenda has a major focus on community integration, and calls for a reform of the state's system of providing community based services through Medicaid waivers, full implementation of the Money Follows the Person demonstration project, and maximizing the use of the recently enacted health care reform legislation to expand community living opportunities for children and adults with disabilities, including older adults.

A key recommendation of the agenda asks that the next Governor appoint an individual in the Governor's office to be a disability point person; this person would be responsible for promoting and monitoring the policies and practices noted in the above paragraph, seek inclusion of individuals with disabilities in state affirmative action plans, and be responsible for state compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Other agenda items cover workforce development, transportation, housing, medications, respite care, and vocational rehabilitation.

The Collaborative is currently seeking meetings with the candidates for Governor in order to present them with the agenda, and invite them to the Convention and Expo in August.

The Exposition

In 2006 there were seventy exhibitors and in 2008 there were eighty. They included durable medical equipment providers, technology businesses, van modification companies, private service providing agencies, advocacy organizations, and state agencies. If you are a part of an entity that fits with any of these descriptions, make sure your business, agency, or organization is there – go to: www.ct-dac.org and download an exhibitor's booth registration form. Although the registration deadline is not until July 24, sign up now to ensure you get a prime location.

The standard fee for a 10'x10' booth is \$375, but small organizations with fewer than ten employees get a special rate of \$100, provided they provide volunteer support before or during

the Convention and Expo. Larger size spaces are also available for van modification and durable medical equipment businesses.

Through the courtesy of the Connect-Ability project, this year's Convention and Expo will feature a section devoted to employment. Plans are not yet final, so stay tuned to an update in the July – August *Bulletin*.

Other Features of the 2010 Disability Convention and Expo

As in the past, funds will be made available to agencies and organizations that would like to help transportation disadvantaged people to attend the Expo. A \$200 stipend will be offered and mileage costs reimbursed for any agency or organization that transports at least four individuals with disabilities to the event. This is a great opportunity designed to overcome one of the biggest barriers individuals must overcome to attend statewide events.

Through the good graces of the Center for Disability Rights (CDR) in West Haven, the Collaborative has secured an intern to help plan and implement the 2010 Convention and Expo. Joe Cohan from Madison begins his internship this week. Joe is a cum laude graduate from Southern CT State University and recently completed an internship in Congresswoman's Rosa DeLauro's office. The Collaborative thanks CDR's Executive Director Marc Gallucci for his generosity.

The Collaborative also wishes to thank the following organizations for their support:

- Platinum Sponsor– the State Independent Living Council
- Gold Sponsor – Connect-Ability
- Silver Sponsor – Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Bronze Sponsor - Ride-Away Corporation, the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities, and the Arc of CT.

Putting on event like the Convention and Expo requires the support, financial and in-kind, of many organizations and agencies, and the Collaborative appreciates the support and cooperation it receives from the above entities and many more, too numerous to mention.

At the urging of the DD Council, the 2010 Convention and Expo will include activities devoted to visual and performing arts. A display of the works of visual artists is being arranged and the Shared Ability dancers will perform. Shared Ability is a concept that pairs people with disabilities and those without in dance. Brad Roth, who lives in Milford and teaches dance at Fairfield University and Eastern Connecticut State University, has pioneered Shared Ability dance in Connecticut for over a decade.

The cost of lunch at the Expo Center has been a problem in the past for attendees on fixed incomes. The DAC Board is working on a solution, possibly providing tickets to those on fixed incomes that will give them a discount at the café check-out register.

Rev. John Carr Elected President

At its May meeting the Collaborative Board of Directors elected Reverend John Carr of Wallingford as its President. John is a veteran disability rights activist who has pushed for greater accessibility to religious communities for people with disabilities for decades. In the 80s he served several terms as the President of the CT Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities. He will work closely with Collaborative Executive Director Stan Kosloski to promote the Collaborative's agenda.

Five weeks to the ADA Commemoration

The ADA Coalition of CT is wrapping up plans for a special activity the afternoon of Monday, July 26 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The event will be held at the State Capitol from 2 – 4:30 pm and the public is invited to attend. Former U.S. Senator and CT Governor Lowell Weicker will be a special guest and he will share his perspective on the ADA twenty years after he worked so hard as a U.S. Senator to see it passed. A fifteen-minute commemorative video addressing ADA implementation in CT will be shown, produced by the public relations firm Mintz and Hoke in Avon. The video is being funded through the generosity of Connect-Ability. A panel presentation is also being planned, to be followed by a challenge to us all to continue to work to make the promise of the ADA a reality. A reception will follow the afternoon's activities.

Other ADA anniversary news: A blog on the federal government's web site "[Disability.gov](http://disability.gov)" examines the ramifications of the ADA, historical points leading up to its creation, and how supporting the rights of individuals with disabilities supports all Americans. You are invited to present your personal perspectives on how your life has been touched by the ADA. Link: <http://blog.govdelivery.com/usodep/2010/04/countdown-100-days-to-the-ada.html>.

Artists with Disabilities to Show their Works

A Juried Exhibition of visual art created by artists with disabilities is being held from June 11th – August 20th at the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism Gallery, One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor, Hartford. Entitled "CHANGE: A Juried Exhibit of Visual Art Created by Artists with Disabilities", the exhibit can be seen Monday - Friday from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Visitors should sign in at security desk and take the elevator to the 2nd Floor. For more information go to the Commission's web site: www.cultureandtourism.org.

SERC Releases Directory of Summer Camps

The State Education Resource Center has published its 2010 edition of the Directory of Summer Camps and Programs for children with disabilities in Connecticut. SERC Director Marianne Kirner notes that inclusion in the directory does not indicate that the camp has been reviewed and/or approved by SERC or the Connecticut State Department of Education. The listings are

provided solely as a resource for general information. To order a directory call SERC, which is located at 25 Industrial Park Road in Middletown, at (860) 632-1485.

The Council on Developmental Disabilities is Seeking New Members

The CT Council on Developmental Disabilities is taking applications for Council membership from people with developmental disabilities and parents of children with developmental disabilities. Selected applicants will be interviewed in mid-July. Recommendations for appointment to the Council will be submitted to the Governor's Office. Council members serve a three (3) year term that is renewable for another 3 years.

Council meetings are generally held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of January, March, June, September and November. Council Members are also expected to participate on one of the Council's standing committees and at least one site visit evaluation of Council grantees. Council members are reimbursed for meeting expenses and receive a small stipend.

Applications for Council membership can be obtained by contacting the Council Office, 460 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106-1308 at (860)418-6160.

Finding LD and Disability Services Offices

To locate the Learning Disability (LD) and Disability Services (DS) contact persons for students on Connecticut college and university campuses go to: www.cped.uconn.edu/LD-DSS.html.

Heumann Joins State Department

Judith Heumann, an international leader in the disability rights movement and a friend to many in CT, has joined the U.S. Department of State as their Special Advisor for International Disability Rights. This position was announced last summer, when President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton declared that the United States would sign the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Heumann resigned her position as Director of the Department on Disability Services for the District of Columbia, and assumed her new position at the Department of State on June 7, 2010.

CACT to hold Annual Meeting

On Wednesday, June 23 at 11:30 am the CT Association of Community Transportation will hold its Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon at the Indian Hill Country Club, 111 Golf St., Newington. The event provides an opportunity to recognize the people who have helped promote and improve public transportation in Connecticut. To register, or if you have any questions, contact Gloria Mills at (860) 844-8594 or email her at gills.cact@snet.net. The cost to attend, including lunch, is \$35.

CPAC's Annual Friends & Family Summer Picnic

The CT Parent Advocacy Center has invited family and friends to its annual picnic scheduled for Saturday July 17, 2010 from 12:00 pm-4:00 pm at Camp Harkness, 301 Great Neck Road Waterford. This year CPAC is featuring Children's Yoga and "Drumming About You" with Bob Bloom. To register, call 1-800-445-2722 or fill out the online registration form at

www.cpacinc.org/cpac-friends-and-family-summer-picnic-registration by July 7, 2010.

BRS Council to Meet

On Wednesday, July 21 from 1:00 – 3:30 pm, the bi-monthly meeting of the BRS State Rehabilitation Council will be held at the Southeastern Mental Health Authority (SMHA), 401 West Thames Street, Building 301, Norwich. All meetings of the Council are open to the public. If you plan to attend, need accommodations, or have questions, contact Evelyn Oliver Knight at 860-424-4871 or evelyn.knight@ct.gov.

**For four years the Collaborative was supported in a number of different ways by Communitas, Inc.
To George, Pat and Bev we extend our deep appreciation.**