



Clallam Connection

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March—April 2012

MANY ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES DO NOTHING ALL DAY

A significant number of adults with developmental disabilities have no regular, daily activities, a situation that's symptomatic of larger problems, new research indicates.

The finding comes from a survey of nearly 800 siblings of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities from across the country. In nearly 13 percent of cases, siblings reported that their brothers and sisters with disabilities were not involved in any sort of routine vocational or educational activities.

And the number is likely higher than that, researchers said, noting that based on how they solicited responses to their survey, participants likely tended to be higher earners and more educated than the population as whole.

Overall, those with nothing to do tended to be individuals with more emotional, behavioral or health problems and lower functioning abilities, according to the study published recently in the *American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*.

They were also more likely to have parents who were less able to provide care and be underserved by the community. Strikingly, the researchers said that adults with nothing to do had three times the number of unmet needs for services as compared to those who were working, volunteering or attending school.

"The lack of any vocational or educational activity may itself constitute a marker for those adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are most in need of intervention and formal supports," wrote lead author Julie Lounds Taylor of Vanderbilt University and her colleagues in the study.

Beyond the impact on individuals with disabilities themselves, the researchers point out that siblings of those without any regular activities reported having poorer mental and physical health than other siblings as well as weak relationships with their brother or sister, calling into question their viability as long-term caregivers.

"Ultimately, if we are going to help adults with disabilities (and their loved ones) live more fulfilling lives, we need to work harder to understand the characteristics and effects that occur when adults with disabilities are doing nothing," the researchers wrote.

- *Disability Scoop*

Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood.

- Helen Keller

FEWER PARENTS GO IT ALONE AT IEP MEETINGS

Increasingly frustrated by difficult negotiations with school districts, more parents are turning to special education advocates and attorneys for help.

Once a rare presence at individualized education program, or IEP, meetings, advocates are often-times parents who began navigating the special education system for their own children and now assist others as volunteers or for a fee.

Advocates don't need any special credentials, but they typically accompany parents to IEP meetings and can even help file due-process claims. And their ranks have grown in recent years, while the number of attorneys specializing in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act has also increased.

School districts are not always pleased to see a professional advocate across the table at an IEP meeting, but parents who have employed them say advocates can make all the difference and often cost significantly less than an attorney.

"If you have never been to an IEP meeting, you have no idea how intimidating that they can be, even for a very confident person... Everyone should have an advocate go with them," one mom told the Orlando Sentinel.

- *Disability Scoop*

**Autism Information
and
Family Support Group
forming in Clallam County — led by parent,
Advocate, and Mosaic Board
Member: Kim Ortloff, Attorney.**

If you would be interested in learning more, please contact Kim at kim@olypentitle.com

Yaka Koda Camp Retreat 2012

Sponsored by The Arc of Kitsap & Jefferson Counties and Mosaic of Clallam County

Dates: June 15, 16 & 17

Location: Beautiful Camp Lyle McLeod, Belfair, WA

For adults with developmental & intellectual disabilities 18 years and older in Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap Counties. Contact Jenell DeMatteo at the Arc of Kitsap & Jefferson Counties, 3243 N. Perry Ave, Bremerton, WA 98310 or call (360) 377-3473 for an application.

DON'T FORGET

- **DDAC Meeting** — Thursday, March 1st; 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. has been cancelled. The next meeting will be May 3rd at the Sequim Prairie Garden Club in Sequim, 5:30-7:30pm.
- **Snap (Mosaic) Classes** — Snap offers a wonderful collection of classes and events this Winter for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Classes are open to everyone in Clallam and Jefferson Counties. Winter brochures are available now. Sign up early. Classes include: Theater Art Design & Construction, Recreation Club, Drumming with Dave, Theatre Production, Recycled Art, Anthropology Travelers. Please check out Snap's (Mosaic's) website at www.snapforall.org for more information. Or contact Bonne Smith at 681-8642.
- **Snap (Mosaic) Events** — Social & Dance event will be held on March 17th from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Olympic Vineyard Christian Fellowship in Port Angeles—come on and dance! \$3.00 cover charge.



AND AROUND TOWN



Olympic Driftwood Sculptors — 4th Annual Winter Show. March 10th & 11th at the Dungeness River Audubon Center at Railroad Bridge Park, 2151 W. Hendrickson Road, Sequim. Show hours are 10am to 4pm. Admission is free, cameras are welcome! For more info, phone 681-2535 or visit www.olympicdriftwoodsculptors.org

Sequim Soroptomists 14th Annual Garden Show. March 17th, 9am-5pm and March 18th, 9am-4pm at the Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula, 400 W. Fir, Sequim. Admission is \$5.00 per person. For more information, visit www.sequimgardenshow.com



2nd Annual Rock, Gem and Jewelry Show. March 24th, 9am-6pm and March 25th, 10am-5pm at Vern Burton Community Center, 308 E. 4th Street, Port Angeles. Admission is free.

SNAP CHANGES NAME TO MOSAIC

Mosaic's mission is to provide opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to access educational resources to build skills, develop confidence to make choices independently, and lead a full life. Mosaic serves as a leader for community outreach and education by creating opportunities to minimize social isolation and stereotyping.

Go to www.snapforall.org for more information.

A Snappy Players Production

"The KSNAP Radio Variety Show; The Battle Between Funk and Disco"

Saturday, March 3,
2 and 7 p.m.

Olympic Theater Arts
416 Sequim Dungeness Way North
Sequim

Suggested donation \$6 at the door.
House opens one hour prior to showings. Proceeds support Mosaic, a program empowering people with developmental disabilities.



Savannah, actor Cassie Puff, finds the '70's nightlife enchanting, but not everyone shares her enthusiasm. No, Coco wants to go home.

Once the KSNAP Radio Variety Show cast overcomes their travel shock into the future, they discover two nightclubs locked in a music battle; the battle between Funk and Disco. Will they find DJ, or ever learn how to dance to "Funkytown" or see their beloved 1950's again?



Actor, Marjorie Mongel watches as the dance battle rages between Olivia, actor Joy Morrill, and Tiffany, actor Bonnie Cates.



Empowering People with Developmental Disabilities for a More Viable Community



MARCH AS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

The Clallam County Board of County Commissioners formally proclaimed March as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month at their February 28, 2012 meeting. The theme for this year's celebration is "Our Community is Better Together". In the proclamation, the commissioners asked people to take the time to meet someone with a disability and learn what they have to offer Clallam County. The full Proclamation can be seen on our website at <http://www.clallam.net/HHS/HumanServices/DevelopmentalDisabilities.html>.

Developmental disability is a natural part of the human experience and affects about 45 million Americans and their families. All people with developmental disabilities can be productive, contributing members of their communities! We encourage residents of Clallam County to understand that when people with disabilities are welcomed into local neighborhoods, workplaces, houses of worship, and schools everyone wins. During this celebration, we recognize the valuable contributions that people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities are making to their communities every day. People with developmental disabilities help form the very fabric of our local community.

To learn more about developmental disabilities please check out the following sites

Facebook at : <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Clallam-County-Health-Human-Services-Developmental-Disabilities/284158471625659>.

Website at: <http://www.clallam.net/HHS/HumanServices/DevelopmentalDisabilities.html>

BUSINESS LEADERSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENCES

Business professionals from businesses and agencies from around the county met on February 23rd at the Clallam County Courthouse. The group discussed how to increase the business community's and the general public's awareness of how individuals with developmental disabilities can function in the workplace. Attendees at the meeting included representatives from Safeway- Port Angeles, Grocery Outlet, the Red Lion Inn, SARC, Lee Shore Boats, the YMCA, the Oak Street Center, First Step Family Support Center and Jace Realty. These business leaders were chosen to participate on a newly created subcommittee of the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council (DDAC) based on their expertise and dedication to hiring individuals with developmental and other disabilities. The DDAC is to act in an advisory capacity to the Board of County Commissioners and the Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services (CCHHS) regarding the provision of services for individuals with developmental disabilities in Clallam County. Agenda items for the meeting included purpose/role of the subcommittee, an overview of the DDAC, brainstorming strategies to meet the needs of businesses when considering hiring individuals with disabilities and to assist CCHHS Developmental Disabilities staff in building community awareness of the benefits of hiring individuals with developmental disabilities. The Business Leadership Advisory Committee will be meeting every three months to continue to develop strategies, supports and marketing approaches that are effective and business friendly. To attend the next meeting or for further information, please contact Nancy Wiltshire, CCHHS case manager, at 360-417-2407 or Tim Bruce, CCHHS planner at 360-417-2377. Interested businesses may also find detailed information on employing individuals with disabilities at: http://www.clallam.net/HHS/HumanServices/DD_EmployerResources.html

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Clallam County Health & Human Services
Developmental Disabilities
223 E. 4th Street, Suite 14
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Got a Story? Got News? Contact Tim Bruce at
360-417-2428 or tbruce@co.clallam.wa.us

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TO END THE WORD
www.r-word.org