



Be In the Know

Hanover Arc – email info@hanoverarc.org to receive Hanover Arc's E-news information.

Arc of Virginia – subscribe to Action Alert on the Arc of VA website to be informed about legislative activities and how to let your voice be heard. www.arcofva.org

Hanover County Public Schools' Parent Resource Center – subscribe to receive updates about workshops and resources. Wouldn't it be a shame if you missed Disability Trust Planning or the Living with Autism Discussion Group?

<http://hcps2.hanover.k12.va.us/instruction/parentresource/index.htm>.

Federal Stimulus Funds for Additional Vocational Rehabilitation Services

As a result of passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services is receiving supplemental funds. Effective May 1, 2009, DRS will once again be providing services to consumers who are the most significantly disabled (MSD). DRS will be notifying the 1,100+ MSD waiting list individuals that they may be served and asking them to schedule an appointment with their counselor **if** they still need services to become or stay employed. New applicants who meet eligibility and are the most significantly disabled also will be served.



Your Ukrop's Golden Gift Certificate will be mailed to you in May. Please donate your certificate to Hanover Arc and support children and adults with disabilities. Please mail your certificate by June 1, 2009 to Hanover Arc PO Box 91 Ashland, VA 23005 or drop off at 112 A Thompson Street Ashland.

Extended School Year?

A free appropriate public education (FAPE), for some students with disabilities, may require a program of special education and related services in excess of the normal school year. Determining the need for Extended School Year (ESY) services must be presented in the context of the IEP process and completed at an IEP meeting. **The IEP team should consider the need for these services initially and at least annually**, as an integral part of any IEP meeting. The IEP team must determine whether the benefits the child gained during the regular school year will be **significantly jeopardized** if the student does not receive ESY. Based on this analysis, if ESY is determined to be required, these services, at no cost to the parent, will vary in type, intensity, location, inclusion of related services, and length of time, depending on the individual needs of the student. An excellent document about ESY is available online:

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/Sped/ESYdoc.pdf>

Because You

Members and friends of Hanover Arc were very active with the 2009 VA General Assembly along with the Arc of Virginia and other local Arcs. Because you rallied, spoke, wrote, visited, called and emailed the legislators acted!

Results of Advocacy in the VA General Assembly

- Funding for 800 new Medicaid MR Waivers in the 2008-2010 Biennium to reduce the waiting list for services.
- Passage of House Bill 2674 and Senate Bill 1501 which require:
 - The Department of Medical Assistance Services to add 400 new MR Waiver slots and 67 new Developmental Disability (DD) Waiver slots in the Medicaid budget forecast each fiscal year until the waiting lists are eliminated.
 - The Governor to develop a plan for eliminating the MR and DD Waiver waiting lists by the 2018-2020 biennium which will be presented to the House Appropriations Committee, the Senate Finance Committee and the Joint Commission on Health Care by October 1, 2009.
- \$18.4 million in capital outlay funds to create community-based housing for people with intellectual disabilities currently living in state-operated institutions.
- A 2009 study to examine housing needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities currently living in the community.
- A 2% increase in MR Waiver group home reimbursement rates.
- As a result of advocacy at the national level, restoration of several cuts related to caps on enrollment and services offered through the Medicaid Home and Community Based Waivers due to requirements of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
- \$9 million to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for agency and consumer-directed personal care assistance.
- Legislation passed taking initial steps to eliminate references to "the R word" (retardation) in state code, beginning with the name change of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to "the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services" effective July 1, 2009.

If you are a member of Hanover Arc look for the Arc of Virginia's Annual Report in your mailbox in May. You will receive a free ALLY bumper sticker to show your support for *A Life Like Yours!*

Not A Member? – Join the Arc
Be an ALLY in the *A Life Like Yours* Movement!

Hanover Arc, Inc. PO Box 91 Ashland, VA 23005 (804) 798-2400

Email: info@hanoverarc.org web: hanoverarc.org

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