



OFFICE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

All Abilities Newsletter

3rd Quarter Edition (July 2024)



Americans with Disabilities Act

Celebrate the ADA! July 26, 2024

The 34th Anniversary of the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA)

On July 26, 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law.

- ✚ This law protects the rights of people with disabilities.
- ✚ Disability rights are civil rights. From voting to parking, the ADA is a law that protects people with disabilities in many areas of public life.

What is a Disability Under the ADA?

The ADA defines a person with a disability as someone who:

- ✚ Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, or
- ✚ Has a history or record of an impairment (such as cancer that is in remission), or
- ✚ Is regarded as having such an impairment by others even if the individual does not actually have a disability (such as a person who has scars from a severe burn that does not limit any major life activity).

US Department of Justice- ADA Information Line



Have questions about the ADA? Call the U.S. Department of Justice ADA Information Line.

- 800-514-0301 (voice)
- 1-833-610-1264 (TTY)

What Information does the Infoline Provide?

- Requirements of the ADA
- How the ADA applies to your situation
- How to file a complaint
- Answers to technical questions

Website: <https://www.ada.gov/>

Regional Contact:



Region 2

New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands

Website: <https://www.northeastada.org/>

Address:

Cornell University: ILR School
201 Dolgen Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853

Phone: (607) 255-6686 (V/TTY)*

Fax: (607) 255-2763

Email: northeastada@cornell.edu (link sends e-mail)

*Spanish: Yessica M. Guardiola Marrero

Upcoming ADA Learning Events Calendar:

<https://adata.org/events-calendar/upcoming>



Office of the Chief Disability Officer

Let's Talk Disability Etiquette!

The Office of the Chief Disability Officer (CDO) advocates on behalf of people with disabilities to represent the issues people with disabilities face. The CDO works to break down silos between state agencies that provide services to people with disabilities, improve diversity, equity, and inclusion for people with disabilities, pushes for progress on state-wide accessibility issues, provides a disability perspective on policy proposals, legislation, state agency operations, and diligently connects with communities and advocates on a wide spectrum of disability issues.

Disability etiquette resources:

- ✚ [Disability Etiquette: Physical and Sensory](#)
- ✚ [Disability Etiquette: Intellectual, Developmental, Mental Health and Communication](#)
- ✚ [Protecting Your Rights](#)



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Public Meetings:



All information regarding meetings can be found on the [OPWDD Events page](#).

- + **August 6, 2024:** Autism Spectrum Disorders Advisory Board Meeting
- + **September 24, 2024:** Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board Meeting
- + **September 25, 2024:** Family Support Services Quarterly Meeting

OPWDD 2024 Strategic Planning Forums

The forums will focus on providing you with a brief update on OPWDD's work on their 2023 – 2027 OPWDD Strategic Plan and on hearing feedback. This year they have added a question-and-answer period where the OPWDD team will answer questions pre-submitted by participants and, as in past years, they'll end with a public comment period where you can share your thoughts with OPWDD leadership and staff.

OPWDD wants to hear from people with developmental disabilities, families, caregivers, providers, Direct Support Professionals, Care Coordination Organizations, and anyone else who interacts with the OPWDD service delivery system. It is necessary to pre-submit your question if you would like to have it answered at the forum.

Virtual Forums

To register to participate in one of the virtual forums, use the links below.

- + **Virtual Forum Daytime, July 22, 11am-1pm**
Registration link: <https://meetny-events.webex.com/weblink/register/r5c58c0f74ebeb1975a4b256b3b3da8ca>
- + **Virtual Forum Evening, July 24, 6pm-8pm**
Registration link: <https://meetny-events.webex.com/weblink/register/r7652c75ee92167b19aa21820e8242d04>

Learning/Training Opportunities/Information Sessions:



(Parent to Parent of NYS) Parents Considering a Residential Placement Discussion Group

Date: July 16, 2024
Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Are you considering residential placement for your family member? Parent to Parent of NYS is hosting this group for families with children and adults of all ages who are considering placement in a residential school or a group home.

Link to register:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrduygrzMvHNQo99WCP8xM_gpVweSBYgYp

(Parent to Parent of NYS) Education Records Organizer

Date: July 17, 2024
Time: 7:00 pm-8:00 pm

This workshop is where parents, guardians and advocates of children who receive 504, CPSE and CSE special education services take their educational records and organize them into a record-keeping binder. This workshop will assist in being more organized in planning a child's education, and in the CPSE/CSE process.

Link to register:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TKuMV6FsQyaJTVh7J0bKwA

(Parent to Parent of NYS) Teen Parent Group- for parents of teenagers with developmental or physical disabilities

Date: July 22, 2024, August 26, 2024 (or) September 23, 2024
Time: 7:00 pm- 8:00pm

Are you a parent of a special needs teenager? You are not alone! From navigating adolescence to managing behaviors and fostering independence, this group provides a safe space for open discussions about all things teen related. Parent to Parent offers parents a place where you can connect with other parents facing similar challenges and share experiences in a welcoming and understanding environment.

Link to register:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwrcOGsrDgqE9SnC_p0OW-ih5OPe-gxkBNi



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Westchester Institute for Human Development

WIHD offers trainings, networking opportunities, and information sessions designed to empower and educate families, self-advocates, and professionals supporting people with disabilities at home, in school, and in the community.

Upcoming events and trainings include:

- What Is an Individualized Education Program (IEP)? For Families of School-Age Students
July 16, 2024
- A Monthly Decision-Making Series Workshop
July 16, 17 and 18, 2024
- Testing Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
July 25, 2024

For a full calendar of upcoming events and trainings:
<https://www.wihd.org/events/category/wihd/>



Artwork of John Bramblitt, a blind artist, who works as a consultant for museums in developing programs that are designed to include everyone – no matter their ability or disability. To learn more:
<https://bramblitt.com/pages/about-us>

From the New York State Department of Health- Bureau of Early Intervention

Developmental Milestones Materials (via the CDC)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers free materials for developmental monitoring. These materials are free to download and available in multiple languages.

Resources, including tools for tracking milestones, children's books, and tips for when there is a developmental concern, can be found here:
<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html>



Talking to the doctor is the first step toward getting help for your child if you are concerned about his or her development (how your child plays, learns, speaks, acts, or moves). **Don't wait.** Acting early can make a real difference!

- 1 Make an appointment with your child's doctor**
 - When you schedule the appointment, tell the doctor's staff you have concerns about your child's development that you would like to discuss with the doctor.
- 2 Complete a milestone checklist**
 - Before the appointment, complete a milestone checklist by downloading CDC's free *Milestone Tracker mobile app* from the App Store or Google Play or printing a paper checklist from www.cdc.gov/Milestones.
 - Write down your questions and concerns; take these with you to the doctor's appointment.
- 3 During the doctor's appointment**
 - **Show the completed milestone checklist to the doctor**
 - > If your child **is** missing milestones, point them out, and share any other concerns that you have.
 - > If your child **is not** missing milestones but you still have concerns, tell the doctor about them.
 - **Ask the doctor for developmental screening for your child**
 - > Developmental screening is recommended whenever there is a concern. It gives the doctor more information to figure out how best to help your child.
 - > For more information about developmental screening, go to www.cdc.gov/DevScreening.
 - **Ask the doctor if your child needs further developmental evaluation**
 - > If your child does, ask for a referral and call right away. If you have difficulty getting an appointment, let the doctor know.
- 4 Make sure you understand what the doctor tells you, and what to do next**
 - Before you leave the appointment, check the notes you have written and make sure all of your questions have been answered.
 - If you do not understand something, ask the doctor to explain it again or in a different way.
 - When you get home, review your notes and follow the steps the doctor has given you. Remember, you can always contact the doctor's office if you have any questions.

You Know Your Child Best

If your child's doctor has told you to "wait and see," but you feel uneasy about that advice:

Talk with others (doctor, teacher, another provider) to get a second opinion

AND

Call for a free evaluation to find out if your child can get free or low-cost services that can help.

• **If your child is under age 3:** Call your state's early intervention program. Find the phone number at www.cdc.gov/FindEI.

• **If your child is age 3 or older:** Call the local public elementary school.

You do not need a doctor's referral to have your child evaluated for services.

Find more information, including what to say when you make these important calls, visit www.cdc.gov/Concerned.

Don't wait. Acting early can make a real difference!



www.cdc.gov/ActEarly
1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)

Learn the Signs. Act Early.





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In the news:

From OPWDD- People First News, July 2024 Changes in Leadership at OPWDD

"As of July 1, Executive Deputy Commissioner Willow Baer has assumed the role of Acting Commissioner of OPWDD. Having served as the second in command at the agency for the last year after returning to OPWDD from an interim position as Assistant Counsel to the Governor and from her role as Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel at the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, Willow Baer is well prepared to lead the agency as it meets the stated goals of its Strategic Plan. Prior to working with OCFS, Willow spent six years at OPWDD, most recently serving as Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel. Willow initially joined OPWDD in 2015 as an Associate Counsel after serving as General Counsel at the NYS Justice Center. Willow has spent much of her career working to ensure that people with developmental disabilities and their families are afforded the best service system possible."

According to Commissioner Baer, some of the areas within the strategic plan that she is particularly interested in prioritizing include: "the use of emerging technology to support people to live more independently; cross systems work to ensure people with developmental disabilities have better access to appropriate healthcare; stabilizing OPWDD's network of providers; and ensuring a more responsive, equitable, and accessible service system through data-driven decision-making which is also informed more directly by the experiences of those using our services."

Clinical Standards For Autism Treatment See Major Update (via Disability Scoop)



A child participates in an applied behavior analysis session. (Francine Orr/Los Angeles Times/TNS)

"For the first time in a decade, there are new guidelines for the most widely-used autism treatment. The Council of Autism Service Providers, or CASP, a nonprofit trade group representing hundreds of autism service providers, recently released the third edition of the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Practice Guidelines for the

Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder. The document is intended to provide ABA standards of care for insurers, regulatory bodies, consumers, practitioners and other stakeholders. "ABA is a highly effective treatment for autism. But it has to be correctly implemented at the highest quality," said Lorri Unumb, chief executive officer of CASP. "These guidelines are key to achieving that."

"The updated guidelines address everything from training and certification for ABA practitioners to staffing and delivery models, treatment implementation, outcome measures and relevant state and federal policies. Additions in the new version include defining "medical necessity" in the context of ABA, addressing the use of telehealth, greater detail on collaboration, coordination of care, transition and discharge planning."

To read the full article, see [HERE](#).

Recreational events/activities:



For **ADA Friendly Locations** to Visit in Putnam County that can be enjoyed **year-round** please visit:

<https://www.putnamcountyny.com/component/zoo/ada-friendly-locations-to-visit-in-putnam-county?Itemid=107>



Mystic Aquarium Sensory Friendly Evening

Date: August 13, 2024

Time: 6:15pm-8:15pm

Location: Mystic Aquarium

55 Coogan Blvd.

Mystic, CT 06355





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Join the Mystic Aquarium for this evening event specially designed for people of all ages who will benefit from an adapted sensory-friendly exhibit experience.

This sensory-friendly evening will feature an adapted indoor and outdoor environment with reduced sound, lighting, and motion. Marked quiet areas will be available around the aquarium, and skilled occupational therapy students and professionals will be available to provide support. A limited number of tickets will be sold to maintain a quieter environment.

Explore the Aquarium's outdoor habitats, including beluga whales, seals, and sea lions, from 6:15 pm-8:00 pm. Discover inside exhibits with hundreds of vibrant fish and sea life and trek through Dino Seas: An Immersive Journey, where sound and motion will be reduced for a sensory-friendly experience, between 6:15 pm-8:15 pm.

To purchase tickets:

https://ramp.mysticaquarium.org/65949?_gl=1*1616dkr*_gcl_au*NTYwOTgxNzczLjE3MjA0NTM5NzU.

The Intrepid Museum



The Intrepid Museum, located at Pier 86 on West 46th Street in New York City was founded in 1982 with the acquisition of the storied WWII aircraft carrier Intrepid—a National Historic Landmark and the centerpiece of its collection. The Museum's mission is to promote awareness and understanding of history, science and service through bold and immersive collections, exhibitions and programming in order to honor our heroes, educate the public and inspire future generations.

The Intrepid Museum is offering a variety of accessible, sensory friendly events this summer, for individuals of all ages and levels of support.

Some of these events include:

- **Sensory Friendly Evening: Picture it! Photography Workshop on Intrepid**
Date: July 10, 2024
Time: 5:00pm- 7:00pm
To find out more: [click HERE](#).
- **Early Morning Opening: Speed and Style: Supersonic Flight**
Date: July 20, 2024
Time: 8:30am- 11:00am
To find out more: [click HERE](#).

- **Virtual Verbal Description Tour: When We Went to the Moon**

For Adults and teens who are blind or have low vision

Date: July 23, 2024

Time: 5:30pm- 7:00pm

To register, email: access@intrepidmuseum.org

To find out more: [click HERE](#).

To explore ongoing inclusive events at the museum, click [HERE](#) for additional information.

Note: The Intrepid Museum provides free specialized programs and resources to enhance the experience of all visitors, including those with disabilities, their peers and families. Personal care assistants in support of a visitor with disabilities receive free admission at all times.

Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue



For more information about Lucky Orphan's Horse Rescue, click [HERE](#).

PUTNAM Recreation Programs & HABILITATION, INC.

****PRPH is currently registering for summer sessions.****

Putnam Recreation Programs and Habilitation (PRPH) is a not-for-profit, parent-founded organization dedicated to providing quality recreation and leisure activities for people with developmental disabilities who reside in the Hudson Valley region including Putnam, Dutchess and Northern Westchester Counties, NY. PRPH welcomes all individuals who have developmental disabilities. Participants must be approved for services through the NYS Office for People with Dev. Disabilities (NYS OPWDD).

For more information, click [HERE](#).



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3rd Quarter Edition (July 2024)

In the community:



Hudson Valley InterArts Opening

The Hudson Valley InterArts, in partnership with Community Based Services, held their grand opening on May 10, 2024. Hudson Valley InterArts is a new multi-arts center, located at 40 Jon Barrett Road in Patterson, New York. The opening included demonstrations, displayed artwork and showcased musical performances.



Individuals showcasing a musical performance.



Community Based Services Transition Coordinator, Jennifer Havrilla with Anthony who performed at the InterArts opening.

The mission of Hudson Valley InterArts is to create a safe and inclusive environment to effectively build community and relationship around artistic practices. Hudson Valley InterArts aims to support the social and emotional health of community members by fostering inclusivity and community connection through creative and healing arts.



One of the art rooms at the new InterArts.



Yoga room

For a list of all current classes offered:

<https://hudsonvalleyinterarts.org/calendar/>

CP Unlimited Wheelchair Clinic



Constructive Partners Unlimited (CP Unlimited) has announced its summer schedule for its free wheelchair clinic, which provides cleaning, maintenance and sanitizing to help maintain the functionality and mobility of powered and non-powered wheelchairs.

Wheelchair users, including people with disabilities, seniors and veterans, and/or any needed Direct Support Professionals and family members are welcome to come.

When: July 13, 2024 from 9:00am-4:00pm

Where: Hudson Valley [Brewster Elks Club, 1430 Rte. 22]

To RSVP or for more information, email Ester Giraldo at egiraldo@cpofnys.org or click [HERE](#).