

The Arc Works!

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August 2006

The Arc Works! An electronic publication of The Arc of North Carolina!

Exciting Program Addition!



**Convention 2006
Advocating for a Lifetime
September 8-9th
Charlotte, NC**

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LORETTA CLAIBORNE SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETE & MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER

Make plans to attend because we have added a dynamic
Keynote speaker that you don't want to miss!

“Her ability to communicate about focusing on one's abilities, not disabilities, has inspired thousands of people to better themselves and help their fellow citizens.”

The registration form is available at www.arcnc.org

RECRUITMENT ANNOUNCEMENT: NCD YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE SEEKS FOUR MEMBERS

The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) for the National Council on Disability (NCD) announces the opening of a nationwide search for four new members. One of the positions is reserved specifically for high school students. NCD is an independent federal agency, headed by 15 Council Members appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The collective responsibility of NCD is to make recommendations to the President and Congress on issues affecting all Americans with disabilities. NCD's overall purpose is to promote policies, programs, practices, and procedures that guarantee equal opportunity for all individuals with disabilities, regardless of the nature or severity of the disability; and to support the empowerment of individuals with disabilities to achieve economic self-sufficiency, independent living, and inclusion and integration into all aspects of society.

The YAC, a 12 member advisory committee with applicant ages from 16-25 encourages youth across disability sectors, diverse racial and ethnic groups, and under-represented areas of the country to apply. Application documents must be received through E-mail by **September 14, 2006** at 5:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time.

The application consists of (1) your resume; (2) your cover letter pointing out what makes you the best candidate for a position of national level leadership as a representative of youth with disabilities, and (3) one letter of recommendation from an adult who is familiar with your leadership and disability experiences and potential. A recommendation by someone who is not your parent/guardian is requested. A brief daytime telephone interview with you may also be needed for a selected list of finalists among the top applicants.

Please send only electronic documents (use e-mail only) to be considered as a YAC applicant during this recruitment period. E-mail your resume, your cover letter, and one letter of recommendation to: YOUTH@ncd.gov Attn: Dr. Gerrie Hawkins, Designated Federal Official, Youth Advisory Committee, National Council on Disability.

The YAC ensures that NCD's policy recommendations and activities give consideration to the perspectives of young people with disabilities. Meetings are planned and conducted through teleconference arrangements under NCD's budget. If a face-to-face meeting occurs travel and lodging are assumed by the agency for active members of the committee, in accordance with federal guidelines.

To read more about the YAC, see the brochure (attached as WORD and Text only) and feel free to check out the NCD Website at: <http://www.ncd.gov/>
If you have questions, please contact youth leaders Gina Semenza (YAC Chair outgoing) or Stephanie Orlando (YAC incoming Chair) at YOUTH@ncd.gov We look forward to receiving your application documents at: YOUTH@ncd.gov . . . by **September 14, 2006** at 5:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time. **[Back to Top](#)**

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

The North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services will host a series of town hall meetings across the state.

The purpose is to share information and listen to concerns about system transformation (reform of the MH/DD/SA system). Events are open to the public. Please share this information and encourage participation.

Western

Southwestern Community College
September 20, 2006
Sylva, NC
6:00 to 8:00 PM

Triad

CenterPoint Human Services
November 7, 2006
Winston-Salem, NC
6:00 to 8:00 PM

South Central

James Sprunt Community College
March 7, 2007
Kenansville, NC
6:00 to 8:00 PM

Northeastern

Pasquotank County Courthouse
June 6, 2007
Elizabeth City, NC
6:00 to 8:00 PM

Contact the Division of MH/DD/SAS at ContactDMH@ncmail.net for specific information on each event. **Back to Top**

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

Thursday, October 5, 2006 8:00 am—4:30 pm

Presented by Peter Wright, Esq. and Pamela Darr Wright

Hawthorne Inn & Conference Center

420 High Street

Winston-Salem, NC 27101

336-777-3000

www.hawthorneinn.com

Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable information about special education law and how to ensure your child has the most appropriate IEP. This workshop is designed for parents, teachers, school counselors, advocates, attorneys, and anyone interested in Special Education Law.

At the conclusion of the workshop, you will be able to:

- Explain parent roles, rights and responsibilities;
- Understand and discuss education law & regulations;
- Design smart, effective IEPs;
- Utilize tests & measurements to track progress & regression;
- Develop tactics & strategies for effective advocacy.

Topics covered: IDEA, Findings & Purposes, Definitions, "Catchall" Statute, LRE, Evaluations, IEP's, Tests, Measurements & The Bell Curve, Section 504, No Child Left Behind, Smart IEP's, Advocacy Strategies, Negotiating Skills, Organizing Child's File, Survival Strategies
Questions & Answers

Registration Fee: Parent \$79; Both Parents \$99 (one set of books); Advocates \$99; Attorneys \$119 Register by September 1 and receive \$10 off!

Registration fee includes:

Continental Breakfast

Lunch

Two course books: Wrightslaw: From Emotions to Advocacy, 2nd edition and Wrightslaw: IDEA 2004 (Retail Value \$35.00)

For registration and additional information Contact:

Contact: Laura Gorycki, Centerpoint Human Services

Phone: 336-714-9136

Email: lgorycki@cphs.org

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NCTASH 2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

Marriott Hotel
460 North Cherry Street
Winston Salem, North Carolina (336) 725-3500

November 29-December 1

Transforming Practice, Restoring Lives

“The cure for despair is not hope. It is discovering what we want to do about something we care about” Margaret Wheatley

Can there be a vision of quality that transcends programmed mediocrity?

NCTASH believes that quality must be based on universal human aspirations, and defined according to each person’s individuality and capacity for creativity.

The conference will be facilitated by:

Tom Nerney, one of the principal architects of the movement for self-determination for persons with disabilities; currently Director, Center for Self-Determination and former Co-Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Program entitled “Self-Determination for Person’s with Developmental Disabilities.”

Pat Carver, Director, Community Drive; Resource and Training Development Coordinator for the Center for Self-Determination; organized the Alliance for Freedom, and national immersion learning events in self-determination.

Statewide Mayor’s/Advocacy Committee Awards Luncheon November 29, 2006, 11:00am

COME LEARN:

- What truly person-centered, ethically-based services and supports would look like.
- A new way of understanding quality.
- Why the reform of case management is essential and urgent.
- How real support brokerage can play a crucial role in transforming lives.
- The part you can play to help make this vision a reality.

Who should attend: Self Advocates, Support Brokers, Case Managers, Policy-Makers, Service Providers, persons who want their organizations to be on the cutting edge, parents and family members.

Registration will soon be posted on www.nctash.com.

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NATIONAL AND STATE ONLINE RESOURCES

www.rarediseases.org- The National Organization for Rare Disorders is dedicated to helping people with rare "orphan" diseases and assisting the organizations that serve them. NORD is committed to the identification, treatment, and cure of rare disorders through programs of education, advocacy, research, and service. The searchable database allows users to gather information about specific conditions.

www.autism-society.org- The mission of the Autism Society of America is to promote lifelong access and opportunities for persons within the autism spectrum and their families, to be fully included, participating members of their communities through advocacy, public awareness, education, and research related to autism.

www.autismsociety-nc.org- The Autism Society of NC provides information about autism, programs, and has the largest bookstore dedicated to autism and much more.

www.tash.org- TASH supports the inclusion and full participation of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of their communities as determined by personalized visions of quality of life. This site has numerous resources and links about inclusion for people with significant disabilities.

www.ecac-parentcenter.org- The Exceptional Children's Assistance Center is the federally mandated Parent Information and Training Center in North Carolina. ECAC conducts parent-training workshops across the state and has parent information packets on a variety of topics related to educational information. They also have a very comprehensive free lending library for parents

www.ncset.org- The National Center on Secondary Education and Transition (NCSET) coordinates national resources, offers technical assistance, and disseminates information related to secondary education and transition for youth with disabilities in order to create opportunities for youth to achieve successful futures.

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Until next time.....The Arc Works!