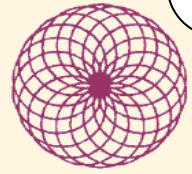


North Bay Regional Center Press



O C T O B E R 2 0 1 1 W W W . N B R C . N E T

SPOTLIGHT ON INDEPENDENCE: LIFT SYSTEM A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Marcia, Laura's mother, thinks about how she transferred Laura from the wheelchair to her bed: "Up until she was about ten years old, she only weighted 40 pounds! And then came puberty and she just *blossomed*," Marcia adds. Blossoming into a heavier adolescent and now a young adult at 20, with Marcia's four-foot seven-inch frame it was clear she was putting herself in danger lifting and transferring Laura- who has a diagnosis of cerebral palsy and epilepsy- by herself. To make matters

more challenging, Marcia suffered her third stroke lifting Laura into the shower and it was clear to everyone that help was needed for Laura's health and safety. Darla Clarke, Laura's Client Program Coordinator, knew what was needed and proceeded to research a cost effective solution: a lift and tracking system that could be installed in the home. While previous contractors had concerns with the low ceiling and dated structure of the home, Jonathan & Sons came in and installed a system that met Laura's needs: getting transferred to her bed, to the bathtub and to the commode without compromising Marcia's health. Laura says this has increased her independence and made their lives much easier. "At least she does not have to lift me into bed any more," Laura smiles, adding that she can get herself up and down from the toilet using the lift. "It has made a world of difference," Marcia adds.

Laura leads an active life: participating in the Napa transition program at Valley Oak, she swims twice a week as a partici-

pant in the Napa Valley Community College adaptive P.E. class. She goes shopping with her boyfriend and classmates, and enjoys going out to eat Mexican food at her favorite restaurant, El Guadalajara. She thinks about her future and looks forward to finishing school and working in the community. Laura is invested in gaining work skills by making picnic kits for V. Sattui winery through her school transition program, the money she earns being invested in shopping and lunch excursions. Yet clearly when she goes to her room, puts on a CD and begins singing along, Laura has talents and interests that support her healthy outlook on a bright and hopeful future.



Laura laughs about squirrel stories her mother tells

In This Edition

- College to Career
- New Budget, More Changes
- Dental Needs and Role of Prevention
- October National Disability Employment Awareness Month



Marcia demonstrates use of the lift system, the track attached to the ceiling above her

TRAINING & WORKSHOP UPDATES

Marin Autism Lecture Series Marin County Office of Ed. 1111 Las Galinas, San Rafael
 Students/Parents \$20; professionals \$25 12:00-2pm Contact Karen Kaplan 415-497-3751
 or karensupportsu@comcast.net: Asperger from a Person Oct. 20th
 Making Life Work– A Menu of Options Nov. 17th

Collaborative Autism Training & Supports (CATS) Sonoma State Univ. Ives Hall rm 34;
 Wednesdays 1:00-3:00 \$20 donation Contact: Dr. Lorna Catford, Program Director, (707) 664-2402
 lorna.catford@sonoma.edu Social Stories Oct. 5th
 Social Cognitive Approaches Oct. 12th
 Sensory Integration Oct. 19th
 Visual Communication Strategies Oct. 26th

ASSCEND Conference Success on the Spectrum S.F. State University Register Online at
<http://aascend.eventbrite.com> Keynote Speaker Ari Ne'eman 8:30am-4:00pm Oct. 15th

NBRC New Provider Orientation 10 Executive Ct. Napa 9:00-4:00pm 3-day training for new
 service providers; Register by Oct. 13 with Kelly Weber 256-1201 Oct. 20, 21, 24

Child Support Workshops Solano County Dept. of Child Support Services 435 Executive Ct. Fairfield
 Register at www.solanocounty.com/depts/dcss/outreach.asp or 784-3640 11:00am-1:00pm
 Understanding Child Support Oct 26
 Review & Adjustment Nov. 30th

Oral Hygiene Tips NBRC 10 Executive Ct. with NBRC Dental Coordinator Alisha Gutierrez
 10:00am to 12:00 including updates on state Medi-Cal, Denti-Cal Nov. 3rd

COMMUNITY EVENTS

End of Harvest Fiesta Wells Fargo Center for the Arts 50 Mark West Road Santa Rosa
 Health and Community Resources, traditional food, entertainment Oct. 1 10-5:00pm

Through the Looking Glass Brown Street Gallery Opening Reception featuring art by Heather Beall
 and Heather Almirol 2225 Brown st. Napa www.brownstreetgallery.com Oct. 7 6-8:00pm

October Adventure Day! Join Becoming Independent and City of Santa Rosa at Steele
 Lane Community Center 415 Steele Lane, \$8.00 pre-registration required 738-3294 Oct. 8 10-2:00pm

House of Horrors Halloween Dance Join Becoming Independent and City of Santa Rosa at Steele
 Lane Community Center 415 Steele Lane, \$5.00 Oct. 10 7-8:30pm

Napa Transition Fair Napa SELPA Napa County Office of Education 2121 Imola Ave.
 Resources for parents, high school students and post-secondary options Oct. 13 3-6:00pm

ArtAbility Festival Napa General Store & Napa River Inn 540 Main Street Napa Valley
 Coalition of Non-Profit Agencies Contact donna@moving-forward.org Oct. 16 1-4:00pm

November Adventure Day! Join Becoming Independent and City of Santa Rosa at Steele
 Lane Community Center 415 Steele Lane, \$8.00 pre-registration required 738-3294 Nov. 5 10-2:00pm

Harvest Festival Dance Join Becoming Independent and City of Santa Rosa at Steele
 Lane Community Center 415 Steele Lane, \$5.00 Nov. 14 7-8:30pm

College to Career: Reaching New Heights

Enthusiasm and anticipation were evident in the crowded room as students and parents listened intently to the presentation. "If you have college experience you can earn 73% more money," said Lindsey Eigenauer, Coordinator of the new College to Career program at Santa Rosa Junior College.

A collaboration between Santa Rosa Junior College, the Department of Rehabilitation, and North Bay Regional Center, the College To Career Program is designed to assist students with intellectual disabilities in obtaining employment in the career of their choice. This three-year program culminates in a competitive paid job in the community. One of only five state programs, College To Career is built upon a tiered curriculum that advances students from basic readiness skills, e.g., getting to know the campus and college experience

including understanding the class schedule, to identifying interests and learning specific career and technical skills utilizing a combination of both classroom and on-the-job instruction. Vocational Skills Coaches will support students and employers in implementing a successful transition to the world of work including identifying workplace accommodations, if needed.

The College to Career program offers employers a range of benefits that makes hiring students attractive. Most importantly, a strong motivation is paired with vocational education and team supports that are flexible and targeted specifically to the students' and employers' needs. Independence being a cornerstone of successful transitions to the world of work, fading of vocational supports will occur as students gain the skills and confidence needed to handle work



Alex Tarmann is excited for college!

tasks and activities on their own.

With 21 students beginning this semester, Lindsey is eager to bring new opportunities to the students and further their career goals to reach new heights.

See the School To Career website, www.santarosa.edu/c2c, for more information.

New Budget Focuses on Alignment

With the 2011-2012 budget came new legislated Trailer Bill Language (TBL) for regional centers. In a climate of scrutiny over government expenditures and entitlements, the Lanterman Act— as Regional Centers' and consumers' legal pillar of rights and responsibilities— suddenly found itself misunderstood and misinterpreted by California legislators, resulting in an outpouring of protests from consumers and their families. Yet after the dust settled, regional centers were handed a plate of new mandates, some embellishing on core principles of choice while others restructured options while reducing spending, reflecting greater alignment with existing federal and state regulations.

Though Regional Centers have always worked under mandates requiring them to be the "payer of last resort," service coordinators are now required to have physical copies of insurance cards from all families and consumers in regional center charts; Client Program Coordinators and Early Interventions Specialists will begin asking families for these immediately.

Assembly Bill (AB) 104 impacts young children and babies by fading out the new Prevention Program until July 1, 2012, and instead shifting services for "at risk" babies from the Regional Center to Family Resource Centers (FRC). For NBRC this means families who have babies found to be at risk for a developmental disability will now be referred to their local FRC instead of being admitted to the Regional Center's Early Intervention/Prevention Program services.

Further cost reduction measures include a requirement that a Transportation Access Plan be created for anyone for whom NBRC is paying for 'routed' transportation; *and* who the planning team determines could access the community safely using public transportation, *and* public transportation is available. NBRC is working with local city and county transportation agencies to coordinate mobility training to include instruction on how to access and use public transportation safely.

(cont. p. 4)

Executive Corner: Bob Hamilton

Dear NBRC Community,

As we continue to face a difficult economic climate, NBRC remains committed to serving our stake holders. The good news is that we have a budget in place and there are no funding delays or cash flow problems at the moment. The not-so-good news is that we have increased operating costs, a reduced operations budget, a growing client base, possible mid-year State revenue "trigger" cuts, and many, many trailer bill processes to implement. A majority of the trailer bill(s) (SB74 and AB104) were focused on transparency and accountability issues as a follow-up to the Bureau of State Audit's report on Regional Centers, and several Legislative hearings. North Bay was not among the Regional Centers audited, but the trailer bill is law and applies to all Regional Centers and many of our service providers as well. For more information, please see documents at these sites: [Click Here](#).

As a result of the costs associated with implementing many of the trailer bill requirements, as well as an unallocated cut to the system-wide operations budget of \$5.4 million, we are taking steps to reduce our overhead costs and are organizing NBRC to run more efficiently. These steps are necessary to ensure that we continue to fulfill the Lanterman Act and meet the requirements of our contract while shouldering unfunded mandates and increased reporting responsibilities.

Like many of the organizations in our community, NBRC had to recently make some difficult decisions. One of these decisions was to flatten the organizational structure by eliminating the Children and Adult Services Section Manager positions, representing the mid-management level in our organization. This decision was necessary to help balance our operations budget and improve efficiency. Dr. Michi Gates' duties have been restructured to assume greater responsibility under the title of Associate Director of Client Services. Dr. Gates will now report directly to the Executive Director. She will serve with me on the Executive team along with Alfonso Carmona, Director of Client Services, Thomas Maseda, Director of Administrative Services, and the (vacant) CFO position. In an effort to balance the workload in Client Services and improve collaboration between units, supervision of these has been evenly divided between Alfonso Carmona and Dr. Gates and no longer follows functional lines (i.e., children and adults). In order to provide relief for the multi-faceted Community Services unit, responsibility for the Community Placement Plan and the associated staff will now report to Dr. Gates. Several other reporting adjustments were made to complete the balance of responsibility.

In addition to these structural changes NBRC will be publishing an RFP (Request for Proposal) for Crisis Intervention Services to better support our consumers, families, providers and case managers. There are many more systemic and service related ideas that we are now addressing which will contribute to our continued efforts to gain improvements in efficiency and effectiveness in fulfilling our mission. Thank you for your support and understanding in these difficult times.

New Budget (cont.)

Additional cost reductions will be found in creating greater flexibility in day program services to include offering tailored service planning using vouchers. Beyond allowing consumers to attend a day program at less than full time, the voucher option will enable customization of day services to replace a traditional day program. Additional options for tailoring day program services to allow for greater flexibility in scheduling and activity coordination are also intended to result in savings for purchases of these services. Reduction in the costs of residential care at Community Care Facilities, a.k.a. board and care homes, will be found where service needs may have declined and thus levels of care costs have been reduced accordingly.

Using paraprofessionals for behavior intervention services is also anticipated to save costs, as will the prohibition of regional centers from providing day and transportation services to individuals between the ages of 18-22 who are still eligible for services under the education system. Again while use of community resources has always been a part of regional center's mandate, reinforcing this in relation to the 18-22 year old transitional population is a reminder that diminishing resources will impact the schools and regional centers alike as we seek cost-effective solutions to meet the needs of students transitioning to adulthood.

Seeking both additional cuts and increased transparency regarding regional center expenditures, Senate Bill (SB) 74 required regional centers to continue the 4.25% payment reduction to vendors for services purchased, and eliminated caseload ratios for some populations. This will create higher caseloads for NBRC Client Program Coordinators who are coordinating services on average for over 80 individuals, and are likely to see even higher ratios.

While annual audits, annual performance contracts, NBRC Board Agendas and Minutes, and annual reports have long been posted to the NBRC website, SB74 also required NBRC Purchase of Services policies, vendor information, and the NBRC Board approved Conflict of Interest and Transparency and Public Information policies to be posted. For the Transparency Portal, [click here](#); to see the Assembly and Senate Bills, [click here](#).

ACCESS TO JOBS: CALIFORNIA MOVES CLOSER TO EMPLOYMENT FIRST POLICY

Enacted in 2009, Assembly Bill 287 (Beall) attempts to remedy one of the remaining areas where bias against individuals with developmental disabilities continues to relegate them to dependency on government income support programs: employment. Recent labor market data suggests that with only 13% of working age people with developmental disabilities employed in competitive and supported employment, California ranks 41st when compared with other states in this area. Using data that suggests employment is greater when students move directly from school settings to work, new focus is being brought to the transition from high school and secondary education programs to employment (see College to Career page 3).

In 2006 meetings were held to gain public input on ways to address employment issues and expand opportunities, and in



Dana Brown works at Idex assembling technical components with the work crew from North Bay Industries in Rohnert Park

2007 the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities made recommendations to improve the transition services planning process. A standing Employment First Committee, consisting of members from various state departments representing labor, people with developmental disabilities, and education, was established with the goal to identify strategies and make recommendations for legislative actions that will result in a “significant increase in the number of people with developmental disabilities who engage in integrated employment,” and earn wages above minimum

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), the theme this year being “Profit by Investing in Workers with Disabilities” [Click here](#) to access webcast Oct. 12 with Assistant Secretary Kathleen Martinez

wage.

The challenges this creates in a time of economic insecurity is felt by every employment services program in Napa, Sonoma, and Solano Counties. But with only 15% of working age adults with cognitive disabilities employed, creating an “Employment First” policy was the first step for California to fully recognize that membership in society calls for a role as *contributor*, a role which most of us enjoy and take for granted as employees and/or business owners. Employment First recognizes that reducing unemployment is a smart fiscal and resource management goal. To read more, [Click Here](#).



TRI-COUNTY ACT MEETING FEATURES AUTISM BEHAVIOR SERVICES & MANAGED CARE

Recent events in Sacramento indicate that the private sector may be assuming a greater role in providing services for persons with autism. In July the California Department of Managed Health Care announced agreements with 2 of the largest private insurance carriers to provide intensive behavioral intervention services for persons with autism. Then last week SB946, which mandates private insurance coverage of evidence based intervention services for persons with autism, passed and is awaiting Governor Brown’s decision. ([Click here](#) for L.A. Times story) Because of these events the Autism Community

Team’s Tri-County meeting was devoted to the changing landscape of behavioral services for persons with autism. Representatives from DMHC provided information on the agreements with private insurers and what this means to families and local service providers. Says Dr. Patrick Maher, “We’re hoping to begin the process of educating both families and providers on how to access services through the private sector. In addition we hope to begin a dialogue between public agencies and private entities to ensure high quality services for persons with autism.”

In addition, local behavioral service providers gave an overview of



Maureen McKennan & Holly Pearson from DMHC

services they provide and a live demonstration of telemedicine-delivered ABA services was provided by Capitol Autism Services.

(cont. p. 8)

**SOCIAL
SECURITY
OFFERS
ELECTRONIC
WAGE
REPORTING**

With the age of electronic banking and automated financial transactions fully enveloping society, the Social Security Administration (SSA) has jumped into the 21st century. By contacting the Central Office, you can report wages electronically and ensure that such wage reports are received and processed securely and in a timely manner. SSA's online wage reporting program uses a standard 128-bit encryption process to:

- Protect the Personally Identifiable Information (PII) of wage earners
- Expedite the transmission and receipt of wage reports from organizations, and
- Protect the Personally Identifiable Information (PII) of wage earners;
- Expedite the transmission and receipt of wage reports from organizations, and
- Facilitate the processing of those wage reports in a streamlined fashion.

If you'd like to begin reporting wages electronically, go the the GSO website: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/gso/gsowelcome.htm>

GSO login site: <https://secure.ssa.gov/acu/LoginWeb/>



**PREVENTION KEY TO REDUCED
DENTAL SERVICES**

After the legislature cut dental coverage to over 3 million Californians two years ago, hospital emergency rooms have replaced dentist offices as the only option for treatment. As reported by Anna Gorman of the Los Angeles Times September 12th, the situation has become dire for patients who are waiting until the dental needs land them in the emergency room (for full story [Click Here](#)). Dentist Dr. Nagaraj Murthy of Compton says "They aren't coming until the mouth is completely swelled up or the pain cannot be tolerated". Yet allowing dental needs to go unmet heightens the risk of serious and costly health problems including respiratory infections and heart disease.

Good health requires good oral health and while the majority of the U.S. population routinely obtains oral health care in traditional dental practice settings, oral health care eludes many vulnerable and underserved individuals—including people with special health care needs. Lack of access to oral health care contributes to profound and enduring oral health disparities.

Individuals with developmental disabilities have experienced even more limited access to dentists who understand specialized treatment needs, including sedation. This limited access is compounded by the lack of resources and reimbursement. Regional centers are mandated to reimburse SMA (medical rates), said Alisha Gutierrez, NBRC Dental Coordinator, during her presentation at the September NBRC Board Meeting. She enlightened us to the disturbing fact that most dentists cannot even cover their expenses with medical reimbursement rates for dental treatments. This has resulted in few that are willing to accept these patients, resulting in Alisha sometimes appealing to dentists to complete treatments from a 'charitable donation' perspective.

While there may seem to be little we can do, Alisha stresses the importance of preventative dental habits. We can take steps to avoid developing severe dental problems by brushing and flossing regularly, we know. But this, too, can pose challenges that will need to be overcome.

The NBRC Board was educated on over the counter products that can significantly improve oral health for our clients. These products go beyond the regular brushing and flossing. Many of our clients have significant challenges to overcome such as medical problems, physical limitations, mental and/or behavioral limitations. All of these can increase the risk of dental disease in more vulnerable populations. Many of our clients cannot or will not tolerate adequate daily oral hygiene. Alisha shared some products that can be added to daily routines and significantly help to improve oral hygiene including: gum, lollipops, hard candy, mouth rinses and sprays containing a sweetener with Xylitol; toothpastes containing Triclosan, and some cheeses. Even some types of teas can have a positive effect on oral health.

Tea and Oral Health

A study, published in the *Journal of Periodontology*, focused on 940 Japanese men aged 49-59 who had some indications of gum (periodontal) disease such as bleeding or receding gums. Virtually all who drank a minimum of one cup of green tea a day showed improvement in gum recession and their gums bled less, too. The researchers suggested that improvement was the result of catechins in the green tea that interfere with the inflammation resulting from bacteria in the mouth.

(Cont. p.8)

NBRC Annual Board Meeting Celebrates Achievements



In a moment that captured the heart and soul of NBRC, former Board Member Lyn Isbel said, "The community has been changed by this organization . . . What we do here is of enormous importance." Accepting an award for her exceptional service, Lyn reflected on a recent trip to the hospital emergency room with her son, Walter:

"From the nurse to the cafeteria personnel to the surgeon— *everyone* responded positively" upon hearing she was on the NBRC Board. With heartfelt gratitude and a quiver in her voice, she concluded, "It has been an honor to serve."

The Feature Presentation included several Proud Moments that consumers and families shared. Paula Scarborough shared how she, with the help of NBRC-vendored nutritionist, Sally Welles, turned her life around by becoming healthy and fit. Stating that she is now thinner, more energetic, stronger, happier, and more patient with herself and others, she then commented on her improved self esteem. While it was hard to make the changes, it was totally worth it.

Proud of his work at Wine-Bev and the completion of an internship at Vallejo Kaiser with the Project Search program, Tim Young was recognized for the great progress he has made transitioning to adulthood. Tim faced many challenges and overcame them with the support of his CPC, Tanya Barreto, and his Residential Service Provider, Lisa Graham.



Other noteworthy proud moments included the recent NBRC collaboration with speech therapists in Sonoma County to improve access to speech therapy for small children in a more natural environment with typically developing peers. The newly launched "Tiny Talkers" has made speech therapy more accessible to families in a pre-school type environment and now is being explored as a possible model for other therapies including physical and occupational.

Celebrating the service of our staff and the achievements of our consumers has been a tradition for over 38 years for the Annual Board Meeting in June. Amongst the milestones achieved were 30 years of service for Intake Assessment Counselor Dale Carr and 20 years for Case Management Supervisor Joanne Giardello. The many NBRC staff recognized for a decade of service included:

Margo Klockner	Sharon Lunn
Cherie Lanam	Karen Tradewell
Laurel Hunt	Tanya Barreto
Joan Harris	JC Andrade
Deanna Langley	Randy Kitch
Kathy Graves (<i>Smiling below</i>)	

As always, the celebration captured both the triumphs and the barriers many face navigating a service system that depends both on state and federal funding, as well as



the collaborative efforts of community agencies committed to making a difference in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. If you have a story that depicts the accomplishments that can be made with the support of planning teams, families, and individual ambition, join us next year and tell us your story!

In Memoriam: A Generous Spirit

It is with great sadness that NBRC mourns the loss of our dear Gloria Malagon, who passed away in her sleep early Tuesday, August 30th. Gloria was an employee of NBRC in the Santa Rosa office for 12 years. She began as a Client Program Coordinator in the Adult unit, worked for a while in the Transition unit, and for the last 7 years as an Early Intervention Specialist in the Early Start Unit. She was a consummate professional who dedicated herself to improving the lives of the families that she served. She had a kind and generous spirit, an impish sense of humor, and touched everyone she encountered with a sparkle of sunshine. She is survived by her husband, three grown children, and an extended family. She will be sorely missed.

-Nona Koroluk, Supervisor

Dental Needs (Cont.)

Xylitol and Oral Health

Xylitol is non-acidogenic and non-cariogenic. Xylitol is essentially non-fermentable and therefore cannot be converted to acids by oral bacteria. Xylitol can be left on the teeth overnight and not cause any damage. With proper use xylitol can stop the formation of tooth decay (cariostatic). Xylitol is not merely an inert bystander but can exert an active counter force to decay (anticariogenic). This depends upon how the xylitol is used. The delivery method, the amount, the timing, and the frequency are important. Xylitol can **enhance the remineralization or healing process**. This happens best in small decay spots just beginning in the enamel. Larger holes won't go away and will still require a filling or restoration, but they can harden and become less sensitive.

Xylitol use after meals and snacks in products that encourage chewing or sucking:

- stimulates saliva
- enhances protective factors in saliva
- stabilizes calcium and phosphate solutions
- encourages remineralization
- raises plaque pH
- reduces time teeth are exposed to demineralizing acids
- inhibits bacteria
- reduces plaque
- reduces contact time of sugars on teeth



Cheese and Oral Health

Cheese has been shown to protect the teeth against dental caries. Dental caries result from a breakdown of the tooth enamel, i.e., demineralization occurs, by acids produced during the fermentation of sugars and starches by plaque causing bacteria. The critical pH for demineralization to occur is 5.2 to 5.7. Studies on dental plaque acidity among humans demonstrate that cheese such as Swiss, Cheddar, Gouda and Mozzarella; prevent the pH in the oral cavity from falling to levels that make it conducive for the development of dental caries. Studies conducted on general population have also provided substantial evidence about the **benefits of cheese on dental and oral health**.

All of the above information is not to be used as a recommendation, however you should fully educate yourself and ask a licensed dental professional about the best uses for a particular client. This is intended to help you start a conversation with a dental health professional to improve the overall oral health of individuals with special needs.

More information on the above products :

<http://www.xlear.com>

<http://drjohns.com>

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=tea-aids-oral-health>

http://www.deltadentalins.com/oral_health/tea.html

<http://www.colgate.com/app/CP/US/EN/OC/Information/Articles/Oral-and-Dental-Health-Basics/Oral-Hygiene/Oral-Hygiene-Basics/article/Mouth-Healthy-Eating.cvsp>

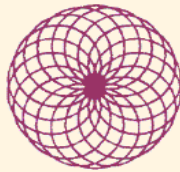
(ACT cont.)

ACT is a collaboration of stakeholders interested in providing services for persons with autism and their families. ACT is a collaborative of parents, professionals, and agencies which has been working together for a number of years and are proud of a number of accomplishments including the creation of the Collaborative Autism Diagnostic (CAD) clinic. The ACT meetings are held monthly in Santa Rosa and Napa. If you have questions or would like to get involved with the ACT, contact Dr. Patrick Maher, PatrickM@nbc.net or 7070256-1111.

NORTH BAY REGIONAL CENTER

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Fax: 707- 256- 1112

2351 Mendocino Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Phone: 707-569-2000
Fax: 707 - 542-9727



Mission: The purpose of North Bay Regional Center is to assist people with developmental disabilities or at risk for developmental disabilities in the North Bay Area to obtain services and supports they need to live as other people live in the community.

COMMUNITY & RESOURCE LINKS

Department of Developmental Services

www.dds.ca.gov

Transition to Adult Life: www.dds.ca.gov/WeInclude/JobSeekersTransition.cfm

Health and safety information to individuals with DD
www.ddssafety.net

Appeals, Complaints & Comments:
www.dds.cahwnet.gov/Complaints/Home.cfm#es

Lanterman Act & Title 17: dds.cahwnet.gov/Statutes/LawsRegs_Home.cfm

Early Start Home Page: www.dds.ca.gov/earlystart/
Resource Materials: www.dds.ca.gov/earlystart/ResourceMaterials.cfm#parents

Spanish Resources: www.dds.ca.gov/Spanish/Home.cfm

Sonoma County: www.sonoma-county.org/
Solano County Services www.co.solano.ca.us/services/default.asp

Napa County: <http://www.co.napa.ca.us/>

Social Security: www.ssa.gov/
Supplemental Security Income –SSI: www.ssa.gov/pgm/links_ssi.htm

Benefits for Adults Disabled Before 22: www.ssa.gov/dibplan/dacpage.shtml

Survivor's Benefits: www.ssa.gov/ww&os2.htm
Employment Support for Young People: www.ssa.gov/pubs/10026.html#employment

Office of Special Education & Rehabilitative Services:
<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep/index.html>

The Riot(Rights & Advocacy:) www.hsri.org/leaders/theriot/index.html National Conversation on Healthy Relationships CD-Rom Available

CONSUMER INFORMATION

Read more about employment and individuals with developmental disabilities:

Software Testing Company Relies on Employees with Aspergers <http://healthland.time.com/2011/09/22/a-software-testing-company-relies-on-employees-aspergers-skills/>

Autistic and Seeking a Place in the Adult World http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/18/us/autistic-and-seeking-a-place-in-an-adult-world.html?_r=1&ref=todayspaper

Far Below Minimum Wage– the pros and cons of sub-minimal wages www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2011/05/22/far-below-minimum-wage.html

Helping Youth Develop Soft Skills For Job Success
<http://www.ncwd-youth.info/information-brief-28>

Becoming Independent Family Resource Center
www.becomingindependent.org/family_resource_center.html

ParentsCAN Family Resource Center
www.parentscan.org/newsevents.html

Matrix Family Resource Center
www.matrixparents.org/2-services/index.php

What we do for ourselves vanishes with us; what we do for others remains and is immortal