

Medicaid Waiver Evaluations and Waiting List Update

The Arc of Indiana was recently contacted by a family whose young child was not placed on a Medicaid waiver waiting list based on evaluation issues. As a result, The Arc has been discussing the important issues of waiting lists and waiver evaluations with the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS).

There have been reports that DDRS is now requiring parents who have a young child on a Medicaid waiver waiting list to request that their child receive an evaluation, known as a DDP (Developmental Disability Profile), when the child turns age six. There have also been reports that children will be removed from waiting lists if parents do not request a DDP after the child turns age six and before the child turns age seven. However, at this time DDRS does not have a new written policy regarding waiver evaluations or a new written policy that would remove children from wait lists if parents do not request an evaluation (DDP) within one year of the child turning six.

Due to confusion and concerns regarding waiting lists and evaluations The Arc recommends that families maintain the following practices:

1. Families should keep all written documentation, including applications, evaluations, medical reports, e-mails, etc. related to their child's Medicaid waiver where other important documents – such as a child's birth certificate and social security card – are kept.
2. Regardless of a child's age, The Arc strongly recommends that families contact their local Bureau of Developmental Disability Services (BDDS) office annually to verify that their child is still on the waiting list(s). Make a note on your calendar for the same date each year to contact BDDS. Phone numbers can be found by visiting: www.in.gov/fssa/files/BDDS.pdf
3. The Arc recommends that families contact BDDS when their child turns age six and request an evaluation (DDP). Following the evaluation parents should contact BDDS to ask if, based on the results of the test, their child is still on the waiting list. If the child has been removed from the waiting list, ask for written documentation on why the child was removed and contact The Arc.
4. If a parent is told that their child will be removed (or was removed) from a waiting list if the child does not receive an

evaluation (DDP) between the ages of six and seven, please contact The Arc and let us know who provided this information. If you receive this information in writing, please share that with us.

5. If a parent contacts BDDS to learn if their child is still on a waiting list, and the child has been removed from the list, ask for written documentation on why he or she was removed from the list and contact The Arc.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding waiting lists and the evaluation process to determine eligibility for Medicaid waiver services, please contact The Arc of Indiana. They can be reached by calling: 317-977-2375 or 800-382-9100, or e-mail at: thearc@arcind.org.



Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel reads to the pre-school students in the Child Life Center in March as part of Disabilities Awareness Month.

More info on Disabilities Awareness Month on page 3.

Our Mission

The mission of Evansville ARC is to advance the value of and respect for all individuals with disabilities by providing opportunities for development, employment, and independence.



Evansville ARC

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Deidra R. Conner, President

Please direct any questions or comments regarding this newsletter to Denise Seibert, Director of Development.



All Special Olympics participants received awards.

30 Participate in Special Olympics at CLC

On Saturday, April 2, the Child Life Center (CLC) hosted an inclusive mini Special Olympics attracting 30 children with and without disabilities. Six stations of “events” included an obstacle course, scooters, and even an event called “clean your room.” The activities were chosen from SPARK (Sports, Play and Active Recreation for Kids), the new physical education program at the CLC. “We liked the idea of stations because it allowed for family involvement,” said Ann Feldhaus, Coordinator of Special Education Services at the CLC. Ann hopes to host an annual Special Olympics event and perhaps expand to include the other area therapeutic preschools.



Child Life Center teachers, parents and kids participate in the parachute event.

Volunteer Opportunities

Really Big Show Auction Volunteer

It is hard to believe, but we are already gearing up to start collecting auction items for The Really Big Show silent auction on Feb. 11. Volunteers are needed help mail letters to ask for donations and brainstorm great ideas for auction items. This position requires a creative person with a knack for knowing what would interest potential bidders. Join in the fun as we collect hundreds of auction items to benefit the Child Life Center!

Client Assistant for Adult Day Services

Assist with classroom activities, help with lunch duties, provide one-on-one attention to clients and form friendships with individuals in Evansville ARC’s Day Services program. Interest in helping individuals with disabilities develop practical and social skills a must. Applicants must meet drug screen, criminal history and Evansville ARC training requirements.

Clerical Assistant

The department of Behavior Supports Services (which teaches individuals the use of appropriate social behaviors to increase relationships and independence in the community) is seeking someone to help with filing, shredding, copying, and general office tasks.

And that’s not all!

We offer many more volunteer opportunities throughout the year and also welcome groups who would like to perform special projects. Visit www.evansvillearc.org, contact Jennifer Bayer at 812-428-4500, ext 309, or e-mail jennifer.bayer@evansvillearc.org for more information on how you can make a difference at Evansville ARC.

Can you help?

We are in need of the following items for our programs. Can you help us? If so, please contact Angie Sumner at 812-428-4500, ext. 307 or angela.sumner@evansvillearc.org.

Child Life Center Needs

- Colored tissue paper
- Nursery water
- Magnifying glasses
- Unscented/hypo-allergenic baby wipes
- Spray bottles
- Children's watering cans
- Children toothbrushes & holders
- A & D ointment (generic is fine)

Adult Program Needs

- Percussion instruments (shakers, tambourines, etc)
- Construction paper
- Adult sweatpants (XL, XXL, XXXL)
- Art/craft supplies
- Paper towels
- Paper plates
- Plastic silverware
- Facial tissue

Other Needs

- Baskets of assorted sizes for Really Big Show auction items

TJX Grant to Support Connections For Life

In March, the TJX Foundation provided \$5,000 in grant funding to support the Connections For Life program. This program provides adults with disabilities the support to become more engaged and independent in the community through volunteering at local non-profit organizations and participating in social, educational, and recreational activities, which enhances their quality of life and contributions to the community. The TJX Foundation has supported Evansville ARC since 2007.

Robbie Siggers distributes programs at the Otters opening night as part of Connections For Life.



Disabilities Awareness Month

Evansville ARC celebrated Disabilities Awareness Month in March with a variety of events including a volunteer work day on March 26. One of the volunteer tasks was a deep clean to "The Big Room" in the Child Life Center.

We're on Facebook!

Get the most up-to-date information, photos, upcoming events, and latest happenings on our new Facebook page.

**Just "Like"
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A Publication for Friends of Evansville ARC

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Success In and Out of the Classroom



Tia, a student in the program, picking vegetables from the Tri-State Food Bank garden. Students will be continuing this project next school year.

The Walmart Foundation and The Arc of the United States' School-to-Community Transition Project's success not only stems from the hard-working and engaged students at Bosse High School, but from the teacher heading the project, Sally Hale. Through a partnership between Evansville ARC and the Evansville Vanderburgh School Cooperation, nine students from Sally's special education class participated in the project this past school year, which was funded by a grant from The Walmart Foundation and The Arc of the United States.

The School-to-Community Transition Project enabled students to learn the importance of volunteering and giving back to their community, while also learning important job skills vital to exiting high school students. Other goals included teaching students about job opportunities, self advocacy, person centered planning, and work preparation through learning about appropriate dress, interviewing, conflict resolution, independent living skills and community opportunities.

Throughout the school year, students visited Berry Plastics, Vectren, Ameriqua, Walmart, Evansville Courier and Press, Tri-State Food Bank, University of Evansville and the Ronald McDonald House to learn about the types of opportunities available to them after high school. Students also performed job trials at a few of the visited businesses. "My students have learned how important the work they do at our job sites is and that what they are doing does make a difference in our community," said Sally about the trips to local businesses.

Through the job trials and volunteering, students have practiced housekeeping skills, prepared meals, sorted and labeled mailings, and performed landscaping projects among other opportunities. Students were also evaluated on a rubric which graded them on cooperation, initiative, quality of work, quantity of work, and appearance. "I have seen a big improvement in work ethic due to the use of this evaluation," said Sally.

However, the success of the program reaches beyond grades and teaches students with disabilities how they can be contributing members of the community. Sally emphasizes, "The program's biggest success has been the job skills that the students have been exposed to."