



New York Parent Association for Deaf-Blind

NYPADB e-news

The National Coalition on Deafblindness – First Capitol Hill Advocacy Day

***COME JOIN THE NATIONAL COALITION ON DEAFBLINDNESS
FIRST CAPITOL HILL ADVOCACY DAY!***

- **Have you ever wished policy makers in Washington had a better understanding of the educational needs of children who are Deafblind?**
- **Have you wondered how you can make a difference in decisions made at the Federal level?**
- **Would you like to promote better outcomes for all children who are Deafblind?**

This is an opportunity for us to combine our efforts to bring visibility about “what works” for children who are deafblind. We encourage parents, teachers, interveners, professionals and others to participate. Also joining the event will be representatives from the American Foundation for the Blind, Council of Schools for the Blind, National Association of the Deaf, and Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools & Programs for the Deaf.

WHEN: March 2, 2016

WHERE: Washington, DC

WHY: To share information with our elected representatives about deafblindness and the Coalition’s key legislative priority, H.R. 3535, the Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act

During this day-long event, we will start in a Congressional meeting room and be briefed by key Congressional staff and national advocates on the issues and on effective advocacy techniques. We will receive a list of talking points as well as tips on how to convey your message in a convincing way, how to answer questions, and how to optimize your time in your meetings with officials. Then we will take part in pre-scheduled meetings with our Representative and Senators. At the end of the day we will join together to share our experiences and plan next steps.

RSVP by January 18, 2016. All interested people will be responsible for their own travel expenses.

Questions or RSVP to Legislative Liaisons; Linda Alsop, linda.alsop@usu.edu

or Sally Prouty, sa.prouty@comcast.net
<http://www.thedbcoalition.org>

Clara Berg will represent the National Family Association for Deaf-Blind, NFADB on this historic day!

Family Learning Conference

New York Deaf-Blind Collaborative, NYDBC

THURSDAY, 3/3/16 6:30PM-9:00PM

FRIDAY, 3/4/16 8:30am-4:30pm

SATURDAY, 3/5/16 8:30am-3:30pm

Family Learning Conference (for families of children with combined hearing and vision loss) at Helen Keller National Center from 3/3/16-3/5/16.

- ASL interpreters and Spanish Translators available.
- Lodging for families outside of NYC, Westchester, and Long Island
Please **request accommodations by 2/12/16**
- Meals included
(NYPADB will sponsor a Pizza dinner on Friday night.)
- A limited number of \$250 stipends are available to families of children who are deaf-blind who live in New York State.

RSVP by 2/19/16, (718) 997-4856, nydbc@qc.cuny.edu

Please see the Attached Flyer & Agenda

The Role of Interveners in Educational Settings

Presented by The National Family Association for Deaf-Blind (NFADB) and the National Center on Deaf-Blindness (NCDB)

February 8 - March 14, 2016

Come learn about:

- The role of interveners.
- The principles of intervention.
- How interveners function as members of students' educational teams.

Hosts: Patti McGowan (NFADB) and Peggy Malloy (NCDB) will provide online support and feedback.

Content: The training will use Module 3 ("The Role of Interveners in Educational Settings") from the *Open Hands Open Access (OHOA) Deaf-Blind Intervener Learning Modules*.

Format: Online & self-study, requires 1-2 hours per week (on your schedule).

Registration:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XVCON4_7UuB5feRAGRpCx_ohc-CI2vT7pYhbOE3CrTM/viewform

Webinar: The Education of our Children Helping Everyone to Thrive with 3535

Sponsored by the CHARGE Syndrome Foundation

February 21, 2016, 7 p.m. EST

Featuring Mark Richert, Esq.

The Education of our Children: Helping Everyone to Thrive with 3535

Mark will be speaking about the act that he authored: H.R. 3535 (the **Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act.**) He will explain how this act will strengthen the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and improve results for the more than 500,000 children and youth who are blind, visually impaired, deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind (sensory disabilities), including those who also have additional disabilities. Mark will also provide information on how you can support the act to improve education for our students with multiple sensory loss and additional disabilities.

Registration is limited and on a first-come-first-served basis. If you wish to participate in this live webinar and ask questions of our presenter, please **register now** <https://www.kintera.org/AutoGen/Register/Register.asp?ievent=1154623&en=buILK0OHLalUIaMKK9KRL6PUIIJPI7ORikJVK6PVLIJRjdPTLfJYIhNXLqKWJbO6G>

Transition: Moving on to Post Secondary Options

Presented by The Sheila Abrams Community Education Center at the **Epilepsy Foundation** of Long Island

This workshop focuses on what is needed to ensure smooth transitions from one level of education to the next; it is outcome and goal focused.

Ultimately, transition programs should be geared toward moving a student from the world of educational supports into independent, successful adult experiences. The concept of self-determination will be discussed and resources for adult programs will be shared.

Tuesday, February 23, 2016, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

EPIC Long Island

1500 Hempstead Turnpike, East Meadow, NY 11554

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Please call Jean at (516) 739-7733 x 1150

or send e-mail to jdunn@epicli.org to save your seat.

Preparing for Transition from Early Intervention to Preschool

Down Syndrome Advocacy Foundation

www.dsafonline.org

Presenter: Yesica Panora, Early Childhood Specialist

Early Childhood Direction Center, (ECDC) LIU Post

Thursday, February 11, 2016, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Information to help you make informed decisions as your child transitions from Early Intervention to preschool programs. Program models will be described as well as the sharing of resources that will leave you better prepared to make important decisions.

Ronkonkoma Fire District Building

505 Hawkins Avenue, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779

(Northeast corner of Hawkins Avenue and Portion Road)

*Parking Entrance is off of Lloyd Court...

Prior registration is required. FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please call 516-983-7008 or E-mail: dsaf03@gmail.com to register to attend.

*Certificates of Attendance will be distributed at the end of the workshop

OnlineColleges.net

OnlineColleges.net addresses visually impaired students' most common concerns, including:

- How to take advantage of school resources and legal rights as a student with a disability
- A hand-selected list of scholarships available only to blind and visually impaired students

Suggested assistive technologies for students with visual impairments

OnlineColleges.net provides a central source of information and resources for visually impaired college students, completely free of charge. It's available here: <http://www.onlinecolleges.net/for-students/college-accessibility-visually-impaired-students/>

Introduction to Cerebral Visual Impairment in Children: Visual Impairment Due to Damage to the Brain

Perkins Learning

Presented by Amanda Hall Lueck, Ph.D.

March 7 – May 15, 2016.

This is a 5 session class spread over 10 weeks. In this course, features of visual impairment due to brain damage will be discussed along with assessment of children with this condition. Methods to design appropriate interventions for these children that take into account individual differences, the learning environment, and the need for

multidisciplinary teamwork will be presented.

Registration: <https://secure2.convio.net/psb/site/Ticketing?view=Tickets&id=108008>

Early bird Registration – by February 22, 2016

www.perkinselearning.org/earn-credits/online-class/cerebral-visual-impairment-in-children

2016 Usher Syndrome Family Conference

Saturday, July 9, 2016 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM Pacific Time

This annual gathering, a place for individuals with Usher syndrome, family members, friends and professionals to learn about the latest advances in Usher syndrome research. The event's science sessions, family panel, research Q&A, lengthy breaks and evening social allow for the opportunity to connect with others impacted by Usher syndrome and engage with researchers who are working tirelessly towards a cure.

Washington Athletic Club

1325 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98111, USA

<http://www.cvent.com/events/ush2016-usher-syndrome-family-conference/event-summary-62b3eda082ab4f73ac06e0663cb367ab.aspx>

Parent to Parent of NYS Free Webinars

Free Webinar- Housing Options for People with Disabilities in NYS

February 23, 2016, 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Contact: Tina Beauparlant Phone: (518) 381-4350

Please register at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1788960765396048897>

Please join Parent to Parent of NYS, Tanja Peters/ Housing Coordinator as she presents a webinar on Housing Options for people with Disabilities in NYS. This webinar is designed to give individuals with disabilities and their families a general understanding of what types of housing options are available in NYS and it will explain the differences between certified housing options and non-certified housing options. Ways to purchase a home are also discussed. Please be advised that only the first 100 participants who log on will be able to attend.

Free WEBINAR- Preventing Parent Burnout for Parents of Children with Special Needs

February 24, 2016, 12:00PM - 1:00PM

Contact: Tina Beauparlant Phone: (518) 381-4350

Please register at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1133018517191029505>

Please join Alissa Morris, Regional Coordinator, Parent to Parent of NYS, as she presents a webinar on Preventing Parent Burnout for Parents of Children

with Special Needs.

Extraordinary parenting responsibilities create extraordinary pressures on parents. At the same time, parenting a child with special needs requires energy, focus, and enthusiasm to be effective in our role. The better off we are emotionally and physically, the better off our families will be. Join us for this webinar on Preventing Parent Burnout and discover positive ways to cope with and effectively manage stress. Please be advised that only the first 100 participants who log on will be able to attend.

Free Webinar-Medicaid Service Coordination for Families – Getting the Most from Your Child’s Program

March 1, 2016, 12:00PM - 1:30PM

Contact: Tina Beuparlant Phone: (518) 381-4350

Please register at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5294628246234522369>

Please join Lindsey Pensabene, Regional Coordinator, Parent to Parent of NYS, as she presents a webinar Service Coordination is an important support in the life of a child with a developmental disability and his or her family. Under Medicaid Service Coordination (MSC), parents and family members are recognized as valuable participants in their child's service coordination program. As a valuable participant, it is important that family members are well informed about how MSC works and their rights under the program. That is what this training is all about. By being informed, you and your child's service coordinator can become partners in advocating for and gaining access to necessary supports and services for your child.

Touching on Tactile Graphics: Designing Graphics for Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

is the first in a series of webinars presented by Lucia Hasty, former educator, author, and chair of the Tactile Graphics Committee of Braille Authority of North America (BANA). Lucia currently serves as an independent consultant presenting workshops and developing training materials on tactile graphics for a variety of audiences.

A tactile graphic is a set of symbols selected to represent a print image which is designed to be meaningful to a tactile reader. In this informative 65-minute presentation Lucia Hasty will offer examples of print images and their braille counterparts for discussion of design strategies and techniques. Topics discussed include:

- Using a Decision Tree to determine when to produce a tactile graphic
- How to determine intent of print image

- Using a planning sheet to determine content to include
- Planning and editing techniques
- Components of a graphic and their unique characteristics
- Standards for readability

Participants are encouraged to download a free copy of the BANA Guidelines and Standards for Tactile Graphics 2010 (www.brailleauthority.org/tg) prior to the webinar in order to get the most from the discussion.

Order today [through the AFB store](#). (\$49)

RESCHEDULED: You Can Get Involved in Unified English Braille (UEB): An Online Focus Group for Parents (Second Chance!)

Posted by: American Foundation for the Blind

Date: 2/2/2016

Early research about how people felt about the idea of change was important and helped later adopters (Canada and the United Kingdom, and the United States) evaluate the impact of their own possible transition to UEB.

There have numerous been focus group and interview studies in which consumers and vision professionals have been asked about their concerns, expectations and experiences with UEB. A big gap in our research involves the voices of the parents and families of children who are blind and transitioning to the UEB. We want to learn more about what families expect from UEB and what is happening to support them.

We are holding two online focus group meetings to gathering stories from families about your expectations and thoughts about the changes to the braille code. We will use these experiences to help explore how families are making the transitions. We also plan to ask questions about your suggestions for designing an online braille eLearning platform.

Please help us learn more about what is happening for parents and families by joining us for an online focus group webinar on either:

- **Tuesday, February 2nd at 8:00 PM EST (5:00 PM Pacific).**

Your input will help us understand how we can support other families during this historic transition period. For your time and effort, we will be offering a **\$50.00 gift card** to those who participate after completion of the focus group session.

Joining is easy. Just follow this link to get started: [UEB Prep Parent Focus Group Survey and Consent to Participate](#)

Article: The benefits of special-needs employees

Crains New York

[http://www.crainsnewyork.com/article/20151228/OPINION/151229974/the-benefits-of-special-needs-employees?ct=t\(ACCESS_January_12_2016\)&mc_cid=484caa48b2&mc_eid=04ae046b3a](http://www.crainsnewyork.com/article/20151228/OPINION/151229974/the-benefits-of-special-needs-employees?ct=t(ACCESS_January_12_2016)&mc_cid=484caa48b2&mc_eid=04ae046b3a)

SUMMER FUN AND MORE!

RESCHEDULED TO SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6, 11AM-3PM

Formerly, RCSN Special Camp Fair

Hotel Pennsylvania

402 Seventh Avenue (between 32nd & 33rd Streets), NY, NY 10001

Free!

<http://www.includenyc.org/content/1020>

Seedlings Braille Books for Children

Every blind or visually impaired child (ages 0-21) in the U.S. and Canada may now get 3 FREE books from Seedlings Braille Books for Children! Seedlings has expanded its Book Angel Program for 2016! The program was originally called "Anna's Book Angel Project" in memory of our Director's 19-year-old daughter who was killed by a drunk driver in 2001. Each year, every blind child registered received 1 free book in Anna's name, but thanks to Seedlings' generous donors, that number is now 3! Just register your child or student by going to <http://goo.gl/0LebRT>
<http://www.seedlings.org/bkangel2009.php>

LifeVac

LifeVac is an **anti-choking device** designed to be the safest, simplest method to save a choking victim, especially children. Orientation video:

<https://lifevac.net/orientation-video/>

<http://www.lifevac.net>

27 Braille Toys for Kids Who are Blind

<http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/braille-toys>

Sports, Fitness, and Motor Activities for Children with Disabilities: A Comprehensive Resource Guide for Parents and Educators by **Rocco Aiello** (Author) (Protégé of Lauren Lieberman)

Kindle \$28.50, Paperback \$30

This well-researched and comprehensive book is a valuable resource for parents, guardians, and recreational professionals in promoting inclusive and

meaningful recreation for children with disabilities, beyond the school day. Information for the legal rights of student to participate in interscholastic athletics, provides knowledge or families to advocate effectively. Developmental information, adaptations and strategies provides the practical information for the parents' role as their child's first teacher and greatest supporter. www.amazon.com

NYS Transition Partners Survey

Parents of disabled children 14-26

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NYSTP2016>

Accessible Valentines for Your Child or Adult Who is Blind or Just Loves Braille!

Family Connect Article: http://www.familyconnect.org/blog/familyconnect-a-parents-voice/accessible-valentines-day-for-your-child-or-adult-who-is-blind-or-just-loves-braille/12?_ga=1.126303245.1878337995.1441827450

Make Your Own Puffy Paint

<http://thecraftyclassroom.com/craft-recipes-2/puffy-paint-recipe/>