



## 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!**

**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

*Good Luck!*

### 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

### 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](http://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>

## **2nd Annual Ethan Wolfe Recreational Assistance Program.**

Thanks to ongoing support from the Wolfe family and friends, we will be able to continue to provide individuals with CHARGE the opportunity to purchase recreational equipment or participate in recreational programs. For details about what this program covers, who is eligible, and a copy of the application, please see **EWRAP**.

The application deadline is April 1, 2016. Awards will be made by May 1, 2016. Please send any questions regarding the program to **EWRAP@chargesyndrome.org**.

## **Upcoming Perkins Outreach Short Courses for Spring 2016**

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**Adaptive Technology Weekend** for Grades 6-12

**March 18-20, 2016**

Perkins Campus

**Cost: \$425.00**

Come meet with members of Perkins Solutions to sample some of the devices, apps,

and games that are currently on the market, and try them out in the community.

**Girls Weekend** for Grades 5-9

**April 1-3, 2016**

Perkins Campus

**Cost: \$425.00**

This weekend is designed to give girls a safe space to learn from each other and female instructors as well as to give them an opportunity to just be girls.

Contact **Patrick Ryan** by email at [Patrick.Ryan@Perkins.org](mailto:Patrick.Ryan@Perkins.org) or by phone at 617-972-7812.

## "Tech Supports for Cognition & Learning Conference"

Arc of Westchester, in collaboration with Mercy College, will conduct a "first-of-its-kind" conference entitled "Tech Supports for Cognition & Learning." The conference will occur Thursday, March 31 from 8 am to 4 pm at Mercy College, 555 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry, NY, and will address the use of everyday technologies and applications to support learning and independence for people with cognitive disabilities.

The impressive list of guest speakers, break-out session instructors, and hands-on vendor exhibitors will provide important information for everyone from students, professors, employers, families, individuals with developmental disabilities and will cross over many disciplines, including IT, Education, Communication, Health Services, and Human Resources.

Registration fee includes breakfast, lunch, and materials. Conference fees are \$50 for students and family members; \$95 for professionals (group discounts available).

For more information, please [click here](#).

[http://www.arcwestchester.org/conference2016?utm\\_source=Our+Voice+Today+%28OVT%29%2C+Issue+4+%7C+NYSARC+expresses+grave+disappointment&utm\\_campaign=OVT+2016+%234&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.arcwestchester.org/conference2016?utm_source=Our+Voice+Today+%28OVT%29%2C+Issue+4+%7C+NYSARC+expresses+grave+disappointment&utm_campaign=OVT+2016+%234&utm_medium=email)

## Parent to Parent of NYS Free Webinars

**WEBINAR- Education Records Organizer**

March 15, 2016, 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Contact: Tanja Peters Phone: (716) 517-3448

Please register at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/129721853423053314>

Join Tina Beauparlant, Regional Program Manager/ Education Specialist, for this webinar.

This is an interactive workshop where parents, guardians and advocates of children who receive 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.

Please be advised that only the first 100 participants who log on will be able to attend. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

### **Free Webinar- Housing Options for People with Disabilities in NYS**

March 22, 2016, 12:00PM - 1:00PM

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

Please register at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8919240894965285889>

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.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

### **FREE WEBINAR- Transitioning from High School to the Adult World after Graduation**

March 23, 2016, 12:00PM - 1:30PM

Contact: Tanja Peters Phone: (716) 517-3448

Please register at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3375144828433696258>

Join Tina Beauparlant, Parent to Parent of NYS, Regional Program Manager/ Education Specialist for this wonderful webinar.

This workshop will help parents of children with disabilities understand how to use the special education transition process to help plan for life after high school. Parents of students in ninth grade and beyond are encouraged to attend.

Do you wonder about your child's future?

What are your child's plan after they leave school?

Will they have a job?

Will they live with you or on their own?

We will also discuss rules and regulations related to the development of an appropriate Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

This training will discuss topics such as:

- What is transition and when does it start?
- Will my child go to college?
- What services are available after my child leaves high school?

## **OPPOSE EI State Budget Proposal S6407/A9007**

### [NYSSLHA statement on the bill](#)

New York State Speech Language Hearing Association, NYSSLHA

Please Contact Your Senate and Assembly Representatives  
to OPPOSE the EI Proposal

The 2016-17 State Budget proposed by Governor Cuomo includes significant changes to the EI program to:

establish a new eligibility process that eliminates a child's automatic entitlement to a multidisciplinary evaluation;

eliminate multidisciplinary evaluations and permit 1 individual to evaluate all 5 developmental domains; and

permit the New York State Department of Health or the State Fiscal Agent to require all EI providers to enroll in a health care clearing house for claims processing and remittance.

Please tell your legislators the following:

The new eligibility process will create delays and barriers to care for disabled children. Children are not automatically entitled to a full evaluation. Children with no diagnosed medical or mental condition must receive a pre-screening before they can receive an evaluation. There is no requirement in the bill for children with a diagnosed medical or mental condition to receive an evaluation.

Children need timely, comprehensive evaluations for the assessment of their individual needs and treatment. This proposal is contrary to the purpose of the EI program to identify and address the needs of disabled children at the earliest stages of life (ages 0-3) to allow each child to reach their maximum potential and reduce the costs of institutional care and special education later in life.

NYSSLHA is strongly opposed to provisions of the bill that eliminate the multidisciplinary evaluation and permit 1 individual to evaluate a child in all 5 developmental domains. This could permit unqualified, inexperienced people to evaluate children for eligibility to the EI program and lead to low-quality, incomplete evaluations, create barriers to eligibility, and impair access to appropriate services.

NYSSLHA is concerned that the requirement for EI providers to enroll in a health care clearing house for claims processing and remittance will be an administrative burden for providers. EI providers are already overburdened with the implementation in 2013 of the new payment system. This has led to a drop in the quality and number of providers participating in the EI program.

For more information please refer to the [NYSSLHA statement on the bill](#).

NYS Assembly Members <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/>  
NYS Senate <https://www.nysenate.gov> (click on "Find Your Senator")  
Send a Message to the Governor <https://www.governor.ny.gov/contact>  
Contact the governor's office by phone [1-518-474-8390](tel:1-518-474-8390)

## **Child Care & Full-Day Pre-K For All**

Many children across New York State are being left behind, going without quality child care and pre-K. That is evident in the latest report from **Ready for Kindergarten, Ready for College, Too Many Children Left Behind: Make Quality Early Learning A Top Priority**, which exposes the desperate need for access to child care and pre-K throughout the state.

**The Governor and state legislators can make the difference. Write to them today and tell them to include child care and full-day pre-K for all in the 2016 budget proposals.** The report, from the Alliance for Quality Education, the Center for Children's Initiatives, Citizen Action of New York and the Public Policy and Education Fund, finds that nearly 90,000 four-year-olds outside of New York City are awaiting full-day pre-K. In addition, the report reveals that 63 percent of four-year-olds in low-income communities outside of New York City have no seat in full-day pre-K. **Tell the Governor and your state representative that our children need access to quality pre-K.** The report also exposed that a disturbing 78 percent of children eligible for subsidized child care are being denied because local communities around the state are running out of funds. These findings show that Gov. Andrew Cuomo has yet to fulfill his promise for universal pre-K for all 4-year-olds. His promise of a "blank check" to pay for pre-K has, in fact, remained blank. In 2014, he promised statewide pre-K funding. Unfortunately, the Governor's 2016 budget only includes \$22 million for pre-K for 3-year-olds, but no new funding for 4-year-olds. On child care, he includes only \$10 million, but \$190 million is necessary. Without new funding, thousands of children will lose access to child care and thousands will not be able to go to pre-K. **Write the Governor and your state representatives about the need for quality child care and pre-K today.**

[http://org.salsalabs.com/o/425/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action\\_KEY=19195](http://org.salsalabs.com/o/425/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=19195)

In solidarity,  
Billy Easton,  
Executive Director of the Alliance for Quality Education