



New York Parent Association for Deaf-Blind

NYPADB e-news

Save the Date – July 21-24, 2016
Deaf-Blind Family Retreat
At Visions VCB (More info will follow)

Disability Issues – Where do the Candidates Stand?

<http://articles.complexchild.com/feb2016/00681.html>

Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act National Call-in Day - April 14

Please join the National Coalition on Deafblindness in supporting the Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act by calling your U.S. Representatives. At present, the bill is pending in the U.S. House; a Senate companion bill has yet to be introduced.

The Act includes 3 sections. [TITLE III](#) of the Act includes wording which:

- Designates intervener services in the “related services” listing
- Reflects the need for the recognition of and training for teachers of the deafblind
- Adapts the federal definition of deafblindness
- Requires each state to specifically address deafblind issues in the development of its state plan

Title I addresses issues specific to the education of children who are deaf/hard of hearing, Title II addresses issues specific to the education of children who are blind/visually impaired, and Title III addresses issues specific to the education of children who are deafblind. Click [Cogswell/Macy Act](#) to read the full text of the Bill.

April 14, 2016, marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of Anne Sullivan, Helen Keller's much loved teacher. On this day, you're invited to join consumers, parents, teachers, and other professionals and advocates from all across America and call upon the U.S. Congress to enact the Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act (Cogswell-Macy Act, H.R. 3535). Tell them that it's time for students who are deafblind, blind, visually impaired, deaf, or hard of hearing to finally receive an education worthy of their tremendous potential. Please call

each of your two [U.S. Senators](#) and your member of the [U.S. House of Representatives](#), and ask them to support the Cogswell-Macy Act.

Here are the steps for calling on April 14

1. Call your Representative or Senator directly. Their numbers are listed in the links above.
2. When someone answers (or if you reach an answering machine) identify yourself, tell them where you're from and that you are a constituent. Ask to speak with the staff member who handles education or disability issues for the office. If they are not available to speak with you immediately, leave a message by voice mail or with the receptionist.

3. When speaking to a **Representative** or their staff member, you can say something like the following:

“Hello, my name is [NAME], and I am a constituent of [NAME OF HOUSE MEMBER]. I am calling to request that [NAME OF HOUSE MEMBER] co-sponsor H.R. 3535, the Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act. This bipartisan bill will amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to better serve deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, and deaf-blind students.”

[TELL A STORY ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE CURRENT SYSTEM AND THE GAPS THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED.]

“This bill will go a long way towards making sure that children with sensory disabilities receive the services and supports they need to help them succeed.”

4. When speaking to a **Senator** or their staff member, you can say something like above.
5. Ask them to get back to you with their response.

If they have any questions or would like additional information, you can direct them to <http://www.afb.org/info/get-connected/take-action/12>, www.thedbcoalition.org/legislative-efforts/, or www.intervener.org. You can also give them the contact information for Barbara Raimondo, baraimondo@me.com, (301) 792-2884, or Mark Richert, MRichert@afb.net, (202) 469-6833.

If you'd prefer to send an e-mail, please use the direct address listed for your Senators and Representative. If you cannot call on April 14, feel free to call on another day. If you would like to recruit calls from others on additional days,

you are invited to do so. Please share this message with parents, service providers, teachers, and others. If you have additional questions or wish to share your experiences, please e-mail us at advocates@dbcoalition.org.

NYDBC Transition Institute

NYDBC is very happy to announce that we will be hosting our first-ever statewide transition institute focused on the needs of transition age young adults who are deaf-blind between the ages of 14-21!

DATES: July 7 - 9, 2016

Thursday, July 7th & Friday, July 8th - Professionals & Families

Saturday, July 9th - Families ONLY

ACCEPTED ATTENDEES:

- Professionals working directly with transition age young adults with dual sensory loss, including transition counselors, social workers, vocational rehabilitation counselors, etc.
- Family members with a child who is deaf-blind between the ages of 14-21.

LOCATION: Queens College 65-30 Kissena Blvd. Queens, NY 11367

STIPENDS AND SUPPORT FOR TRAVEL AVAILABLE!

LODGING PROVIDED FOR LIMITED NUMBER OF OUT-OF-TOWN ATTENDEES (PROFESSIONALS & FAMILIES)!

SPACE IS LIMITED!

REGISTRATION DETAILS COMING SOON!

For more information please contact: susanne.morrow@qc.cuny.edu

"Supporting Availability for Learning: Student-Centered Assessment and Intervention" (Free Professional Webinar)

PRESENTER: Christopher Russell, TVI

DATE: Thursday, April 14, 2016, 3:00pm - 4:00pm EST

OBJECTIVES:

- Identify clues to a student's availability for learning.
- Discuss the impact of sensory loss and other disabilities on intervention or educational needs.
- Measure arousal levels and availability for learning.
- Design strategies to support communication and availability for learning.

DESCRIPTION:

"Biobehavioral states" describe a student's arousal level, on a range from fully asleep to highly agitated. How does a student's biobehavioral state affect his or her availability for learning, and what instructional learning strategies can

support learning objectives?

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<http://www.perkinselearning.org/videos/webinar/supporting-availability-for-learning>

HOSTED BY: Perkins School for the Blind www.perkins.org

Long Island Special Needs Expo

April 10, 2016, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

LI Hilton, 598 Broadhollow Road, Melville, NY 11747

Register: <http://www.specialneedsexpos.com/registration-options-long-island/>

Helen's Run/Walk is Sunday, April 17th!

Register today! It's quick and easy. Just follow these steps:

- Go to <http://helensrunwalk.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=1149913>.
- Click on "Register Here."
- Select either: Start a Team, Join a Team, or Join as an Individual. (Remember, you can walk with a team! It's a lot more fun with a group!)
- Begin the registration process.

For help with registration, to volunteer or to become a sponsor, contact Marina Carroll at marina.carroll@hknc.org.

Parents of Children with Visual Impairments, You Are the Key to Your Child's Services

FamilyConnect Article:

<http://www.familyconnect.org/blog/familyconnect-a-parents-voice/parents-of-children-with-visual-impairments-you-are-the-key-to-your-child's-services/12>

“Self-Determination Practices: Student Portfolios, Goal Setting, and Leadership Opportunities for Students with Disabilities

Three Part Webinar Series

April 13, April 20, April 27, 3:00-5:00 PST

Presented by Kathy Doering, M.A. San Francisco State University

Sponsored by the University of Idaho

Stallings, Nicholas (nstallings@uidaho.edu)

Telesupport Group for Parents of Children with CVI

For the past eight years, Lighthouse Guild has been sponsoring a telesupport group for parents of children with CVI. It is by far the largest group in the telesupport network. We have parents of children from infants to young adults

in the group and people from all over the US as well as occasional callers from Canada and even India. We meet weekly on Tuesday evenings. We have been very fortunate in having a renowned expert in the field—[Dr. Christine Roman-Lantzy](#)—join the group once a month. She has been an invaluable help to our parents. We often have other knowledgeable guests join as well. The group discusses everything from [getting an appropriate diagnosis](#) to [literacy concerns](#) to [how best to prepare for a successful IEP meeting](#) and more. Most importantly, the parents provide support, suggestions and strategies to each other and reinforce the concept that one is not alone in this journey. If you are interested or want more information about the telesupport group, please contact LighthouseGuild at 800-562-6265.

Calling All Family Leaders - NFADB Symposium

This summer, NFADB will be hosting their parent leadership conference in Austin, TX, **July 16 – 18**, at St. Edwards University. The day prior, on July 15, NCDB will be holding a family specialist training for individuals who serve in the role of Family Specialist for their state deaf-blind project. The agenda for the family specialist day includes:

- Taking a strategic approach to engaging and connecting families, and
- Mentoring and supporting families.

We hope that all family specialists working for state deaf-blind projects will be able to attend both events. Formal registration for the symposium will begin soon via the [NFADB website](#). As we all know, the cornerstone of a successful life for a learner who experiences deaf-blindness is a strong support system. This training will be a major step forward in advancing parent leadership skills and building family networks. Questions? Contact [Clara Berg](#) or [Megan Cote](#).

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

WEBINAR- Assistive Technology in the Individual Education Plan

April 6, 2016, 12:00Pm - 1:30PM

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

Please register for Assistive Technology in the Individual Education Plan on Apr 6, 2016 12:00 PM EDT at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2019478876366357250>

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

April 12, 2016, 6:00PM - 7:30PM

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

Please register for Preventing Parent Burnout for Parents of Children with Special Needs on Apr 12, 2016 6:00 PM EDT at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1105957337007942657>

WEBINAR - Autism Insurance Reform

April 13, 2016, 12:00PM - 1:00PM

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

Please register for Autism Insurance Reform on Apr 13, 2016 12:00 PM EDT at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2242070607341235202>

Mind's Eye Programs for Visitors Who Are Blind or Have Low Vision

Date: 4/4/2016

The Guggenheim Museum visitors who are blind or who have low vision to join us for a tour and workshop on the exhibition Peter Fischli David Weiss: How to Work Better. From 1979 to 2012, Swiss artists Peter Fischli (b. 1952) and David Weiss (1946–2012) collaborated on a body of work that offers a deceptively casual meditation on how we perceive everyday life. Discover how their sculptures, photographs, videos, and installations juxtapose the spectacular and the ordinary, questioning our understanding of reality and inviting a state of wonder. This tour and workshop will be conducted in verbal description and through sensory methods.

Monday, April 4, 6:30–8:30 pm

Free; space is limited. RSVP is required by March 28.

To RSVP, call 212-360-4355 or e-mail access@guggenheim.org.

Interest Categories

Arts and entertainment

Phone: (212) 360-4355

Email: access@guggenheim.org