



New York Parent Association for Deaf-Blind

NYPADB e-news

Self Expression and Self Determination Workshop

Our Fall Workshop, sponsored by NYPADB, in Collaboration with NYDBC & HKNC at HKNC. A full day workshop with information, food & friends.

Saturday, October 15, 2015 at HKNC

Research on Headaches in CHARGE

You are invited to participate in a study about the prevalence of headaches in individuals with CHARGE syndrome being conducted by the CHARGE Syndrome Research Lab at Central Michigan University.

If you are the parent/guardian of a child with CHARGE syndrome under the age of 18, the guardian of a child 18 or older, or if you are an individual with CHARGE 18 or older, you are eligible to participate. Participation in this project involves answering questions on an anonymous, web-based questionnaire.

You can find more details and participate by going to this [website](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z26GCJR).

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z26GCJR>

O&M for Independent Living Webinar

By AFB, American Federation of the Blind

O&M for Independent Living: Fostering Collaboration with Service

Providers discusses how providers serving the various needs of older adults with vision loss can work together in support of the individual. This webinar supports and expands on content provided in the book **O&M for Independent Living: Strategies for Teaching Orientation and Mobility to Older Adults.**

Successful collaboration among service providers increases the overall effectiveness of service to the older adult resulting in a better quality of life.

Presenter Nora Griffin-Shirley explains what effective collaboration is, how it is achieved, and how it benefits the client.

Dr. Nora Griffin-Shirley is the director of the Virginia Murray Sowell Center for Research and Education in Sensory Disabilities at Texas Tech University (TTU). She is also the coordinator for the orientation and mobility program and TTU's graduate school certificate in autism and sensory impairment. Certified as an O&M specialist with over 30 years of experience, she has published nationally and internationally on topics related to O&M, and has served as a

leader in the field of O&M in professional organizations.

This 60 minute webinar has been approved for continuing education credit by ACVREP and can be purchased for \$49 from the AFB Store at www.afb.org/store. The webinar is pre-recorded and will be available to you for a full year to access when it is most convenient. There is no specific date and time you need to be available.

The Role of Interveners in Educational Settings- Online Course

October 3 - November 7, 2016

Sponsored by NFADB and NCDB

Come learn about:

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

Format: Primarily self-study, but hosts are available to provide assistance. We will also have several optional online video sessions.

Time commitment: 2 hours per week for 5 weeks (you work on your own at times that are convenient for you).

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.

What you will need: A computer and a good Internet connection.

Cost: It's free!

Registration will open August 22, 2016 (check the NFADB Website).

For more information, contact: [Patti McGowan](#).

Sign up for Paths to Literacy Newsletters

<http://www.pathstoliteracy.org/newsletter>

Self-Paced Tutorials

<http://www.perkinselearning.org/earn-credits/self-paced>

Copy of HKNC Press Release:

**HELEN KELLER NATIONAL CENTER APPLAUDS SENATORS SCHUMER AND
BLUNT ON PASSAGE OF THEIR BILL TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO MODERN
READING TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE BLIND**

Provision in Government Accountability Office Report Recommended National Library System (NLS) Receive Appropriated Funds to Provide Refreshable Braille Devices.

Sands Point, NY...July 18, 2016... Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths & Adults (HKNC), a division of Helen Keller Services (HKS), has expressed its thanks to United States Senators Charles E. Schumer and Roy Blunt for jointly introducing a bill to broaden the types of electronic media equipment the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) can provide to its users. The bill passed the Senate on July 14, 2016. The announcement was made by HKNC Executive Director Susan Ruzenski.

“Senator Schumer and his colleague Senator Blunt have demonstrated their commitment to ensuring that all Americans receive access to the same benefits as their fellow citizens,” observed Ruzenski. “Passage of this bill will help the National Library System better serve individuals who are deaf-blind, now and in the future.”

Referencing his recently passed legislation, Senator Schumer stated, “The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is a national treasure. This simple, straightforward bill will help NLS acquire the cutting-edge technologies needed to bring its services into the 21st Century and improve educational access for tens of thousands of Americans.”

The bill was recommended in a Government Accountability Office report which stated, “To give NLS the opportunity to provide braille in a modernized format and potentially achieve cost savings, Congress should consider amending the law to allow the agency to use federal funds to provide its users playback equipment for electronic braille files (i.e., refreshable braille devices).” The Schumer-Blunt bill aims to do just that and is similar to a provision of H.R. 5227 introduced in the House.

Digital, refreshable braille devices – or “braille e-readers” -- that enable users to read electronically recorded materials are available on the commercial market. These new technologies present a potentially transformative opportunity to combat illiteracy among the blind and open worlds of learning to tens of thousands of Americans. For example, a braille-literate person with access to an e-reader today can immediately gain access to over 400 state, national, and international newspapers through NLS, which currently has 30,000 registered individual braille users.

Scott Davert, HKNC Coordinator NY Deaf-Blind Telecommunications Program, believes that the real winners with Senators Schumer and Blunts’ bill will be the deaf-blind patrons who require braille access.

“With the emergence of low cost braille solutions,” he explains, “the bill will open the doors even wider for people who are deaf-blind to gain access to the written word. Not only will the braille technology assist in facilitating the cheaper delivery of braille material through the Talking Book Library System, but it will also allow patrons to connect to the world around them. Braille displays today allow people with screen access software to connect to their favorite devices, narrowing the gap in communication between those with combined vision and hearing loss and their sighted and hearing counterparts.”

Helen Keller Services President and CEO Joseph Bruno concluded, "We applaud Senator Schumer and Senator Blunt for their continued work on behalf of blind and visually-impaired people everywhere. Their legislation will improve the NLS' ability to serve the American people in this time of rapid electronic media innovation and allow the NLS to continually update as new technologies emerge. For individuals served by Helen Keller Services, the new bill will provide a meaningful, lasting benefit."

Headquartered in Sands Point, New York, HKNC provides comprehensive vocational and independent living training to youths and adults who are deaf-blind. It offers support and learning opportunities to professionals and family members, and maintains a National Registry of Persons who are Deaf-Blind. The Center partners with other agencies across the United States to build their capacity to work with individuals who are deaf-blind.

HKNC is a division of Helen Keller Services. For more information, go to www.helenkeller.org/hknc.

Deaf-Blind international Expo

Bapin Group is excited to announce The Second International DeafBlind Expo at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando, Florida, **from Wednesday, August 17, 2016, through Saturday, August 20, 2016**. Full details:

<http://internationaldeafblindexpo.com/about/>