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- Job Search
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Volunteer Advocacy Project Begins—*Sandra Hawkins*

The Volunteer Advocacy Project (VAP) is collaboration between the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center and The University of Tennessee Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities and coordinated with Support and Training for Exceptional Parents (STEP, Inc.), and the Mid South Arc. The purpose of the VAP is to instruct parents, teachers, doctors and others about the law and resources to help children with a disability in the educational setting. There were two sites, one in Nashville and one in Memphis. Nashville had twelve participants and Memphis had six. All were parents of a child with a disability and had some experience with special education and the IEP process. Over the period of twelve weeks, every Tuesday, participants were provided written and in person education sessions. There was also a Wiki for out of class discussions and questions. This 12 week class was designed so that participants could become better advocates

not only for their child but others as well. VAP was full of valuable information that I wish a lot of other people could have heard. We left the class knowing a whole lot more about being an advocate than we knew when we started. Being able to help others and educate them on laws and resources is not an easy job, but I know we have the power and ability to make things happen for our families in this community. There was a lot of encouragement and stories to share with each other that will help along the way. The speakers were great and very knowledgeable in the subjects that were covered. I would like to thank everyone. I now feel as if I have the power to stand up for my child and others with various disabilities. The Volunteer Advocacy Project will be conducted again this Fall with an augmented schedule. The new schedule will pro-



Memphis Graduates pictured (L to R) Sandra Hawkins, Amy Terry & Sandra Powell,

vide additional opportunities for working parents to participate. Once trained, advocates shadow a member from the Arc or STEP to IEP meetings before setting out on their own. For more information visit the Boling Center website at www.utmem.edu/bcdd and download an application. This training is free but attendance to all sessions is required.

Fall 2009 Interdisciplinary Training Seminars

The Boling Center Training Series has been modified to meet the needs of community professionals in the Shelby County and Memphis areas. The training program now consists of three four-hour sessions that will be available via web conferencing as well as on-site. The sessions will be targeted to professionals in the field of disabilities and will address specific topics related to ethics,

research and service. All training sessions will be held on site at the Boling Center, 711 Jefferson Avenue, in a recently renovated training room. To participate in any of the sessions, registration information is available on the Boling Center website or by calling the Training Department at 901-448-2660. Registration is \$20.00 per session and additional Continuing Educa-

tion fees may apply. Final information will be available after August 1, 2009, on the Boling Center website at <http://www.utmem.edu/bcdd>. Tentative Dates
9/24 HIPAA & Ethics
12/3 Legislative Policy Update
12/10 Research ILT



All Days are Happy Days Completes 7th Year

The All Days Are Happy Days summer camp was held May 31-June 4, 2009 at the Memphis Jewish Community Center. The camp was well attended with 70 children participating. In its 7th year, the five day camp provided campers with a myriad of educational and fun activities. The universal goal of the camp is to increase campers' knowledge of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity-Disorder (ADHD) and to learn techniques for managing ADHD related behaviors. The 2009 theme was **Be A S.T.A.R. (Stop, Think, And React)**. The curriculum focused on the following key concepts:

- ADHD diagnosis, dispelling

myths and recognizing symptoms

- Positive self-talk and common traits in children with ADHD
 - Decision-Making processes
 - Anger/frustration management techniques
 - Setting goals and following through with plans
- Throughout the week campers were engaged in activities that promoted team building. This was accomplished by the campers setting rules and participating in organized play. Children were divided into groups according to age. Campers rotated through activity areas, such as arts and crafts, swimming, out-

side games, drama, music and curriculum. It was especially nice to witness the children's enthusiasm and interest in yoga poses (concentration) and learning new songs. The children made new friends and really enjoy their relationships with the counselors. The All Days are Happy Days summer camp is very diverse. Children from across the city, regardless of their ability to pay are invited to attend and transportation is provided from the Boling Center to the Jewish Community Center. The All Days are Happy Days summer camp could not occur without the generous financial and in-kind contributions from the community.

Camp Support Provided by:

- Cummins Inc.
- Herbert and Mary Shainberg Foundation
- Memphis Jewish Community Center
- Smith & Nephew Inc.
- University of Tennessee Health Science Center
- Urban Child Institute
- Shelby County Relative Caregiver Program
- Tennessee Respite Voucher Program
- Mike Norwood Photography
- Family and Friends of the Camp

Pathways to Future Destinations Conference

The Pathways to Future Destinations: Experiences in Aging, Grief and Life will be held October 18-19, 2009, in Memphis, Tennessee. This two day regional event will cover topics related to end of life issues for individuals with disabilities and their families. Special keynote speakers are Dr. William Gaventa from the Elizabeth Boggs Center in New Jersey and Mr. Jeffrey Kauffman, author of the *Guidebook on Helping Persons with Mental Retardation Mourn*. Other speakers will cover

topics of aging, applied research, legal issues, family perspectives, and ethics.

The conference will also feature exhibitors, research posters at an evening reception and all Downtown Memphis has to offer. A call for poster presentations, vendors and sponsors is available on the Boling Center website at www.utmem.edu/bcdd. For more information contact the Boling Center Training Department at 901-448-

2660. Continuing education credit has been requested and is pending approval from the American Psychological Association, the Commission on Certified Case Management and for registered dietitians, occupational therapists and nurses. Limited stipends will be available for families and caregivers. Contact the Boling Center Training Department for more details before September 15, 2009.

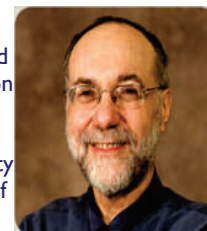
Registration Fee: **\$99 +fees**
UCEDD or LEND Trainees: **\$50**
Limited Family Stipends available
upon request till 9/15/09

Conference Hotel
Crowne Plaza Memphis
300 North Second St.
Memphis, TN 38105
Make reservations by calling by 9/15/09
901-525-1800 or
1-800-2CROWNE



Dr. William Gaventa, serves as the Director, Community and Congregational Supports at The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities in New Jersey. His specialties include developmental disabilities, spiritual supports, and community supports and Dr. Gaventa coordinates a training and technical assistance team for the New Jersey Self Directed Supports Project. As writer and author, he is the Co-Editor of the *Journal of Religion Disability and Health*, editor of two newsletters and a columnist for *Insight*, the national newsletter of the Arc of the United

Jeffrey Kauffman is a psychotherapist who began developing therapeutic treatment approaches for the losses that exist in the intellectual disabilities community, and multi-dimensional models for agencies and families to respond to these diverse losses over 20 years ago. He is a noted author and speaker on these issues and provides training for professionals and families. In 2005, Mr. Kauffman published the *Guidebook for Helping People with Mental Retardation Mourn*. He has taught on the faculty at Bryn Mawr College, Widener University Center for Social Work Education and King's University College, University of Western Ontario.



New Autism Training Program at BCDD

As part of the Combating Autism Act of 2006, the Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal Child and Health Bureau announced a competitive grant application to expand training in the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders for the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) programs. All 34 LEND programs across the country applied for this funding and the Boling Center was one of 17 programs awarded the grant. It provides supplemental funding through 2011. The purpose of the grant is to ex-

pand interdisciplinary training opportunities in the area of autism; that is, its primary objective is to increase the number of trainees **over and above** existing levels that receive training in the assessment, diagnosis, and/or treatment of autism spectrum disorders. The grant primarily supports the training of medium and long-term trainees who will be able to confirm or rule-out a diagnosis of autism and provide evidence-based interventions for individuals with autism spectrum disorders. To date, additional trainees have been enrolled across the disciplines of psychology and speech-

language pathology. An expanded autism curriculum is now being provided to pediatric medical residents as well as graduate students in psychology. The additional grant funding has paved the way for new or expanded collaborative relationships with UT Child Neurology, Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center, the University of Memphis School of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, the Tennessee chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center and the Mid-South chapter of the Autism Society of America.

Delivery of Chronic Care Plans Parent Training

The Boling Center will host a Project DOCC (Delivery of Chronic Care) Parent training session this summer. Project DOCC is an essential component to the training program at the Boling Center and trains over 20 Medicine-Pediatric and Pediatric Residents at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center each year. Parent trainers are a key component to this program and receive stipends for their participation. A free training will

be held this summer in August. Eligible participants are parents or caregivers of children or adults with disabilities or chronic health care issues who are at least two (2) years post diagnosis and can be available during the week and in the evenings. Project DOCC provides all the materials and training necessary to participate and would require one day a month upon availability. For more information contact Elizabeth Bishop at 901-448-3127 or by email at ebishop@utmem.edu.



PROJECT DOCC Delivery of Chronic Care

To view job postings at the Boling Center visit the website at www.utmem.edu or visit the Human Resources page for the UT Health Science Center

BCDD Coming and Going



In April of 2009, the Boling Center Faculty and Staff bid a sad farewell to Laurel Ryan, Family Faculty Coordinator (2004-2009).

Laurel relocated to Alberta, Canada, with her family. The Ryan's have settled into their new home and are doing well.

Roxanne Aaron, Au.D. with the University of Memphis Speech and Hearing Center began working with the Boling Center in April of 2009, providing audiological evaluations. Dr. Aaron is responsible for providing supervision to Audiology trainees and has enhanced the clinical services available at the Boling Center.

Colby Butzon, PhD, completed her fellowship at the Boling Center in May 2009 and joined

the faculty and staff in June 2009 as a staff psychologist. Dr. Butzon continues to work with the Parent and Child Interaction Therapy clinic and the UT Center of Excellence for Children in State Custody.



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The University of Tennessee Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities

The Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities (BCDD) is an interdisciplinary program that supports children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families through training, service, applied research, information dissemination, planning, and policy development.

The Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities is

- A University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDD) funded by the [Administration on Developmental Disabilities](#), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- A Maternal and Child Health LEND Program funded by the [Maternal and Child Health Bureau](#) of the Health Resources and Services Administration
- A member of the [Association of University Centers on Disabilities](#)

Administered by the University of Tennessee (UT) Health Science Center's [College of Medicine](#). Together with the UT [Center on Disability and Employment](#), the Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities plays an important role in providing intercampus disability service.

Upcoming Events—Fall 2009

August 29	STEP, Inc Families of Color United for Special Education Conference (Nashville)
September 2	LEND Trainee Orientation
September 4-5	Volunteer Advocacy Project Fall Series Begins
September 24	HIPAA and Ethics ILT
October 18-19	Pathways to Future Destinations Conference (Crowne Plaza, Memphis, TN)
November 4	5th Annual Disabilities Services and the Hispanic Community (Chattanooga)
November 18	Community Advisory Council Meeting
November 26-27	Thanksgiving Holiday (BCDD Closed)
December 3	Legislative Policy ILT
December 10	Research ILT

All events are held at the Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities 711 Jefferson Ave, Memphis, TN unless otherwise noted.

Job Search and Announcements

Job Openings

Position Announcement - Family Faculty Coordinator at the Boling Center. To view the posting and complete an application visit the [UT Human Resources webpage](#), select *Management & Professional*, **Coordinator position # 20263**.

Regional Intervention Program Professional Resource staff/ Resource Consultant position Minimum requirements for the position include a Bachelor's degree in Special Education, Psychology, Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education, Social Work or a related field, with substantial (1-2) years applicable experience in these fields or a related field. Other experience may be considered. If you have questions about the RIP program, or would like more information, please visit the website, at www.ripnetwork.org. Please fax or email resumes. No phone calls, please!

Announcements

Volunteer Advocacy Project scheduled for Fall 2009. VAP is a **FREE** 6-week training program for parent volunteers who can participate as advocates in IEP meetings and in the community. For more information click on the link to [download an application](#). Deadline is August 15, 2009.

Two Online Courses now available;

1. [Obesity Challenge in Public Health](#) and
2. [Overweight Prevention and Intervention for Children with Special Health Care Needs](#).

