

Direct Connection

MISSOURI DIVISION OF
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES



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Capable Kids and Families Making an Impact

Capable Kids and Families (CKF), located in Phelps County, was developed in 2001 through grant funding as a response to a gap in services for families of children with developmental delays and disabilities. Families often experience isolation and exclusion, financial hardships, insurance restrictions, and difficulty accessing treatment, services, and resources. CKF offers home visits, professional and family resource materials, a playroom with adaptive equipment, and networking opportunities, and CKF loans developmental therapy equipment that is delivered to families' homes. CKF also hosts a music class and weekly playgroups.

Friendship Circles and Physical Education for All Kids (PEAK) are two additional programs offered by CKF. Because of circumstances, some children have limited opportunities to participate in activities where they can meet and interact with peers. Friendship Circles encourage the development of friendships between children with developmental delays and disabilities and their peers in their elementary school through small group activities. The PEAK program provides adaptive physical education equipment to any school in Phelps County in order to increase the participation of children with disabilities.

CKF recently added a one-week adaptive day camp, held in July, with activities including martial arts, swimming, kayaking, volleyball, and other sports.

In 2011, CKF participated in two research projects through Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago which evaluated the impact of the CKF program using surveys and focus groups. The research validated that CKF's work was significantly impacting the lives of children and families who were using CKF's services and supports.

Due to the success of CKF, there have been other organizations in Missouri that have started affiliate programs. At this time, the St. Louis Arc and The Special Learning Center in Jefferson City also offer CKF supports to families in their areas.

For more information about Capable Kids and Families, visit: <http://www.thecomunitypartnership.org/#!capable-kids-and-families/cwnk>

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**CONNECTING WITH THE
DIVISION OF
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES**

Missouri Department of Mental
Health

Division of Developmental
Disabilities

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Quality Advisory Council

The purpose of the Quality Advisory Council is to provide input and recommendations to the Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) on development of and enhancement to the comprehensive quality management system of the DD service continuum through data analysis and feedback.

Council membership is comprised of individuals who consider themselves self-advocates or family members of consumers of DD services. Members represent various stakeholder groups. Members of the Quality Advisory Council are responsible for communicating information to and obtaining feedback from their sponsoring organizations or group of peers whom they represent.

The Quality Advisory Council meets on a quarterly basis in Jefferson City, Missouri.

The following are actively being recruited for membership:

- Family members of individuals who reside in a Habilitation Center
- Individuals representing the Missouri Chapter of the ARC
- Individuals representing the Missouri Head Injury Council
- Individuals representing the Missouri Autism Projects
- Individuals representing Independent Living Centers
- Members (past or present) of RACs who are self-advocates or family members of individuals who receive DD services

To learn more about the Quality Advisory Council or to request a membership application, contact Becky Dickey at 573-522-1691 or becky.dickey@dmh.mo.gov.

Family Resource and Autism Specialists

Six Family Resource and Autism Specialists (FRAS) are available throughout the state to provide technical assistance, outreach, training, and resources to Support Coordinators and stakeholders regarding autism, autism services, and family support. Family Resource and Autism Specialists act as an advocate for individuals and families and advance the principles of best practice. Contact information for Family Resource and Autism Specialists can be found on DD's website:

<http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/docs/familyresourceautismspecialistregion-satellite.pdf>

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed March as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, urging *"all Americans to join me in according to our fellow citizens with such disabilities both encouragement and the opportunities they need to lead productive lives and to achieve their full potential."*

Individuals and organizations across the nation observe this month with appropriate observances and activities directed toward increasing public awareness of the needs and the potential of Americans with developmental disabilities.

The Missouri Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council has planned several events for DD Awareness 2016, which includes distributing awareness posters to various public libraries across the state. Additionally, the DD Council will share posters with legislators at the Missouri Capitol while working to educate them about individuals with developmental disabilities and the issues that are important to them.

For more information about the Missouri DD Council and to view materials that can be used for DD awareness activities, visit: http://www.moddcouncil.org/?page_id=whatsnewstory&id=35





IDEA and Influence of Pediatric Healthcare Providers

A clinical report entitled *The Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for Children with Special Needs* by Paul H. Lipkin, Jeffrey Okamoto, Council on Children with Disabilities, and Council on School Health, published by the American Academy of Pediatrics in December 2015, describes the special education and disability-related services that children with disabilities are entitled to receive including early intervention services, special education services, and individualized accommodations.

As the report indicates, pediatric healthcare providers play a critical role in advocating for and promoting the well-being of all children in educational settings, as they are often the first to identify the need for early intervention. They can be influential in helping to create appropriate support and educational plans for children and can help families understand and access the programs that exist for their children.

To view the full report, visit: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/136/6/e1650>

Midwest Special Needs Trust's Charitable Grant & New Executive Director

Midwest Special Needs Trust (MSNT) operates a charitable program for indigent Missourians with disabilities, providing up to \$1500 per award recipient to be used for many purposes such as dental treatment or dentures, wheelchair ramps or other home modifications for accessibility, medical supplies not covered by Medicaid, communication devices and software that help individuals communicate, and recreational activities such as Camp Wonderland.

Midwest Special Needs Trust partners with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to protect public benefits for Missourians with disabilities, administer the DMH burial account, and ensure DMH is aware of the charitable grant opportunities available to eligible DMH consumers.

To view news coverage about how two grant recipients in the Springfield area used their grants to pay expenses for community bowling leagues, click on:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uCfyYCEeDH4&sns=em>

Midwest Special Needs Trust is on target to award half a million dollars to grant recipients for fiscal years 2015 and 2016. The Board's stewardship over the charitable account is commendable, and MSNT is proud of the difference these grants make to so many.

The MSNT board recently hired a new director, Kathy Birkes, to replace Lynn Carter, who will retire this spring. Ms. Birkes will begin her employment with MSNT in mid-March.

Education Resources

Parents and caregivers make countless decisions for their child who has a developmental disability. Some of those critical decisions involve the education system and the types of supports their child will need to successfully achieve their maximum potential in a school setting and later in life. Because parents/caregivers play an integral role in supporting their child's development and educational success, it is essential for them to have access to valuable resources and up-to-date information that will assist them in making knowledgeable decisions.

Parents and caregivers can find an abundance of information about special education law, their rights in the education system, and how to advocate for their child in the educational setting by visiting the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) website at: <https://dese.mo.gov/>.



Community of Practice

The Missouri Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD) is involved in the Community of Practice for Supporting Families of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. The Supporting Families project is operated under a five year grant awarded to NASDDDS by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) beginning October 2012. Grant partners include University of Missouri Kansas City-Institute on Human Development (UMKC-IHD), Human Services Research Institute (HSRI), and the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS).

Activities are occurring across Missouri to enhance how families and individuals are supported in planning and preparing for their future across their lifespan:

- Families and stakeholders identified a set of principles that evolved into a framework – referred to as LifeCourse – for helping people with developmental disabilities achieve and live the life they desire. For more information about LifeCourse, visit: <http://www.lifecoursetools.com/>.
- DD finalized its Missouri Quality Outcomes (MOQO) to make them more meaningful for all users. For more information about DD’s MOQO, visit: <http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/docs/missouriqualityoutcomes.pdf>.
- DD incorporated language from the LifeCourse framework into the newly revised Individualized Support Plan (ISP) Guide. The ISP guide will provide users a structure to develop ISPs.
- Interactive workshops were scheduled across the state (see schedule below).

LifeCourse Community-Wide Events

Missouri Family to Family is partnering with the Missouri Division of Developmental Disabilities, Missouri Association of County Developmental Disabilities Services (MACDDS), and local community organizations to provide a series of free workshops across the state. Self-advocates, family members, support coordinators, providers, early intervention and health care providers, family groups, planners, teachers, professionals involved with recreation programs, state/county staff, and community members at large may attend.

This interactive, hands-on workshop will:

- Explore the effect of past and current policies and practices of the disability service system
- Highlight the significant role families play in their family members’ lives across the lifespan
- Introduce the LifeCourse Framework as a foundation for working with individuals with disabilities and their families to achieve a “good life”
- Provide real life examples and strategies that can be used to impact the trajectory towards a “good life”

Upcoming Workshops

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|---|---|
| <p align="center">Southeast Missouri March 22, 2016 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Show Me Center 1333 N. Sprigg Street Cape Girardeau, MO 63701</p> | <p align="center">Central Missouri May 5, 2016 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Riechmann Pavilion Stephens Lake Park 2300 E. Walnut Columbia, MO 65201</p> |
| <p align="center">St. Louis Area May 10, 2016 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Developmental Disabilities Resource Board 1025 Country Club Rd. St. Charles, MO 63303</p> | <p align="center">Kansas City Area May 18, 2016 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Kauffman Foundation Conference Center 4801 Rockhill Rd. Kansas City, MO 64110</p> |

For more information about the workshops and to register, click on: <http://mofamilytofamily.org/cwe/>.



Community Calendar

March 23, 2016 Supported Decision Making with Jonathan Martinis, Courtyard Marriott, 3301 Lemone Industrial Blvd., Columbia, Missouri

Registration brochure is available on the MOAAIDD website: <http://moaaidd.org/>

March 24, 2016 Supported Decision Making with Jonathan Martinis, Spencer Road Library, 427 Spencer Road, St. Peters, Missouri

Registration brochure is available on the MOAAID website: <http://moaaidd.org/>

April 17 – 19, 2016 2016 Power Up Assistive Technology Conference, St. Charles Convention Center, St. Charles, Missouri

For more information, visit: <http://at.mo.gov/power-up-conference/index.html>

April 19 – 20, 2016 Tiered Supports Networking Summit, Holiday Inn Executive Center, Columbia, Missouri

For more information, visit: <http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/docs/SaveTheDate2016.pdf>

May 16 – 17, 2016 Association on Aging with Developmental Disabilities 2016 Conference, St. Charles, Missouri

More information will soon be posted on AADD's website: www.agingwithadd.org

June 14, 2016 2016 Mental Health Champions' Banquet, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, Missouri

For more information, visit: http://www.missourimhf.org/?page_id=353

MISSOURI DIVISION OF
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES



Improving lives THROUGH
supports and services

THAT FOSTER self-determination.

DIVISION OF
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Fostering Self-determination



Supporting Families



Facilitating Individualized Services and Supports



Developing Accessible Housing



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MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH