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## December 2009 Newsletter

The Central Ohio Chapter of the Autism Society does not endorse any specific treatments, programs, therapies or professionals providing those therapies. All information is provided FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. Parents and advocates are responsible for the choice of any treatment, therapy or service provider.

The Central Ohio Chapter of the Autism Society is an approved agency for the United Way of Central Ohio's Contributor Choice Program for the 2009 campaign year.

### Meeting Information

Chapter meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the last Tuesday of each month (except July, November and December). **MEETING LOCATION: OCALI, 470 Glenmont Ave., Columbus, OH** (formerly COSERRC).

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR 2009-2010 INCLUDE:

**Tuesday, January 26, 2010 – Karen Ratliff-Schaub, Ph.D. on the Medical Home Model**

**Tuesday, February 23, 2010 – Tanya Corso, Music Therapist**

**Tuesday, March 30, 2010 – Lynn Tramontano, Financial Planning for People with Disabilities**

**Tuesday April 27, 2010 – Maureen Geraghty, Ph.D. will return to discuss dietary intervention and management**

**Tuesday, May 25, 2010 – Transition Topics**

**Tuesday, June 29, 2010 – Summer Support Group Meeting**

**Save the Date!**  
**Autism Society Central Ohio's**  
**Bounce for Autism at**  
**Pump It Up**  
**Plain City, Ohio**  
**Thursday, April 21, 2010**

**The Autism Society's National Office** has announced a new household membership rate of \$25 – a reduction of more than 35% off the current national membership fee. As always, membership in the national organization automatically confers a voting membership in Autism Society Central Ohio. By joining, you will receive 4 issues of Autism Advocate, the journal published by our national organization. To join, go to <http://www.autism-society.org>.

### **Conferences**

**Arc of Ohio Training for Ohioans with Developmental Disabilities, Their Families and Support Staff**, Friday, December 11, 2009, Holiday Inn, Worthington, 7007 N. High St. Information about Medicaid, Waivers, Autism Scholarship and Legal Rights. Free to individuals with disabilities and their family members (lunch included). To register go to <http://www.thearcofohio.org>.

**Autism and Environment: What do we know? What don't we know?** This free teleconference features Irva Hertz-Picciotto, Ph.D., M.P.H. of the University of California, Davis Division of Epidemiology, Department of Public Health. Tuesday, December 15, 2009, 2 to 3 p.m. Eastern Time. Dial in a few minutes before 2 p.m. to 1.800.868.1837 or 1.404.920.6440. Pass code is 956 136#. For materials go to [www.ehinitiative.org](http://www.ehinitiative.org) or [www.aaid.org/ehi](http://www.aaid.org/ehi) and click on the button that says "next teleconference".

### **Events**

**Transition Night, Thursday**, December 10, 2009, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Hilliard Bradley High School, 2800 Walker Road, Hilliard, OH. This free information fair provides information on various opportunities and programs for those transitioning from high school to college, training, independent living or employment.

**Sensory Friendly Movies Sponsored by Haugland Learning Center** presents The Princess and the Frog on Saturday December 12 at 10 a.m. at the Marcus Cinema, 200 Hutchinson Ave., Columbus. Ticket sales begin at 9:30 a.m. Enjoy a slightly quieter movie with extra lighting in a special needs friendly environment.

**The Princess & the Frog** will also be shown at the AMC Lennox theater, 777 Kinear Rd. on December 12 at 10 a.m. In a sensory friendly showing sponsored by AMC and ASA.

**See The Horse Boy** at the Gateway Film Center on January 8, 2010.

**Sensory Friendly Professional Soccer Game.** Ohio Vortex vs. St. Louis Illusion, Saturday, January 16, 2010, 7 p.m., Canton, OH. To learn more or purchase tickets (proceeds benefit Autism Society Greater Akron Chapter) go to [www.AutismSocietyGreaterAkron.org](http://www.AutismSocietyGreaterAkron.org).

### **Support Groups and Educational Opportunities**

**WrightChoice's Get Ready! Program** is a 6-week professional development program to prepare individuals aged 18-24 to sit for the National Work Readiness Credential. For more information, contact TyKiah Wright, at (614)802-2364 or [www.wrightchoice.org](http://www.wrightchoice.org).

**Easter Seals Family Support Conference Call Series.** Easter Seals, in collaboration with Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) is hosting a series of monthly conference calls on Family Support. The calls are designed for families of children with developmental disabilities and self advocates to learn more about family support options and how to advocate for service improvements. The next call is scheduled for Wednesday, December 16, 2009 from 3-4 p.m. Additional calls will take place on the third Wednesday of each month. To register, call (888)869-1189 or (706)643-5902 or go to <http://www.directeventreg.com/registration/event/43689231>.

**Parent Training by the State Support Team** is scheduled on the following topics and dates: Understanding ADHD, January 13, 2010; Guide to Understanding the Evaluation Process Under IDEA 2004, February 17, 2010; Behavior Focused IEP's, April 28, 2010. All are at the Education Service Center of Central Ohio. For more information, or to register, call 614.753.4690 or go to [www.cositpd.org](http://www.cositpd.org).

**OCECD Free Webinars** on various topics. For a complete list and to register, go to <https://ocecd.webex.com/mw03061/default.do?siteurl=ocecd>.

**The Autism Self Advocacy Network** has a Central Ohio/Ohio State University Chapter. For more information, email [asan.ohiostate@gmail.com](mailto:asan.ohiostate@gmail.com)

## Studies

**An Autism Screening Tool for Adults** is the subject of a new study at OSU's Nisonger Center. Participants ages 18-40 years with a prior diagnosis of intellectual disability or autism spectrum disorder and intellectual disability are sought. For more information, contact Whitney Brooks at (614)247-6237 or [Whitney.Brooks@osumc.edu](mailto:Whitney.Brooks@osumc.edu).

## Resources

**Twelve Tips for Helping People with Autism and their Families Have a Happy Holiday.**  
[http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer?pagename=holiday\\_tips](http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer?pagename=holiday_tips)

**Early Intervention Consulting LLC**, a home based autism program provider is expanding from Cleveland to Columbus. For information, go to [www.earlyinterventionconsulting.com](http://www.earlyinterventionconsulting.com).

**Remarkably Able Newsletter** in behalf of youth with ASD and Developmental Disabilities. See the November issue at [www.independencebound.com](http://www.independencebound.com).

**Keith Storey Books Available:** The Road Ahead: Transition to Adult Life for Persons with Disabilities is not available at [www.trninc.com](http://www.trninc.com). Functional Assessment and Program Development for Problem Behavior: A Practical Handbook is available at <http://academic.cengage.com>. Walking Isn't Everything by Jean Denecke is available at [www.crystaldreamspublishing.com](http://www.crystaldreamspublishing.com).

**ASA's Living With Autism Series** is continually updated. Recent additions include information for Law Enforcement and First Responders. Check out the many useful materials at [www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org). ASA also has an **on-line referral database** at [www.autismsource.com](http://www.autismsource.com).

**Autism Society Art Exhibit.** View art by individuals on the spectrum and upload your own. Go to: [http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer?pagename=art\\_exhibit](http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer?pagename=art_exhibit)

**Ohio's Autism Interagency Workgroup** has completed a status report on Work Plan activities. To view it, visit the ODMRDD website at <http://odmrdd.state.oh.us/topics/iagautism.htm>. Comments welcomed.

**Ohio's Children's Buy-In Program** – Beginning in April, 2008, the Ohio Dept. of Job & Family Services began the Children's Buy-In (CBI) program. CBI was designed to cover children with special health needs with working parents whose income exceeds \$42,000/year. See: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/cbi/index.stm.T>

**The Autism Society** offers many helpful references and brochures for downloading. Check out their website at <http://www.autism-society.org>.

**The Autism Society of Ohio** website has an extensive listing of resources and research opportunities. Go to <http://www.autismohio.org>.

**Another Good Source of Information** is the OCALI website (Ohio Coalition for Autism and Low Incidence). Visit <http://www.ocali.org>.

**SAFE AND SOUND Kits Available** – Our chapter has a limited number of these ASA kits available on a first-come-first-served basis. These include a decal to be placed on your home or auto to notify emergency responders that a person with autism is inside, along with a helpful inventory of information for caregivers and emergency personnel. If you would like one, please send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Autism Society of America – Central Ohio Chapter, c/o 286 Weydon Rd., Worthington, OH 43085.

**Ohio Autism Awareness License Plates**. To purchase yours, visit [www.oplates.com](http://www.oplates.com) and click on “Specialty Plates” or visit [www.autismohio.org](http://www.autismohio.org) for more information.

**Weekly E-zine for Parents of Children with Developmental Disabilities** – “On the Horizon”. For a free subscription, go to: <http://horizonsdrc.com/home/newsletter-sign-up-link>

**Steps to Success: Communicating with Your Child's School**. This resource offers specific communication skills that may be helpful to parents as they develop and maintain partnerships with their child's school. To review, go to <http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/success.cfm>.

**VSA arts of Ohio** offers arts experiences and training for delivering arts experiences to people with disabilities. Check them out at <http://www.vsao.org>

## LEGISLATION & OTHER INFORMATION

**Autism Affects 1% of Children** ages 3-17 (one in every 91 children) according to a study released in Pediatrics. See <http://autism-society.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=15065>

**The Achieving Better Life Experience Act (ABLE) of 2009** (S493/HR1205) is now in both the House and Senate. The ABLE Act will give individuals with disabilities and their families the ability to save for future medical care, education, employment training, housing, etc. by means of “ABLE accounts” which would accrue interest tax-free. More than 40 national disability organizations, including the Autism Society have expressed support.

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