



Connecticut Disability Advocacy Collaborative Bulletin

“Enhancing the effectiveness of disability activism by organizing and empowering individuals, families, groups, and organizations!”

Empowerment! Opportunity! Justice!

September-October, 2007

Need this newsletter in an alternative format? Please let us know!

Points of contact:

Stan Kosloski, 860-635-0695 or skosloski03@comcast.net

Jayne Kleinman, 203-631-4800 or jjk1009@hotmail.com

Larry Robinson, 203-335-7800 or robinsonlarry2005@yahoo.com

For archived Bulletins go to www.ct-dac.org

In This Issue	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Page</i>
ADA Restoration Act workshop on Sept. 24	2
Road to Freedom Tour to visit State October 14-15	2
Regional Collaborative group contacts	4
CT workshops, conferences, forums, and meetings: What to do When You Disagree; People First Meeting and Conference; SILC Conference; CT-KASA planning meeting; transportation forum; parent workshops in Danbury; ADACC Annual Meeting; WeCAHR and P&A to celebrate anniversaries	4
Other news items for the State: Vote by Phone option coming; CT Census data available; BIAC needs your advocacy; contact info for CT veterans; NEAT training series; Arc/CT has a new address	8
National News: ADAPT meets HUD; summer internships at AAPD; Project Action opportunity; autism grants available	10
Worthy repeats from last month’s Bulletin: Communitas Walk ‘n Roll; CACLD conference; “The Right to be Disabled”	12

The Connecticut Disability Advocacy Collaborative (CDAC) announces a new look to our web site. Check us out at: <http://www.CT-DAC.org>

It's Still not too Late!

To provide vital information about the need for the recently proposed ADA Restoration Act, the Disability Advocacy Collaborative has joined with the ADA Coalition of Connecticut and Advocacy Unlimited to offer a special workshop on Monday, September 24, 2007 from 9 am – 12:30 pm at the Newington Town Hall. The Town Hall is located at 131 Cedar Street in Newington (also Rte. 175). Melissa Marshall, Esq. will be the presenter, and there is no charge to attend.

U.S. Supreme Court rulings in recent years have revealed an alarming trend: the types of disabilities protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act have become more and more limited. The Court has ruled that many people with disabilities who use 'mitigating' measures - such as medication and technology - are not disabled. For example, people with diabetes, heart conditions, psychiatric disabilities, and cancer have had their ADA claims kicked out of court because, with improvements in medication, they are considered 'too functional' to be 'disabled.'

The rights of hundreds of thousands of individuals whom we thought were covered by the ADA may no longer be protected! These decisions run contrary to the intent of the ADA, and legislation has been introduced in Congress to address the problem. Come to this important presentation and learn how the Court's recent decisions might affect you, and what you can do to support the ADA Restoration Act.

If you wish to attend the event you must register in advance by e-mailing skosloski03@comcast.net or calling 860-679-1513.

Road to Freedom Tour Visits CT October 14-15

The Disability Advocacy Collaborative has taken the lead in garnering support for the enactment of the ADA Restoration Act (see article below). To heighten public awareness of the need for the Act, ADA Watch and the National Disability Rights Network are conducting a national tour, modeled after the tour the late Justin Dart organized in the 1980s to gather support for the ADA. The Tour will be in Connecticut in mid-October, and plans are being made to host activities in New Haven, Hartford, and Torrington on October 14 and 15.

On Sunday, KASA/CT (Kids As Self Advocates), in conjunction with the New Haven Department of Disability Services and the UConn Center on Disabilities, will host the stop the Tour will make in New Haven. Events will take place on the New Haven Green, at the corner near New Haven City Hall on Chapel Street, from 1:00 – 4:00 pm.

On Monday, October 15, the Tour will visit Torrington in the morning where the NorthWest Network of the Collaborative will host an event at Torrington City Hall from 10 am – 12 noon. Following the conclusion of the Torrington event, the Tour will travel to the State Capitol for a welcoming by state advocates and elected officials from 3:00 – 5:00 pm.

All are invited to one or more of the events!

To find out more about the Tour, go to <http://roadtofreedom.org/cs/home> .

So What's the ADA Restoration Act All About, Anyway?

Seventeen years ago, Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with overwhelming bipartisan support. In recent years, however, a number of Supreme Court decisions have significantly reduced the protections available to people with disabilities in employment settings. Courts have been quick to side with businesses and employers, deciding against people with disabilities who challenge employment discrimination 97% of the time, often before the person has even had a chance to show that the employer treated them unfairly.

Indeed, courts have created an absurd Catch-22 by allowing employers to say a person is "too disabled" to do the job but not "disabled enough" to be protected by the ADA. People with conditions like epilepsy, diabetes, HIV, cancer, hearing loss, and mental illness that manage their disabilities with medication, prosthetics, hearing aids, etc. -- or "mitigating measures" – may be viewed as "too functional" to have a disability and are denied the ADA's protection from employment discrimination.

The American Association of Persons with Disabilities (AAPD) has been working with a broad coalition of disability organizations who have helped Representative James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) draft the ADA Restoration Act of 2007, which would enable Americans with disabilities utilizing the ADA to focus on the discrimination that they have experienced rather than having to first prove that they fall within the scope of the ADA's protection. The House version of the bill is HR 3195, the Senate version is S 1881.

With this bill, the ADA's clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination on the basis of disability will be properly restored. Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD), who played a leading role in passage of the ADA in 1990, is a co-sponsor of the bill. As of September 6, there were 188 co-sponsors, including four of the five Congressmen from Connecticut (John Larson has not yet signed on). Neither of our two U.S. Senators (Dodd and Lieberman) has signed on to the Senate version of the bill.

The ADA Watch / Road to Freedom Tour is hosting an online petition urging Congress to pass the ADA Restoration Act of 2007 into law. To read and sign the petition, visit: http://www.democracyinaction.org/dia/organizationsORG/adawatch/petition.jsp?petition_KEY=589&t=roadtofreedom.dwt .

As of September 15, four of Connecticut's five members of Congress have signed on to the ADA Restoration Act; John Larson from the 1st District has not. Neither Senator Dodd nor Senator Lieberman has signed on to the Senate version of the proposed Act.

Disability Advocacy Collaborative Regional Contacts

To get involved with one of the Collaborative's Regional Advocacy Networks, contact the following:

Northwest -- contact: Bill Knight (lackerman01@snet.net) – meetings are held at the Litchfield Arc

Southwest –contact: Carol Kana (pkana@snet.net) – meetings are held at the Norwalk Police Department

Danbury Area -- contact Pam Arturi (parturi@abilitybeyonddisability.org) – meetings are held at Ability Beyond Disability in Bethel

North Central — contact: Candace Low (clow@independenceunlimited.org) – meetings are held at 151 New Park Avenue in Hartford

Waterbury Area –contact: Mike Valuckas (mike.valuckas@independencenorthwest.org) – contact Mike for information about next meeting

Northeast Area – contact: Carolyn Newcombe (cnewcombe@charter.net) – meetings are held at the Mansfield Senior Center.

What to do When You Disagree

The Family Support Network for the North West Region and the Support Group for Parents and Caregivers Raising Children with Special Health Care Needs is offering a workshop on Monday, September 24 at the Waterbury Arc – 1929 East Main Street in Waterbury. The agenda for the workshop is as follows:

- 6:00-6:30 pm - Networking, resources, announcements
- 6:30-8:00 pm - Workshop on “What to Do When You Disagree” presented by the CT Parent Advocacy Center – the focus will be on effective communication and the continuum of conflict resolution options. Participants will learn several strategies for promoting positive communications within a team, as well as identify ways to resolve special education disputes including mediation, due process & complaints.
- 8:00-9:00 pm - Networking, resources

For more information contact: Alice B. Buttwell – alicemmbb@aol.com or (860) 350-6025

Domestic Violence and People with Disabilities

The Connecticut Departments of Social Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services, along with the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, will present a two day conference on September 26-27 entitled “Domestic Violence Across Communities: Ensuring

Awareness and Enhancing Expertise". The event will run from 9:00 am – 3:30 pm both days and will be held at the Hartford Marriott in Rocky Hill.

For more information call the Coalition at 860-282-7899.

People First of CT to hold Statewide Meeting

People First of Connecticut will hold a statewide meeting on Thursday, September 27, 2007 7:00 – 9:00 pm at MARC Community Resources in Cromwell. Dessert will be served at 7:00 pm and nominations for officers will take place at 7:30 pm. Positions for which nominations are sought include:

- President
- Vice – President
- Treasurer
- Secretary

Elections will be held at the People First Annual Conference on November 3, 2007 (8:00 am – 3:30 pm), at the Clarion Hotel, Bristol. Tia Nelis, SABE national leader will keynote the day focusing on "Celebrating Change". Workshops include "Breaking out of your shell", "Personal Power: Use your Individual Plan to change your Life!", and "Who is Richard LaPointe and why is he in prison?" and more.

Questions about either the meeting on September 27, or the conference on November 3? Contact Jean Bowen at advozealot@aol.com or 203-788-3156 , or Laura Hastillo at l_hastillo@yahoo.com or 860-342-0700, ext. 14.

SILC Conference on September 29!

On Saturday, September 29 the State Council on Independent Living will present “Forging a New Vision... Independent Living in Connecticut...Passing the Torch to a New Generation”. The event will run from 9:30 am – 6:30 pm and will feature Judy Heumann as Keynote Speaker. The conference will take place at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven and will include a cultural event and chances for networking with people who have been involved in independent living movement since its beginning in the 70s.

For more information contact:

Debbie Melaragno

Connecticut State Independent Living Council

151 New Park Avenue - Box 29

Hartford, CT 06106

(860) 523-0126

Are You 13-24? CT-KASA Needs You!

CT-KASA has been active and successful in Connecticut since 2002, when a group of young people decided that they wanted opportunities to speak up for themselves and chances to learn who they were and who they could become. These youth shaped how CT-KASA operated and gathered the supports needed to make it the program it is today.

This is a time of transition for CT-KASA and they want your help to figure out where youth in Connecticut are now and what they want for the future. Facilitators Naomi Ortiz (National KASA) and Betsy Valnes (National Youth Leadership Network) will be present on Sunday, September 30 to lead a discussion from 1-4 pm at the UCONN Center for Disabilities in Farmington. Transportation and accommodations will be provided. Please contact Heather Northrop at 860-297-4316 or ctkasa@ctkasa.org by September 23, 2007 if you wish to attend.

Improve Connecticut's Bus Services: Make your Voice Heard!

Do you now use, or are you considering using, public bus services to reach more destinations and want to see improvements? Are you one of the many Connecticut residents concerned about the high cost of congestion on the economy, the environment and your quality of life?

Studies have shown that increased bus transit will benefit the economy, the environment and all residents of the state. Increased state funding for public bus services is needed to increase the frequency of bus service, expand weekend and weekday hours of service, improve commuter shuttle service, provide additional para-transit service, and create easy access to information about bus services in your area.

Public forums are being organized in Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, Norwich, and Waterbury. State and local elected officials, Connecticut Department of Transportation representatives, and state bus transit advocates will be on hand to listen to your comments and concerns.

A forum is being held in New Haven on Friday, October 2 at 10 am in the Hall of Records at 200 Orange Street. If you would like to attend, RSVP to 1-877-926-8300. This toll free telephone call is provided by AARP. There is no fee to attend the forum and drop-ins are welcome, but your RSVP would be appreciated.

For more information contact Gloria Mills at gmills.cact@snet.net.

Parent Workshops in Danbury

The Greater Danbury Child and Family Network is offering the following workshops for parents of children with disabilities:

- Wednesday, Oct. 3, 7-9 pm, Broadview Middle School Auditorium in Danbury - a workshop on Building Social Skills in Children with Special Needs. Presented by Lynne

Guilmette, M.Ed. Ms. Guilmette will talk about forming friendships, reading social cues, and other important topics.

- Thursday, Oct. 18, 7 pm, Rogers Park Middle School Cafeteria in Danbury – workshop entitled "Your Dependent with Special Needs: Making Their Future More Secure", presented by Anthony Recck, MetDesk Specialist. Mr. Recck will talk about special needs trusts, government benefit eligibility, guardianship, and financial and funding options.

On-site childcare and childcare stipends are available. Light refreshments are provided at both events.

For further information, go to: www.danburychildrenfirst.org. Click on “This Month” and you'll see the Danbury Children First events for September and October.

ADACC to Hold Annual Meeting

Readers are invited to join the Americans with Disabilities Act Coalition of Connecticut, Inc. (ADACC) as they host their 14th Annual Meeting on Thursday, October 25 at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in Cromwell. Registration will begin at 11:30 am, and lunch will be served at noon.

This year, ADACC will recognize the following individuals for their unwavering, often innovative, commitment to the ideals and principles of the ADA:

- Sheila Amdur - Advocacy Award;
- Ruth Grobe - Municipal Leadership Award;
- Judge Robert K. Killian, Jr. - State Leadership Award; and
- Jossie Perez- Local Impact Award.

Guest speaker will be Amy Porter, Bureau Chief at the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS), who will discuss Connect-Ability, the new state campaign to help employers overcome barriers to hiring people with disabilities.

Cost to attend the event, which includes a very nice lunch, is \$35. Make check payable to **ADACC** and mail to:

Lisa Caron, ADACC Project Director
60 B Weston Street
Hartford, CT 06120

Questions? Please contact Lisa Caron at 860-297-4383 (V) or e-mail adacoalition@sbcglobal.net or Evelyn Oliver Knight at 860-424-4871 (V); 860-424-4839(TTY); or e-mail: evelyn.knight@ct.gov .

Special note: ADACC, formed in 1992 to promote compliance with the ADA, is seeking new Board members. The only organization in the state singularly devoted to ADA compliance and education, the Coalition acts as a catalyst for change throughout Connecticut by means of

workshops, training, technical assistance, and social action. If interested in joining ADACC's Board of Directors, contact a member of the Nominating Committee: Tony LaCava (Disability Resource Center) – 203-378-6977 or tlacava@drcfc.org ; Evelyn Oliver-Knight (BRS) – 1-800-537-2549 or evelyn.knight@ct.gov ; or Carolyn Sanzel (Independence NorthWest) – 203-729-3299 or carolyn.sanzel@independencenorthwest.org .

WeCAHR & P&A to Celebrate 30 Years of Advocacy

The State Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities will celebrate thirty years of advocacy work with a luncheon at the Chowder Pot Restaurant in Hartford on Tuesday , October 16 at 12 noon. For more information call the agency at 860-297-4300 or 1-800-842-7303 (toll free).

And WeCAHR (Western Connecticut Association for Human Rights) will celebrate its thirty year anniversary on Friday, November 9 at the Amber Room Colonnade banquet facility in Danbury. For more information call 203-792-3540 or go to: www.wecahr.org.

The Collaborative salutes both organizations for their long-time dedication and commitment to securing the rights of children and adults with disabilities.

Municipal Elections are Coming on November 6!

Susan Bysiewicz, Secretary of State, is reminding voters with disabilities that they may choose to vote at the polls on November 6 using a specially designated telephone. The way Vote by Phone works is this: an election official will escort you to the voting station and will access the audio ballot by entering a poll worker ID number and the ballot access code for your voting district. Simply listen to the directions and make your choices using the keypad. When you are done completing your ballot, the system will ask you to verify your choices. You will be given the opportunity to change any of those choices and even to spoil the ballot and start again, if you choose. You then press “#” to complete the voting process and wait for the fax machine to send you your paper ballot. Place the ballot in the ballot box and your vote is complete.

These are the three steps to remember:

1. Listen carefully to the directions and make your selections using the telephone key pad.
2. Verify and confirm your choices after completing the ballot.
3. Wait for the fax machine to send your paper ballot. Place that ballot in the ballot box provided.

To learn more about how Vote-By-Phone works, try the toll-free demonstration line: Dial 1-866-979-3900 and when asked for the poll worker ID number, enter 1234#. When asked for the ballot access ID, enter 101# (Township of Addison), and then follow the instructions for completing the demo ballot.

Census Data Available

Connecticut Voices for Children has issued a press release on the new Census data and a detailed fact sheet summarizing and analyzing the Connecticut data. The information is on the Connecticut Voices Web site at <http://www.ctkidslink.org/census.html>

A Special request from Julie Peters, Executive Director of BIAC

“We learned late last week that the \$1.273 million that had been approved by the governor and appropriated in the budget for an increase in the ABI Waiver (reduced from the initial \$1.8 million), was somehow cut at the last minute. After working so hard during the session to get an increase in funding for the Waiver (small as it was), which could have possibly been used to increase companion rates for provider services on the Waiver, this was very troubling news. In talking with Dorian Long, ABI Program Administrator, she did not know how it happened.

Our lobbyist, David Evans, has been investigating what happened. He learned that OPM is concerned as well that this occurred and has called a special meeting next week with Mike Starkowski, Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, and Denise Merrill, Chair of the Appropriations Committee, to discuss the matter.

How can you help? David suggests that you call Denise Merrill’s office and ask for her help in seeing that these funds are reinstated to the Waiver, where the legislature and governor had appropriated them. Representative Merrill is a friend and supporter of BIAC and we believe she will do all she can to help us. Your call will help her see how important it is to so many people. If she is not in, please leave a message with her aide. Calls do count.” – Julie Peters

Veterans Info

If you are interested in the resources available to veterans with disabilities, here are some useful points of contact:

Donna Meskony
Director of Office of Advocacy and Assistance
Department of Veterans Affairs
287 West Street
Rocky Hill, CT 06067
Phone: 860-721-5915
Fax: 860-721-5904
E-mail: donna.meskony@po.state.ct.us

Woody Lechause
860-253-9704
Department of Connecticut Disabled American Veterans
damelk@cox.net

Debbi Newton
President of NGA CT (Nat'l Guard Association)
ngact2005@yahoo.com

“Rusty” Meek
Senior Vice Commander CT VFW
860-721-5941 (VFW Office)
rusty.meek@vfwct.org

Glen Tewksbury
Veteran Service Officer
860-721-5941 (VFW Office)
glenn.tewksbury@vfwct.org

Andrew Barlyski
CT Department Commander
American Legion
860-928-3669
abarlyski@snet.net

NEAT Offers 2007-08 Series

The New England Assistive Technology Center has announced its 2007-08 series of workshops, seminars, product demonstrations and events. Training opportunities are open to anyone interested in the latest assistive technology devices and services. Course descriptions are available on the NEAT web site: www.neatmarketplace.org. NEAT is located at 120 Holcomb Street in Hartford and can be reached by phone at 860-243-2869, 1-866-526-4492 (toll free), and 860-286-3113 (TDD).

NEAT also has a Satellite office at the Disability Resource Center for Fairfield County in Stratford at 80 Ferry Boulevard (phone: 203-378-6977, TDD: 203-378-3248).

Arc/CT has Moved

The Arc of Connecticut has moved to 43 Woodland Street (Suite 260) in Hartford 06105. Their new number is 860-246-6400 and their new fax number is 860-246-6406. Its web site remains the same – www.arcct.com.

NATIONAL NEWS

ADAPT Housing Forum Exposes Individual Problems and HUD Inaction

Officials from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) traveled to Chicago from Washington, D.C. last week to meet with 500 ADAPT activists, but incited the crowd to anger when they communicated an old message that hasn't been supported with action

as promised by HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson. Their appearance at the National Housing Forum sponsored by ADAPT followed two hours of testimony about the lack of affordable, accessible integrated housing as articulated by disability rights activists from across the nation.

"We just heard the same old rhetoric, lots of promises, but no action," said Cassie James, ADAPT Organizer from Philadelphia who moderated the Housing Forum. "Last May, Secretary Jackson made a number of commitments to us, and he hasn't honored one of them."

In a May meeting in Washington, D.C., ADAPT confronted Secretary Jackson about the 58% loss in housing vouchers that the disability community suffered due to a combination of federal budget cuts, and misappropriation of the vouchers by local entities that administer the voucher program. Jackson promised to report to ADAPT before the September action in Chicago how many of those housing vouchers for people with disabilities he has recovered.

ADAPT was in Chicago to send a clear message to HUD, the Governor of Illinois, the nation's medical community, and Congress that denying affordable, accessible housing to people with disabilities - and thus supporting the incarceration of people in institutions for the "crime" of disability - will not be tolerated.

AAPD Accepting Applications for 2008 Summer Interns

The American Association of Persons with Disabilities (AAPD) is now accepting applications for its 2008 Summer Internship Programs. Details and the application are available on the AAPD website (look under Leadership Development): www.AAPD.com.

Applications are due Friday, December 14, 2007.

Transportation Opportunity

Do you wish your efforts were more effective in meeting the transportation needs of people with disabilities?

The 2008 Mobility Planning Services Institute can provide the tools you need if your community is ready to:

- Create and maintain strong and equal linkages between the disability community and transportation industry
- Commit at the highest levels of your organizations to work on transportation solutions
- Learn answers and ideas from colleagues working in communities like yours

Gather some of the key players in your community who represent disability and transportation organizations and bring them to Easter Seals Project ACTION's Mobility Planning Services Institute taking place April 21-24, 2008 in Washington, D.C. While next spring's seems far away at this point, please note that applications are due December 21.

Twenty teams will be selected from across the U.S. They will travel to Washington, D.C., to convene at the Renaissance Washington Hotel to share information and strategies to improve access to transportation services in their communities. Teams are comprised of three to five leaders from the disability world and transportation industry in their communities. You are encouraged to begin assembling your team right away, referring to the application guidelines related to team membership, and give thoughtful consideration to the questions that are asked.

There is no registration fee for Mobility Planning Services Institute, and Project Action will reimburse participants for hotel accommodations, ground and air transportation, and meals not included during scheduled activities.

For more info go to: www.easterseals.com/site/R?i=cID1YEnli2v-EFP3LH6RxQ .

Autism Speaks Makes Grants Available

Autism Speaks has issued a request for grant applications (RFA) for projects that will enhance the lives of those with autism spectrum disorders. The Autism Speaks Family Service Community Grants will focus on building the field of services for individuals with autism and expanding the capacity to effectively serve this growing community. The Family Services Committee is seeking proposals for project grants in one or more of the following areas: Education; Recreation/Community Activities; Equipment/Support Technology; and Young Adult/Adult Services.

Prospective applicants will be educators, trainers and service providers who work with individuals with autism. Autism Speaks will not award grants to individuals or fund an individual or family for participation in personal programs. The Family Services Committee encourages individuals to contact local providers and organizations to submit proposals.

This first round of proposals is due October 12, 2007. The average grant awarded will be in the \$10,000 to \$20,000 range. Please visit <http://www.autismspeaks.org/community/fsdb/grants.php> for policies, procedures and application details. Funds are expected to be awarded in December, 2007.

Repeat Announcements from August-September Bulletin

Walk 'N Roll with Communitas

On Saturday, September 29, 2007, on the campus of Manchester Community College (MCC), the Kristen DeBonee Annual 5K (3.1 miles) and a 1 Mile 'Fun Walk' WALK "N' ROLL will be held to benefit Communitas and the MCC Institute on Disability and Community Inclusion.

In order to increase "roller" participation, Communitas is making a special effort to invite walk 'n' rollers with disabilities and their family and friends to this fun event. The festivities begin between 9:30 & 10 am with registration (there is a \$5.00 fee) and goodies in the MCC Arts, Sciences and Technology Lobby. The Walk "n" Roll itself begins at 10:00 am. Refreshments and prize drawings complete the activities of the morning.

To request a Registration Form or for further information, please contact Joan Jakiela (860-512-2705) or e-mail: jjakiela@mcc.comnet.edu. You may register the day of the event as well. You are also welcome to contact George Ducharme or Pat Beeman at (860 512-2789) or e-mail: gducharme@mcc.comnet.edu and Bevjackson02@aol.com with additional questions.

CACLD's Fall Conference

The CT Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities (CACLD) Annual Conference will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2007 at the Stamford Marriott Hotel. Check www.cacl.org for more info. Topics include: Reading, Math, College, RTI, NVLD, IDEA, Family Issues, Study Skills, Advocacy, Anxiety, Transition, Medications, Brain Modifiability, Social Skills, Assistive Technology, Executive Function, Tips and Strategies for Teachers, Neuropsychological Evaluations, and much more.

“The Right to be Disabled”

The Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress will host their annual convention on Saturday, November 10, with the agenda being “The Right to be Disabled”. Norman Kunc and Emma Van der Klift will lead participants in a “rousing call to place less emphasis on ‘fixing’ people and instead focus on the inherent assets and gifts that each person brings to the community”. Workshop topics include Birth to Three, IEPs, Self Advocacy, and Adult Life. Twenty businesses and organizations will be exhibiting products and services, including the latest books, educational toys, assistive technologies, and financial services. There will also be a silent auction.

The Convention will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell. More information can be found on the Convention tab at the Congress web site – www.ctdownsyndrome.org - or by calling 1-888-486-8537.

This Bulletin is supported by a grant that the Disability Advocacy Collaborative has received from the Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities. In addition, in-kind support is being provided by the UCONN Center on Disabilities, and Communitas, Inc. serves as the project’s fiscal agent. To all three we extend our deep appreciation.