

INTELLECTUAL  
disABILITY  
SERVICES



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

DEPARTMENT of BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
and INTELLECTUAL disABILITY SERVICES



# BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION

## Welcome Denise Taylor Patterson!

We are pleased to welcome the new Director of Intellectual disAbility Services (IDS) for the City of Philadelphia, Denise Taylor Patterson. Family Forum sat down with her for a chat to introduce her to our readers. She was never more than a

moment away from a laugh or a smile.

Ms. Patterson's favorite part of working at IDS is the ability to provide services for the individuals and families who are in need of them. Unlike Early Intervention, services to individuals with an intellectual disAbility are not an entitlement. Therefore, Ms. Patterson says, to have

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My City, My Place Building A Healthier Community  
**March 7, 2014**

the funding to help families and individuals receive ID supports and services is a pleasure. However, it is very difficult when an individual qualifies for services, but there is no funding to pay for them. This, Ms. Patterson explains, is what makes this job such a challenge.

The core value of IDS, Ms. Patterson continues, is to provide services for

individuals and families in the community. Optimally it is best to be able to support families in their home, however since that is not always the best option for families, IDS helps facilitate other solutions such as Life-Sharing, and other community based living arrangements as alternatives.

Ms. Patterson believes one of the biggest challenges facing the ID community is

educating the community at large about what individuals with intellectual disAbilities can contribute to the community and society as a whole. People are beginning to understand more, but there is still much to do.

Families still need to be informed of the benefits of being integrated and employed in the community. Many families fear having ***continued on page 2***



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 their family member in public settings and regular schools and jobs in the community, some families still feel like they need to protect their family member by sheltering them from the community.

Employment is very important for all individuals. Being able to wake up every morning to go to work provides each one of us with a purpose and people with

intellectual disabilities are no different.

To demonstrate this point, Ms. Patterson shared a story about a person who was living in the community and was very sick. When asked what she wanted most of all the answer was “to get a job”. Not to get well, or to move back home, it was simply “to get a job”. Ms. Patterson also shared that IDS has been receiving

calls regarding the Adult Protective Services Act (APS). The Department of Public Welfare (DPW) recently released a phone number to call if you suspect neglect or abuse of a person with a disability. The phone number is **1-877-401-8835**.

Ms. Patterson considers this a positive change. Despite the lack of funding for APS, she remains positive and enthusiastic about how

this will help vulnerable people. She acknowledges that her staff has reacted instinctively to make sure that the affected people get the help they need. She says, “the staff here at IDS is amazing, and truly care about the population we serve. I could not be happier with the staff we have here at IDS.”

## Calendar and Repeatables

**It is always best to call before going to a meeting to be sure there have been no changes since the printing of Family Forum.**

**To include an event in Family Forum, please email [familyforum@visionforequality.org](mailto:familyforum@visionforequality.org)**

### Mondays

- 1st Mon 6:30 pm - 9 pm** Speaking for Ourselves, 701 Market Street, 5th floor (IDS County Office across from Liberty Resources) Contact: Debbie Robinson, 215-313-6392.
- 1st Mon 10:30 am - 12 pm** Quality Progressions Advisory Meeting, 1339 Chestnut Street, Suite 700. Contact: Susan Fellows, 267-765-2000. \*September 9th, October 7th\*
- 2nd Mon 5 pm - 8 pm** West Philadelphia Parent Support Group, The Free Library of Philadelphia, 56th St. & Haverford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19138. Contact: Doreatha Davis 215-303-3551

### Tuesdays

- 2nd Tues 6 pm - 8 pm** Roxborough Parent Support Group, Andorra Library, 705 Cathedral Road, Philadelphia, PA 19128. Contact: Carol Costello, 215-487-1240.
- 2nd Tues 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm** NW Family Support Group at Northwestern Human Services, 27 E. Mt. Airy Avenue, Philadelphia, PA, 19119. Contact: Verna Edwards, 215-248-4415.

### Wednesdays

- Every Wed 1 pm - 4 pm** Free legal advice and representation on general legal problems, Liberty Resources. Contact: Temple Legal Aid Hotline, 215-204-1800. By appointment only.
- 1st Wed 7 pm** Consumer/Family Advisory Committee, Partnership for Community Supports. Contact: Mary MacAvoy, 267-350-4513. Please call to confirm.
- 2nd Wed 10 am - 1 pm** Abriendo Caminos a los Latinos con Familias Excepcionales (Opening Paths for Latinos with Exceptional Families) COMHAR, 3825 Whitaker Avenue, Philadelphia, PA, 19124. Contact: Ana Pacheco, 215-744-5014. Meets September through June.
- 3rd Wed 10 am - 12 pm** PIN Bilingual Support Group, 445 W. Luray St., (APM), Contact: Becky Espanol, 267-507-3869
- 3rd Wed 6 pm - 8 pm** PersonLink Consumer/Family Advisory Committee, 260 S. Broad Street, 18th fl. Contact: Francine Patterson or Betty Harrigan, 267-295-3800. Meets September through June.

## Nothing Never Happens

### Pat Amos on Communication

Communication, language, speech, and literacy have turned out to be broader, more varied, and more accessible than many people think.

Children and adults on the

autism spectrum are always communicating, all the time. Receptive language may come to them far more easily than expressive language. They may be skillful in other kinds of organized communication systems, such as the languages of music, of art, or of animals.

More and better pathways to supporting speech development are opening up as we learn more about the

sensorimotor challenges of autism; we are also learning that people can speak out eloquently using instruments other than their vocal cords. And literacy turns out to be not only more widespread than we probably assumed, but accessible to all in the form of shared experiences and shared meanings. People with autism are taking the lead in helping all of us to redefine terms and expectations that were once

too narrow, and to appreciate that “neurodiversity” can enrich our schools, our communities, and our lives.

To read more about Communications and Autism make sure you read “Nothing Never Happens” available in English and Spanish. You can download your copy at Youth Advocate Programs’ website [www.yapinc.org/newsletters-and-publications/](http://www.yapinc.org/newsletters-and-publications/)

### Thursdays

3rd Thurs 6 pm - 8 pm

**PIN Parent Educational Support Group, Bethana, 1212 Wood Street. Contact: Cynthia Garrett, 267-507-3871**

3rd Thurs 10 am

**Consortium Family Advisory Committee, 5825 Market Street, Philadelphia. Contact: Darlene Gonzalez 215-472-1707 x1162 Meets September through June.**

4th Thurs 10 pm - 12pm

**Community Support Group Central/South Central Philadelphia, Vision for Equality, The Cast Iron Building 718 Arch Street 6N, Philadelphia. Contact: Sharon Duckett, 215-755-4536**

4th Thurs

**SAU1 Teleconference regarding many different topics pertaining to people with disabilities. Call Sharon Harper-Young 267- 765-0307 for more information or toll free number 1-877-304-7730**

### Fridays

Every Fri 1 pm - 3 pm

**Training on Accessible Public Transportation, Liberty Resources. For appointment, call Fran 215-634-2000 x255.**

1st Fri 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

**First Friday Gotta Dance at PDDC, 2350 W. Westmoreland St. For more information call: 215-229-4550**

3rd Fri 1 pm - 3 pm

**Consumer Connection, Liberty Resources, Contact: Shawn Tucker, 215-634-2000 x245**

4th Fri 10 am - 12 pm

**There’s A Place for Us Parent Support Group, Warren E. Smith Center, 1315 Windrim Avenue, Philadelphia, PA, 19141. Contact: Cleo Dupree, 215-329-5213**

### Saturdays

Every Sat 1:30 pm

**Special Teens (13 and older) Bowling at Bristol Pike Lanes, Croydon PA. To sign up contact: Harry Essling, 215-788-6383.**

**For more upcoming events and trainings go to: [www.visionforequality.org](http://www.visionforequality.org) and click on Events/Trainings**



**The Points of Transformation**  
We are celebrating at a new location,  
the Ray & Joan Kroc Corps Community Center  
November 15th, 2013  
4200 Wissahickon Avenue, Philadelphia PA, 19129

**To Nominate a Candidate:**  
*This is an excellent opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of Direct Support Professionals, Supports Coordinators and individuals benefiting from services, family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers and others, all are welcome! Read more on page 6.*



## Disability Pride Philadelphia 2013

Disability Pride Philadelphia has become synonymous with acceptance and community...a community where people from ALL walks of life come together.

This year, the Disability Pride Philadelphia march began at the Liberty Bell and continued to the Constitution Center



where flowers were laid at the wheelchair of Justin Dart, the father of the ADA; Franklin Square was the final destination. Over 5,000 people passed through the event and more than thirty organizations had resource tables distributing information about living with disabilities. It was a day filled with pride, laughter, fun and education.

Children happily waited in a long line for special temporary tattoos by Mitchel Wright. Mitchel is a man with a disability and was nervous at first but soon was entertaining the crowd with his talent. At the end of the afternoon, Mitchel was glowing with pride and the children were smiling and showing off their newly acquired tattoos.

Yoshiko Dart, the widow of Justin Dart, and City Councilman Dennis O'Brien enjoyed the art, the entertainment and the passionate speeches. Music by the SPIN Choir, The Great Neck band, Johnny Crescendo and others delighted the audience.

This is the second year of celebrating what should be the norm: acknowledgment of each other – we are all ONE community. **Next year's Disability Pride Philadelphia will take place in Franklin Square on June 21, 2014.**

## U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services Launches Health Insurance Marketplace Educational Tools Affordable Care Act

The Obama Administration kicked off the Health Insurance Marketplace education effort with a new, consumer-focused [www.HealthCare.gov](http://www.HealthCare.gov) website and the 24/7 consumer call center to help Americans prepare for open enrollment and ultimately sign up for private health insurance. The new tools will help Americans understand their choices and select the coverage that best suits their needs when open enrollment in the new Health Insurance Marketplace begins October 1. Access to a customer service representative is available anytime through a customer service line (800-318-2596 or TTY 855-889-4325). An online chat feature is also available at [www.HealthCare.gov](http://www.HealthCare.gov)

*Dear Wanda,*  
Ask the Question,  
Wanda Will Find the  
Answer

I am in my mid-fifties and my 29 year old son is on the



## Are You Providing Care for an Individual with Disabilities?

**Are you providing care for an individual with disabilities?**

**Join us SpArc Philadelphia Caregivers Network**

**• find resources • receive support • share your story • connect with others**

**Place: 2350 West Westmoreland Street, Philadelphia, Pa 19140**

**Contact Milli Protheroe 215-229-4550 x160 or [mprotheroe@sparcphilly.org](mailto:mprotheroe@sparcphilly.org)**

waiting list for services. The waiting list money didn't help us this year. My husband is a littler older than I am, and we are both worried that we will have to wait at least another five years to get any help. My supports coordinator says that we are not an emergency because I am still able to take care of my son. What can I do?

Thanks,  
Still Waiting

## Dear Still Waiting,

The allocation for this year's Waiting List was designated by the legislators to help elderly caregivers over the age of 60 and young adults just leaving school. Unfortunately, you didn't fall into either of those categories for funding this year. That said, Governor Corbett recently announced an increase of \$19 million to help address the Waiting List for services, so perhaps you will be able to enroll your son into a Waiver for next year.

You need to call for another meeting with your Supports Coordinator to update your PUNS form. If your son needs any services right now to maintain his health and safety, he should be in the Emergency Category.

If you and your husband are developing any health issues yourselves, you should make sure that your situation is known to the SC and can be indicated as either emergency or critical depending on how soon you will need help. If you need immediate support ("right now or within six months") you would be an emergency. If you will need support to keep your son at home between six months and two years from now, you should be in the critical category.

Also, ask your Supports Coordinator if there are any county dollars or base dollars available to help meet some of your needs while you continue to wait for the waiver funding.

## Wanda Retirement Party

Celebrating Kathy Sykes, Judy Kresloff, Marianne Roche and Welcoming Denise Taylor Patterson

On May 1, 2013 we celebrated the retirement of three much loved women, Kathy Sykes, Director of Intellectual disAbility Services (IDS) for the City of Philadelphia, Judy Kresloff and Marianne Roche, we will miss them! We also welcomed our new director Denise T. Patterson.



Lynn Ryan-Youngman and Judy Kresloff



George Callaway and Brian Holder

## Vision for Equality and LEND at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia is Hosting a Free Event

What You Need to Know About Autism

On November 7, 2013 Vision for Equality and LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities) at

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia is hosting a free event offered by Bureau of Autism Services (BAS) and Autism Services, Education, Resources, and Training (ASERT). This event is for individuals with autism, families and professionals. During a statewide tour, they will share information about programs and regional resources, and provide an opportunity for you to ask questions and provide feedback. This event will provide you with information imperative to you and your family member.

The Philadelphia tour will take place on November 7, 2013 at 10 am - Noon  
3535 Market Street, 16th Floor, Room D

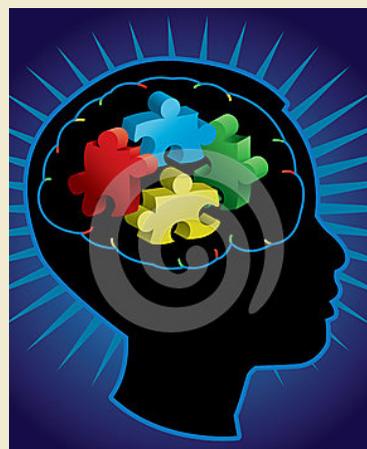
To register in English, e-mail: c-librooks@pa.gov or Phone: 717-265-8961

To register in Spanish contact: Maria Melendez, e-mail: mmelendez@visionforequality.org or Phone: 267-765-0309 Information will be presented in both English and Spanish during the Philadelphia meeting.

For information about additional meeting dates and locations, visit Paautism.org

## Gira de Conexión Comunitaria de La Oficina de Servicios de Autismo y ASERT

El 7 de noviembre del 2013, Vision for Equality y LEND



## 101 Best Autism and Asperger's Resources on the Web

To find a list of the 101 best Autism and Asperger's resources on the web go to: [www.phdinspecialeducation.com/autism-aspergers/](http://www.phdinspecialeducation.com/autism-aspergers/) . The site lists the best sites in Autism news, organizations, along with personal and professional blogs.

(Educación de Liderazgo en el Desarrollo Neurológico y Discapacidades Relacionadas) en el Hospital de Niños de Filadelfia presentarán un evento gratuito patrocinado por la Oficina de Servicios de Autismo (BAS) y ASERT - Servicios de Autismo, Educación, Recursos y Formación de Colaboración. Este evento es para las personas con autismo, sus familias y profesionales. Durante una gira por todo el estado, se compartirá información sobre los programas y recursos regionales, y se brindará la oportunidad para que usted pueda hacer preguntas y dar su opinión. Este evento le dará la información imprescindible para usted y su miembro familiar. El evento en Filadelfia tendrá lugar el día 7 de noviembre del 2013 de 10 a.m. – hasta el Mediodía

Para registrarse en español contacte a: Maria Melendez: mmelendez@visionforequality.org ó 267-765-0309

## New Director of the Arc of Philadelphia

By: Bonnie Squires

Tanya Regli has been named the Executive Director of The Arc of Philadelphia. She became involved in advocacy for children with special needs when her son was diagnosed with Autism in 2002. At that time she founded the Special Needs Advocacy Group (SNAG) to address issues affecting children with special needs in Cheltenham and Montgomery County. Regli also co-founded and ran Viewpoints Learning Project, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization designed

to support inclusive environments in community centers and throughout the area.

Her professional career in Philadelphia has included work at Taller Puertorriqueño, Congreso de Latinos Unidos, and The Philadelphia Foundation. Most recently before taking her position at The Arc of Philadelphia, she developed and ran the Secondary Transition Program with Aspira at Olney Charter High School. Since 2008, Regli worked as a Parent Advocate and continues to serve on the Board of Hispanos Unidos Para Niños Excepcionales (HUNE) Inc.



Regli holds a Bachelor of Arts from Georgetown University and was the recipient of the Louis McCahill award as part of the class of 1991. She subsequently earned a Masters in Social Service as well as a Masters in Law and Social Policy from Bryn Mawr College. She enjoys playing and writing music with her family and exploring nature.

## The Points of Transformation

November 15, 2013

Intellectual disAbility Services (IDS) invites you to celebrate the accomplishments of those who have committed their careers to supporting people with an intellectual disAbility. These direct service professionals exemplify our logo: **It's all about community!** The people you nominate are models of excellence, compassion, commitment, growth and achievement.

Consider some of the following characteristics of your nominee as you write the nomination: This individual promotes; Individuality, Quality Outcomes, Opportunities to Develop Valued Social Roles, Inclusive, Meaningful, Positive Experiences in the Community & Home, Lifesharing, Wellness, Real Jobs, Successful Employment, Family, Creativity, Connections to Natural Supports, Respect, Prosperity, Stability, Communication, Exploration & Incorporation of Assistive Technology and Spirituality. **Submit your nomination by October 11, 2013.**

For questions contact Andrea Imperatore, IDS Public Awareness Committee, at 215-680-8166 or [andrea.imperatore@gmail.com](mailto:andrea.imperatore@gmail.com)



## The Health Care Law Explained

Athena Ford from Pennsylvania Health Access Network (PHAN) will be at Vision for Equality on October 29 from 10am - 12pm to explain the Health Care Act. Topics include:

- New insurance protections and benefits
- Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans
- How the new marketplace will work

What you need to know about the individual and employer mandates  
Medicaid expansion

and more...including your questions!

**Call Kathy Foy 267-773-5285**



# Goodbye Kathy Sykes!

By: Rosette Proodian, Vision for Equality

*It took over two months to say goodbye, adieu, and good luck to our former Director of Intellectual disAbility Services and here is Rosette Proodian's tribute to her as a representative for all of the families in the Philadelphia area.*

This is a tribute to our wonderful Kathy Sykes, who we love and respect because Kathy has earned that love and respect from everyone especially from families. Let me tell you that because of the positive system changes under Kathy's leadership my Gregory and his friends and all others who live at home with their families have had a better quality of life yes, because of Kathy. The family as a unit has improved. Kathy has given us hope for our kid's future because of her vision and leadership and Philadelphia is a leader in the disability community because of Kathy. SHE CARES...

When I first started out in the system I worked at the ARC/PPDC for two years and this year it will be my 17th year at Vision for Equality. At Vision I became involved in working on the Family Forum committee which gave me the opportunity to work with staff from IDS and Kathy.

There are many beautiful adjectives to describe Kathy and they are all accurate but one in particular stands out to me... HONEST. We as parents have been taken around the block quite a few times and ain't nobody going to take us for another ride!! We know better.

Kathy has always been available to help us in anyway that she can. She listens. You see she gets it, when speaking about our children and all the hardships, she gets it. SHE CARES... When she responds to our

questions it is straight from the heart she just doesn't answer you with a bunch of flowery words and act as if she has to pacify you because it's her job.

Everyone loves Kathy because she is an honest and compassionate person, one who goes out of her way to help everyone, especially families. Ask any family member what they think about Kathy Sykes and they will say that she is a very special person who actually cares about families and individuals with disabilities. SHE CARES...

Kathy has given families avenues to let their voices be heard to feel free to express themselves such as the Brighter Futures, Family Forum, and The Philadelphia Parent Support Groups. You see SHE CARES...

Kathy is OUR Kathy and thank God for the person she is because she has built such a strong bridge between IDS and families. Yes, that's OUR Kathy the bridge builder because of who she is and what she truly believes in One Community for ALL!

God bless you Kathy and know that you have a very special place in ALL our hearts, especially families.



*Dr. Arthur C. Evans, Commissioner, DBHIDS and Kathy Sykes.*



*Judy Kresloff and Kathy Sykes*



*Maureen Devaney, Co-Executive Director Vision for Equality, Barbara Nattile Philadelphia Parent Support Groups, Kathy Sykes, Audrey Coccia, Co-Executive Director Vision for Equality.*



*State Representative Gene DiGirolamo, Kathy Sykes and State Representative Thomas Murt*  
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Vision for Equality  
718 Arch Street, 6N  
Philadelphia PA, 19106



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familyforum](http://www.visionforequality.org/familyforum)

