



Brighter Futures Award Winners and Nominators 2014 (Photo by: Mark Brooks)



Morning Plenary Session panelists at Brighter Futures included (left to right), Leah French-Health Partners and Special Needs Unit Manager; Monique Scott-CMS; Marta Warner-CBH Special Needs Coordinator; with Denise Taylor Patterson, Acting Director of IDS. (Photo by: Mark Brooks)



Denise T. Patterson welcomes keynote speaker Loretta Claiborne (Photo by: Mark Brooks)

BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION

BRIGHTER FUTURES AWARDS HONOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND THOSE THEY SERVE

by Bonnie Squires
You all have heard the old saying, "If a tree falls in the forest and no one is around, is there a noise?" Well, if

you hold a one-day special event in observance of National Intellectual Disability Awareness Month and seven hundred people participate, but no media coverage results - is it still an important happening?

The answer is a resounding "yes!" I know, I know - if even a handful of people hold up hand-lettered signs and march around City Hall, disrupting



HAPPY SUMMER 2014!

traffic, that, it seems, is worthy of lots of television, radio and newspaper coverage.

But seven hundred people peaceably assembled for a panel discussion, a Wellness Expo, and a luncheon with seventeen awards given out, plus an inspirational keynote speaker who is nationally known and respected? Well, apparently, that just doesn't rate.

But in my book, it ranks right up there with the Academy Awards. In fact, for some of the people receiving the Lucite star-shaped awards, people with intellectual disabilities, their moment to shine in front of peers, social workers, elected officials, family members and a mistress of ceremonies, Mimi Brown, from WDAS-FM, who was a last-minute stand-in for the perennial host, Loraine Ballard Morrill, the Brighter Futures Awards luncheon and

awards ceremony WAS the equivalent of the Oscars night on television.

In fact, a couple of the award-winners were so moved by being honored, after receiving their Lucite Star awards from IDS Public Awareness Committee co-chairs Thad Campbell and George Callaway, that they sang a song of thanks, right there on the stage.

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**Brighter Futures
Awards Honors
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Some of the other award-winners included a Philadelphia police detective who went above and beyond his duty to protect our citizens, a pair of Life-Sharing Partners who treat people with special needs as

part of their family, a Habitat for Humanity team that welcomed a young man with an intellectual disability who has learned enough about building a house that he may find a paying job doing just that, and a pharmacist who for twenty-five years has treated with compassion and understanding people sent to him by one of the social service agencies in his neighborhood.

The Sheraton Downtown Philadelphia Hotel was the site on Friday, March 7, and people started congregating as early as 8 AM. for the continental breakfast. For many who attended the Building a Healthy Community day of events, visiting a hotel, being served a lunch there, socializing with people they may only see once a year, and applauding the award-winners, the day was indeed special.

The morning plenary session featured three speakers who explained a lot about the Affordable Care Act, and whom to contact for answers to questions. And then the Wellness Expo room was re-opened, featuring dozens of display tables from agencies, universities, the Temple Kronberg School of Dentistry, and dozens of social service agency
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Special Needs Camps in Pennsylvania

For many children from lower income communities and/or children with chronic medical conditions, summer memories of smores cooked over a campfire, sticky glue laden fingers finishing an art project, or falling asleep under the stars to the sounds of crickets and flowing waters are something they will never get to experience.

On the www.cap4kids.org/philadelphia website, under the Camp sub menu (<http://cap4kids.org/philadelphia/parent-handouts/after-school-camps-mentoring/camps/>), you will find links to various camp programs from the Department of Recreation site, to Ladore Summer Camp, Girls Leadership Camp, Artology, and Dragonfly Forest (a camp for kids with several chronic medical conditions). Help families help their children make a lifetime of summer camp memories by linking them up with Camp info from Cap4Kids.

Medicaid Changes for Home and Community Based Services

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released new rules about how states can use Federal Medicaid (MA) funding to pay for Home and Community Based Services. The intent of the final rule is to ensure that individuals receiving home and community based services (including the Consolidated and Person/Family Directed Supports Waivers) have full access to benefits of community living and the opportunity to receive services in the most integrated settings. It is also intended to enhance the quality of community services and provide protections.

The new rule establishes a definition of home and community settings and requires person centered planning. It focuses on the quality of the individuals' experience. It requires the state to maximize the opportunity to receive services in the most integrated setting. The rules apply to residential homes and day programs.

The home and community based setting:

- Is integrated in and supports access to the greater community.
- Provides opportunity to seek employment and work in competitive integrated settings, engage in community life, and control personal resources.
- Ensures that each receives services in the community to the same degree as individuals not receiving Medicaid home and community-based services.

The rule requires:

- (1) That a person selects the settings from among options, including non-disability specific settings and an option for a private unit in a residential setting.
- (2) It ensures the person has a right to privacy, dignity, respect, and freedom from coercion and restraint.

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Beat the Heat!

You are more at risk for Heat Stress if you:

- Check all that apply
- Have heart or kidney failure
 - Have high blood pressure
 - Have diabetes
 - Take "water pills"
 - Are overweight or underweight
 - Have had a stroke
 - Have an infection or fever
 - Have vomiting or diarrhea
 - Drink alcohol or caffeine

- Have no air conditioning

Talk to your doctor about your medications and medical conditions to see if you are at a higher risk for Heat Stress.

Prevent Heat Stress INDOORS by:

- Staying in cool areas. (If you do not have an air conditioner, consider a visit to a senior center, shopping mall, or public library for a few hours.)

- Using a fan, but only when there is cooler air blowing.
- Taking a cool shower or bath. It is an effective way to cool off.
- Using your stove/oven less to maintain a cooler temperature in your home.
- Avoiding hot foods and heavy meals. They add heat to your body.
- Keeping insulated curtains, drapes, or blinds closed during daylight hours.

- Having a friend, relative or neighbor check on you twice a day during heat waves.

Prevent Heat Stress OUTDOORS by:

- Drinking plenty of water. Avoid alcohol or caffeine. (They are dehydrating.)
- Wearing lightweight, light-colored, loose clothing. (Cotton blends are best.)
- Wearing a wide-brimmed hat, or using an umbrella for shade.

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Medicaid Changes for Home and Community Based Services

- (3) Individual choice regarding services and supports and who provides them.
- (4) If the person is living in a provider owned or controlled residential setting, the person should have a legally enforceable agreement with the same responsibilities and protections from eviction as all tenants under landlord tenant laws.

Additional requirements include:

- Privacy in sleeping or living unit, lockable doors, anyone sharing a room should have a choice of roommates.
- People can furnish and decorate their space. People should have the freedom and support to control their schedules and activities.
- People must have access to food any time, and may have visitors at any time.
- The setting must be physically accessible to the person.

The new CMS rules also allow states to combine target groups (aging, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and mental illness) within one waiver if the state can assure that the waiver will meet the needs of each individual regardless of the target group. States can also amend their state plans to offer Home and Community Based Services similar to the waiver services.

The state will need to submit a Transition plan to CMS that describes how the state will move into compliance with the new setting requirements for their existing waiver Programs. The state must provide 20 day public notice and comment period on the Plan it intends to submit to CMS.



Save the Date!
15th Employment Supports Symposium
Tuesday, June 3, 2014 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Hilton Philadelphia, 4200 City Avenue, Phila, PA
More information coming soon!
www.networksfortraining.org

Exploring employment supports and strategies for all people served by Philadelphia DBHIDS

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BRIGHTER FUTURES AWARDS HONOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND THOSE THEY SERVE

tables offering promotional items and health information.

Other tables, like SpArc Philadelphia, allowed people to use sponge shapes and bright colors to print small booklets that they could take home as souvenirs. Massage and Reiki sessions were offered in an adjacent room, as was financial advice from a Wharton professor.



Pictured above: Monica Maye group
Photo by Mark Brooks



Pictured above: Jerome Owens group
Photo by Mark Brooks

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Special Olympics Night at the 76ers

by Nick Cammarota

Jason Bixby has been shooting hoops for more than 17 years. The 28-year-old Northeast Philadelphia native has won gold medals in Special Olympics basketball and soccer and, by his count, has played on an NBA court at least five times.

In every sense of the term, he's one of Special Olympics Pennsylvania's seasoned pros. But before halftime of the Detroit Pistons-Philadelphia 76ers game on March 29 – the fourth annual Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) night at the Sixers – Bixby stood in the tunnel, looked up at Eric Cushing and said something Cushing didn't expect to hear.

"I can't do it," said a nervous Bixby. "Look at all these people. I don't know if I can go out there."

"You're going to do great. You've got to go out there and play," replied Cushing, Vice President of Marketing and Development at SOPA and also a guest referee for the halftime exhibition game.

Bixby played, of course. As did 19 other area athletes in front of a near-sellout crowd of 17,438.

The game – which was held in honor of Christian Massey, a former member of the Delaware County Dunkers who was shot and killed in November – featured the Dunkers against an All-Star squad of athletes from Bucks, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties.

More than 800 athletes, friends, family and volunteers participated in the memorable event, from which \$3 of every ticket sold went to SOPA as well as the proceeds from a 50-50 raffle. In addition to the halftime exhibition, many in attendance were allowed courtside for warmups, shot free throws after the game and participated in a question-and-answer session with NBA Rookie of the Year, 76ers point guard Michael Carter-Williams.

Bixby wasn't the only one who experienced jitters that night, however. Many of the Dunkers, especially those who were close with Massey, had trouble settling into a rhythm.

"We've had basketball games of various levels of importance over the last few years, but they were particularly nervous this time, which was great to see," said Dunkers coach Gene Delaney. "It told me that it meant something for them."

Emblazoned on the sleeve of the Dunkers' warmup shirts was a patch with the initials "CM" on it, memorializing their 21-year-old friend and graduate of Marple Newtown High School who was shot five times after he refused to surrender his headphones to his assailant. Delaney said the Dunkers frequently speak about Chris at their practices and that the healing process is ongoing.

"Them seeing Chris' name and knowing he was taken from us under some rather cruel and harsh circumstances allows them and me, as an adult, to understand to not take things for granted," Delaney said. "This was pretty special to come down here and play this game and it served a greater purpose than just shooting a few basketballs."

Larry Donofry coached the All-Star team and agreed that the experience was a valuable one for all involved.

"The Sixers gave you that avenue that some of these guys would never get on their own," he said. "In a lot of ways, the social part of it is more important than the sports end of it."

During the 20-minute question-and-answer

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Citation

Presenting a citation from Philadelphia City Council in honor of the 2014 Brighter Futures Awards, signed by Council members Cindy Bass and Dennis O'Brien, are (left to right) Deputy Secretary of DPW Fred Lokuta; Loretta Claiborne, keynote speaker; Mimi Brown of ClearChannel radio, M.C.; Denise Taylor Patterson, Acting Director of IDS; O'Brien; and Arthur C. Evans, Jr., Ph.D., Commissioner of DBHIDS.
(photo by Mark Brooks)

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session with Carter-Williams – who has a family member with a disability – many of the inquiries were related to basketball or the team. That is, until one brave young woman asked MCW if he had a girlfriend.

“You could see he wasn’t ready for that question,” Donofry said with a laugh. “He blushed a little bit. You never know what you’re going to get, but he took the whole thing in stride. I think it was fun for everybody.”

Though he didn’t compete in the game, Jordan Schubert played an integral role in the evening’s festivities as well. An Athlete Leadership Program Coordinator for SOPA, the 20-year-old soon-to-be West Chester graduate received the “Hero Among Us” award at halftime in recognition of his lifetime participation in Special Olympics as both an athlete, volunteer and employee.

“It was definitely great to see a local pro sports team giving back to an organization like Special Olympics,” said Schubert, who grew up in Chicago and remains a Bulls fan.

Adding additional intrigue to the night was the fact that the higher-than-normal attendance numbers likely were due to the fact that

people came to see the Sixers set the all-time record for consecutive losses by an NBA team. The night, however, seemed to lend itself to anything but losing.

Sitting on 26 straight defeats, the Sixers beat the Pistons, 123-98.

Said Schubert: “You’ve got to support anyone who supports you.”

Senator Casey Meets with Advocates in DC Office to Discuss ABLÉ Bill

by Bonnie Squires

Meeting with Senator Bob Casey, Jr., in his Washington office recently to discuss issues and legislation impacting the intellectual and developmental disability community were (left to right in the photo to the right) Erin Wilson, Deputy State Director for Senator Casey; Laura Princiotta, CEO of SpArc Philadelphia; Senator Casey; Tanya Regli, Executive Director of The Arc of Philadelphia; Maureen Cronin, executive director of The Arc of PA.

Casey is chief sponsor of the ABLÉ Act that will ease financial strains faced by families of individuals with disabilities by making tax-free savings accounts available to cover qualified expenses such as education, housing, medical,

and transportation. Casey held press conferences around the state to drum up support in Congress for the bill.

SpArc is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization founded in 2009 to provide fiscal oversight, financial support and opportunities for growth to The Arc of Philadelphia and SpArc Services (formerly PDDC Philadelphia Developmental Disabilities Corporation), a family of organizations benefiting people with disabilities.

The Arc of Philadelphia, founded in 1948, is a nonprofit organization providing advocacy services and resource information to individuals, families, and providers so they can make informed choices. SpArc Services is a sister organization of The Arc of Philadelphia, specializing in programs for people who have barriers to employment and people who need individualized services, including job training, arts and recreation programs, and community events.



Photo by: Bonnie Squires

Beat the Heat

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- Limiting your physical activity.
- Limiting your time outdoors in the heat. Go out early morning or late afternoon.
- Using a sun block with SPF 15 or higher. Sunburn affects your body’s ability to cool itself and causes loss of fluids.
- Pacing yourself. Take frequent rest periods in the shade or a cool area.

Information provided by the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA)

Senator Casey’s ABLÉ Act

Senator Bob Casey, Jr., held a press conference on Temple University’s campus, in cooperation with The Arc of Philadelphia and Temple’s Institute on Disabilities, to push for his ABLÉ Act that will allow families of people with disabilities to create tax-free savings accounts for their relatives with IDD to cover medical bills, transportation costs, etc. So far there are 70 co-signers of Casey’s bill in the U.S. Senate and hundreds of co-signers in the House.



Pictured above: Councilman Greenlee, Emilio Pacheco, Associate Director of Vision for Equality, Inc., Dr. Arthur C. Evans, Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services and City Councilman Dennis O'Brien with Mayor Michael A. Nutter (Photo by: Vision for Equality)

Mayor Nutter Changes Hurtful Words in the Philadelphia Code

February 19, 2014 – Mayor Michael A. Nutter, joined by Councilman Dennis O'Brien, Dr. Arthur C. Evans, Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services, and Emilio Pacheco, Associate Director of Vision for Equality signed a Bill, introduced by City Councilman Dennis O'Brien, which officially amended the language in The Philadelphia Code by replacing the outdated and negative term "mental retardation" with the term "intellectual disability."

Noting the power of words to hurt or to heal, Mayor Nutter told the crowd of city officials, advocates, self-advocates and professionals in the field of Intellectual Disability, "By using the term intellectual disability, we are focusing on opportunities and possibilities for people." Councilman O'Brien, Chair of the City Council Committee on the Disabled and Special Needs said, "Advocates and individuals with intellectual disabilities have rightfully asserted that the term "mental retardation" is language that is both disparaging and hurtful. Today, we publicly demonstrate that we do not accept language that is exclusionary and we publicly challenge our citizens to think differently about those with intellectual disabilities."

Ranking Names Best States for Disability Services

Pennsylvania Ranks # 16

By Michelle Diament from DisabilityScoop

An annual ranking of states offering the best services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities reveals a familiar but evolving landscape.

The *analysis** (<http://cfi2014.ucp.org/>) of disability services in all 50 states and the District of Columbia recently released by United Cerebral Palsy finds top performers spanning the map. In previous years, the best services were largely clustered in the Northeast and West.

Arizona claimed the number one slot in the ranking for the third year in a row. Also rounding out the 10 best on this year's list are Michigan, Hawaii, Georgia, New York, South Carolina, Maine, Massachusetts, Ohio and Missouri.

The analysis factors each state's approach to promoting independence and productivity,

ensuring quality and safety, keeping families together and reaching people in need.

Some 38 states serve at least 80 percent of people with developmental disabilities in the community. Meanwhile, just 10 states have one-third or more of their residents with developmental disabilities working in competitive employment, the report found.

As in past years, top-tier services were found in both big and small states, those with rich and poor demographics, jurisdictions with high and low taxes as well as those with varying levels of per-person spending on disability services.

The report flags Arkansas, Illinois, Texas and Mississippi — which ranked last for the eighth year in a row — for repeatedly coming in at or near the bottom of the list.

*** Highlights from the Case for Inclusion 2014 by United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) can be found at: <http://cfi2014.ucp.org/>**

Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention Intake Referral Unit - Call 215-685-4646

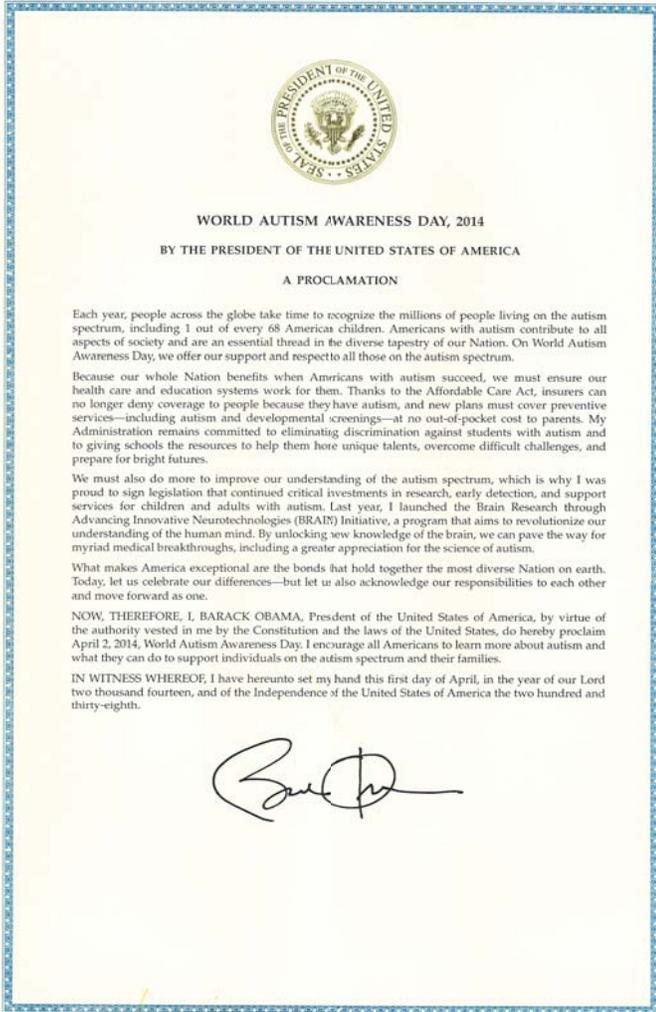
Philadelphia Intellectual disAbility Services (IDS) coordinates the Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program in Philadelphia! The Infant Toddler Early Intervention program serves children from birth to three years of age who have a developmental delay.

This Program is a state and federal entitlement for eligible children and is provided at no cost to families in Pennsylvania. Referrals come directly from parents or family members, and from hospitals, doctors' offices and clinics, and other agencies serving children. Once a child is referred, an IDS Early Intervention Intake Coordinator contacts the family to complete the intake application. The Coordinator then assigns the child and family to service coordination. ChildLink, the service coordination organization, works closely with the family and the Early Intervention Provider Agencies to identify and deliver the needed services. See Sections II-D and V of the 2014 IDS Directory of Services and Supports for more detailed information.

<http://dbhids.org/assets/Forms--Documents/IDSServiceDirectory2014.pdf>



World Autism Awareness Month 2014



In honor of **Autism Awareness Month** Vision For Equality and its community partners: the ASERT Collaborative, Eastern Region and the A.J. Drexel Autism Institute, were invited to The White House. This was because of our national collaboration with Autism NOW Center and The Arc of US.



Pictured above: Emilio Pacheco, Associate Director of Vision for Equality in front of the White House

Save the Dates for the following Conferences

Visit www.PAautism.org for more information about these and other upcoming conferences!

- Pennsylvania Autism Training Conference
June 10 - 12, 2014 Eden Resort Inn & Suites, Lancaster, PA
- 2014 PA Community on Secondary Transition Conference
July 16 - 18, 2014 The Pennstater. State College, PA
- 18th Annual 2014 National Autism Conference
August 4 - 7, 2014 The PennStater, State College, PA

Lifesharing Family Fun Day

July 18, 2014 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Join us for a day of fun at Marmad Lake: 1002 Jolly Road, Blue Bell, PA 19422
Learn more about Lifesharing, networking, meet current Lifesharers, potential Lifesharers, and hear stories of individuals. If you have any questions contact: Karen Claiborne-Pride at: Karen.claiborne@phila.gov or call (215) 685-5937



Vision for Equality
718 Arch Street, 6N
Philadelphia PA, 19106



Brighter Futures Awards Honors Community Members and Those They Serve

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But the awards luncheon was the biggest attraction, especially since Loretta Claiborne was the keynote speaker. There were several VIPs who spoke, leading up to the keynote address and the handing out of awards, and these included Deputy Secretary of the PA Department of Public Welfare, Fred Lokuta, who brought along a Proclamation from Governor Corbett; City Councilman Dennis O'Brien, who presented a Citation from Councilwoman Cindy Bass, himself, and Darrell Clarke; and officials from the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services, Commissioner Arthur C. Evans, Jr., Ph.D., Deputy Commissioner, Marquita Williams, and Denise Taylor Patterson, Acting Director of IDS.

The Philadelphia Director of Special Olympics, Barbara Chavous, seated next to the state CEO Matthew Aaron, had the pleasure of introducing Loretta Claiborne, the spectacular Special Olympics champion, spokesperson for the Shrivvers and the Kennedys, whose life story had been made into a movie by the Disney company.

Loretta did not shrink from talking about her background, how the doctors, when she was born, advised her mother to place her in an institution, but how her mother insisted on bringing her home, loving her, and expecting her to do what her other nine children were doing, despite her physical and intellectual disabilities.

All chatter had ceased the minute Loretta took to the microphone, as she talked frankly about the challenges - and successes - in her life. Past sixty years of age, her dedication to healthy food and a healthy lifestyle, lots of exercise, make her look twenty years younger. Each of the award-winners was delighted to pose for a photograph with Loretta, their family members, agency staff members and some of the officials.

Everyone deserves at least one day in the spotlight, and the Brighter Futures Awards makes certain that the award-winners all glow with excitement and praise. Maybe next year the media will be looking for a good news story and will cover this major event.

