

FYI Monthly e-News

For Your Information – October 2010
Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

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FYI *Monthly e-News*

October 2010

TEXAS UPDATE & OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

Compliance Reports Completed on 4 State Supported Living Centers

Formal [Compliance Reports](#) on the [Abilene](#), [Brenham](#), [Corpus Christi](#) and [El Paso](#) state supported living centers (SSLC) were posted on the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) website by early October 2010. These reports are part of a 2009 settlement agreement between the state of Texas and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) regarding living conditions, medical care, and investigations of abuse or neglect at 13 state-operated residential facilities. This includes the 12 supported living centers (formerly called state schools), as well as the Intermediate Care Facility for Persons with Mental Retardation (ICF/MR) component of the Rio Grande State Center.

Three monitoring teams examine activities in 20 different aspects of care provided to SSLC residents to determine the status of each facility's compliance with the settlement agreement. This agreement requires that the facilities focus on issues of health care and restraint, as well as having competent and well-trained staff at all times. It also calls for reduced use of restraints on residents; improvements in medical, dental and psychiatric care; tougher penalties for failure to report abuse; and speedier conclusions of abuse investigations. Other areas being examined include efforts to serve institutionalized persons in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs.

The formal compliance reports are the second stage of the review process under the settlement agreement. The monitoring teams also conducted baseline reviews of the facilities in January through May. Compliance reviews started in July and will be completed at each facility every six months for the next four and a half years. Reports are issued about 45 days after each on-site review is done. Once a facility achieves substantial compliance with any substantive provision(s) of the agreement for one year, no further monitoring of that facility is required for that provision.

The compliance review of the **Corpus Christi SSLC** documented improvements in 13 sections since its baseline review, including the development of abuse, neglect, and incident management policies and processes. Positive practices also were observed in medical, nursing and dental care as well as integrated services, supports and protections. However, of 159 provisions assessed by the monitoring team in the baseline review as requiring particular attention, 138 were characterized as noncompliant in the new review (87 percent of the provisions). Additionally, there were new concerns about the quality of medical

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4 SSLC Compliance Reports Completed *Continued*

care due to inadequate staffing. There was an improvement in post-move policies for individuals who transitioned to the community, the report said, but the facility's policies to identify essential services and supports prior to an individual's transition to the community need further development.

The monitoring team for the **El Paso SSLC** noted a number of positive practices, including abuse, neglect, and incident management policies and procedures. The report also highlighted improvements in moving individuals to the community and praised the center for creatively working with community partners. Of the 162 provisions assessed by the monitoring team, 139 provisions (86 percent) were out of compliance. The monitors cited five new sections that the facility must address: quality assurance; psychological care; planning for movement transition & discharge; skill acquisition; and communication. Additionally, skill acquisition plans were not adequate to promote growth, development and independence for residents. Very few individuals were in the referral process for transitioning to the most integrated community setting.

The compliance report noted that the **Abilene SSLC** was noncompliant in 141 of the 160 provisions evaluated (88 percent). There were improvements in using restraint less, although the use of restraint for dental services remained high. The report noted that the facility is engaged in positive practices in a number of areas, including abuse, neglect and incident management, as well as psychiatric, psychological, medical and nursing care. A new concern is associated with the investigation of abuse and neglect, which was not commenced in a timely manner, and death investigations were not sufficiently thorough. Skill acquisition programs and community placement preparations were inadequate. Improvements were noted in the facility's work to move individuals to the most integrated setting by listing obstacles and plans to overcome them; however, the monitors noted that this process needs refinement.

A number of new issues were raised by the monitoring team at the **Brenham SSLC**. This facility was noncompliant in 151 of 164 provisions (92 percent). Operational concerns regarding residential consent, injury management, and clinical services improved, but seven new problematic sections were recorded. The use of restraint increased 63 percent from January through June 2010, as compared to the previous six months. There were several instances of late reporting of abuse and neglect, which could expose individuals to an alleged perpetrator. The report also noted concerns with clinical and nursing care, dental services and pharmacy services. Additionally, meaningful training opportunities were not available to promote the development of personal adaptive skills. A better policy was in place for assessment documents to ensure individuals are in the most integrated setting; however, the team encouraged improvement in interdisciplinary assessment and individualized assessments.

More details on each of the SSLCs are in the compliance reports at

<http://www.dads.state.tx.us/monitors/reports/index.html>. The settlement agreement is at <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/homepage/FinalSettlementAgreement.pdf>. More information on the monitoring process is at <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/monitors>.

DADS Holds Meeting on Consumer Directed Services in Richardson, Oct. 23

The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) will hold a town hall meeting in the Dallas area on Saturday, Oct. 23, 2010, to provide an opportunity for individuals, families, service providers and the general public to learn more about the Consumer Directed Services (CDS) service delivery option available in many Texas programs. The meeting will be held 1-2:30 p.m., at the Multipurpose Hall, 840 Abrams Road, Richardson, TX 75081.

The meeting will include an information session and an opportunity to ask questions. Registration is not required and attendance is free.

If you or someone you know is in one of the following programs AND you want to learn more about how to be the employer of your services and have more control over your services, you are invited to attend this meeting.

- Community Based Alternatives (CBA);
- Primary Home Care (PHC), Family Care (FC), or Community Attendant Services (CAS);
- Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP);
- Integrated Care Management 1915(c) Waiver (ICMW);
- Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS);
- Deaf-Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD);
- Home and Community-based Services (HCS);
- Texas Home Living (TxHmL);
- STAR+PLUS; or
- Personal Care Services (PCS).

What is CDS?

Consumer Directed Services allow individuals in a variety of programs -- or their legally authorized representatives -- to hire and manage the persons who provide some services. This includes selecting, hiring, training, supervising and terminating their service providers. The services vary from program to program, but may include services such as personal assistance, habilitation, and respite care and, in some programs, professional services providers.

Individuals who use the CDS option must work with a Consumer Directed Services Agency (CDSA), which provides financial management services such as processing payroll and paying federal and state taxes. For more information on CDS, see <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/CDS>.

Report Makes Recommendations on Cross-System Behavioral Health Care

An estimated 1,037,883 adult Texans have a serious mental illness, according to the final report by the Continuity of Care Task Force, which makes “Insufficient treatment resources for individuals with behavioral health disorders in Texas ... a public health challenge.” Adding to this dilemma, one or more state hospitals were at or beyond full capacity each day in fiscal year 2009, the report states. “This often means that individuals in local jails who have been found incompetent to stand trial are waiting for long periods for admission to psychiatric hospitals for treatment.”

The Continuity of Care Task Force was convened by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to study and make recommendations on improving care for individuals with behavioral health disorders who move through multiple state, local and other provider systems. The final report, which was completed in August 2010, states that, “In (fiscal year) 2009, more than 190,000 Texans received mental health treatment services funded by DSHS at community mental health centers, and over 15,000 persons were admitted to state mental health facilities.”

“Over the past 50 years, we have gone from institutionalizing people with mental illnesses to incarcerating them at unprecedented rates -- putting recovery out of reach for millions of Americans,” according to a September 2009 report by the National Leadership Forum on Behavior Health/Criminal Justice Services.

In Texas, DSHS funded four pilot sites in urban areas over the past two years to develop outpatient restoration of competency programs, which the Continuity of Care Task Force recommends expanding. “These programs select certain individuals who are incompetent to stand trial, but who could potentially be restored to competency in community settings,” the report explains. This “allows for better management of inpatient beds, can produce better outcomes for individuals who need community supports, and can be done at a fraction of the cost of inpatient services (\$140/day).”

Recommendations from the task force relate to public policy and practices, Texas statutes, areas needing clinical attention, and interim work to move the service system forward on a longer-term perspective. Some of these recommendations include:

- Provide supportive housing in the community for some individuals;
- Provide “step down” levels of care, including residential care and assisted living for individuals who do not need hospitalization;
- Expand outpatient programs to restore competency in the community; and
- Provide more judicial alternatives, including an option to order individuals to take psychotropic medications, with specific provisions.

The Continuity of Care Task Force report is online at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mhsa/continuityofcare/documents/Continuity%20of%20Care%20Report%20September%2027%202010.pdf>. More information about the task force is at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mhsa/continuityofcare>.

Texas Awarded \$344,848 to Train Vocational Rehabilitation Staff

The Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) was awarded \$344,848 in grants by the U.S. Department of Education on Oct. 4, 2010, to support the professional development of state vocational rehabilitation staff. These individuals provide services that help persons with disabilities become employed. The grants include \$253,500 for the Division for Rehabilitation Services and \$91,348 for the Division for the Blind Services. Nationwide, more than \$5.6 million were awarded. In 2009, the vocational rehabilitation program helped nearly 200,000 Americans with disabilities obtain jobs, with 92 percent of them having significant disabilities. Support services include vocational evaluation, counseling and guidance, work adjustment, diagnosis and treatment of physical and mental impairments, education and vocational training, job placement and post-employment services.

Election Draws Near, Early Voting Starts Oct. 18

The countdown continues with only a few weeks until the Nov. 2nd General Election. Advocates are reminded that in addition to the heated governor's race, numerous state and federal offices are up for election. This includes all 32 seats on the U.S. House of Representatives and all 150 seats in the Texas House (who each serve for two years), half of the Texas Senate, three members on the Texas Supreme Court, three Courts of Criminal Appeals judges, and eight positions on the State Board of Education (Districts 1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 12, 15), as well as various other offices. A full list of offices up for election is at <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/2010officesup.shtml>. More information about "What's on the Ballot" is at <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/whatisontheballot.shtml>.

While the deadline to register to vote has passed, **eligible voters can still apply for a ballot by mail** as long as their application is received by Oct. 26th. **Early voting is Oct. 18-29.**

Individuals with disabilities in Texas who have questions about the voting process, or who feel their voting rights have been violated can contact Advocacy, Inc. For information or help, call Advocacy, Inc.'s toll-free **Voter Assistance Hotline at 1-888-796-VOTE (1-888-796-8683)**, e-mail vote@advocacyinc.org or go to <http://www.disabilityrightstx.org/files/Basic-Guide-toPolling-Place-Accessibility.pdf>. The Secretary of States Office also has information on *Services Available to Voters with Special Needs* in Texas, at <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/pamphlets/services.shtml>.

For more information on voting in Texas, go to <http://www.votexas.org>. You can also contact the Secretary of State's Elections Division at 1-800-252-VOTE (8683) or by e-mail to elections@sos.state.tx.us.

News Briefs

Austin Travis County Integral Care to Integrate Primary, Behavioral Health Services

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has awarded Austin Travis County Integral Care (ATCIC) \$494,900 to integrate primary and behavioral health treatment at local mental health facilities the center operates. People receiving treatment for severe mental disorders and substance use disorders will also have access to physical health care through collaboration with CommUnity Care's local health clinics. ATCIC can apply for renewals of this grant for four additional years. More details are at http://www.statesman.com/blogs/content/shared-gen/blogs/austin/charity/entries/2010/10/04/_austin_travis_county_integral.html?cxntfid=blogs_charity_chat.

Bus Company Fined for Violating ADA

The U.S. Department of Justice fined the Tornado Bus Company of Dallas \$55,000 for violating the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). An investigation by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration in the Department of Transportation found that the commercial bus company had only one accessible bus out of 53 in service. The company agreed to upgrade its fleet so that at least half of the buses are accessible by February 2011 and train its staff on interacting with passengers with disabilities. The company has over-the-road buses which, as defined by the ADA, have a passenger deck over a baggage compartment. More details are at <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/September/10-crt-1083.html>.

FEDERAL UPDATE

New ADA Rules Prevent Discrimination in Public Accommodations, Commercial Facilities, State & Local Government Services

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has published final rules under Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to prevent discrimination against people with disabilities.

Title II addresses state and local government services. Title III addresses public accommodations and commercial facilities. The rules were published in the Sept. 15, 2010, issue of the *Federal Register*. Both rules take effect March 15, 2011; however, compliance with these rules is not required for new construction and alterations until March 15, 2012. Between Sept. 15, 2010, and March 15, 2012, covered entities may choose between the 1991 Standards, the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS), and the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design (which includes these new rules).

The **2010 Standards for Accessible Design** make accessibility standards consistent with the minimum guidelines and requirements issued by the U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (the Access Board). It addresses recreation facilities, play areas, state and local government facilities (detention facilities and courthouses, including juries), and the revision of the Access Board's 1991 guidelines. A fact sheet on the 2010 design standards is at http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/factsheets/2010_Standards_factsheet.html.

A fact sheet that describes the major changes in the ADA rules on Title II is at http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/factsheets/title2_factsheet.html. A Title III fact sheet is at http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/factsheets/title3_factsheet.html.

Links to the final rules and 2010 design standards are at <http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/ADAregs2010.htm>. For more information or to order copies of any documents, call the ADA Information Line at 1-800-514-0301 or TTY at 1-800-514-0383.

Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS):

In keeping with the Texas Architectural Barriers Act, the applicable state standards are still the Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS) which became effective April 1, 1994. TAS will remain effective until new state standards are adopted. **The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) plans to hold an Architectural Barriers Advisory Board meeting in Austin on Nov. 5, 2010, to discuss adopting new state standards** based on the federal 2010 Standards for Accessible Design. The meeting will be broadcast live on RealPlayer. For updates on this meeting, you can monitor the TDLR Web page on the Elimination of Architectural Barriers at <http://www.license.state.tx.us/ab/ab.htm> or subscribe to TDLR's e-mail list at <http://www.license.state.tx.us/newsletters/TDLRnotificationLists.asp>.

Rosa's Law Replaces 'R-Word' with Intellectual Disability

President Barack Obama signed a bill on Oct. 5, 2010, to replace the stigmatizing terms “mental retardation” and “mentally retarded” with “intellectual disability” and “individual with an intellectual disability” in various federal laws which mainly relate to education and employment. The bill, which is called Rosa's Law, is only intended to eliminate out-dated terminology. It does not expand or reduce services or affect eligibility for services. Disability advocates have indicated that entitlement laws, such as Medicaid and Social Security, will be the next target in Congress for similar changes.

Rosa's Law (Public Law #111-256) is online at http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:s2781enr.txt.pdf. Related information about an initiative by Special Olympics in Texas to “Ban the R-Word” is at <http://www.sotx.org/news-events/rword/about-the-rword-campaign.html>.

In other news, President Obama also signed another bill, S. 1674, the same day, the “Improving Access to Clinical Trials Act of 2009.” It excludes the first \$2,000 an individual receives for participating in some federally supported clinical trials so that it is not considered when analyzing an individual's income to determine eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid.

Communications and Video Accessibility Act Signed into Law

President Barack Obama signed the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 into law on Oct. 8, 2010. The law requires smart phones, television programs, the Internet, menus on DVD players, program guides on cable TV, and other modern communications technologies to be accessible to people with hearing and vision disabilities. It also requires that emergency broadcast information be accessible to people with visual and cognitive disabilities.

For example, the new law requires that people who are blind have greater access to the Internet through smart phones by improving user interfaces. Additionally, devices such as iPhones and BlackBerries have to be hearing aid compatible. The law also requires that, over time, more than 60 hours a week of video programming include audio descriptions, and remote controls must have a button to easily access closed captioning on TV. Additionally, MP3 players must be capable of reading audio descriptions.

The communications and video accessibility act is online at http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:s3304enr.txt.pdf. A summary of what it will do is at <http://www.coataccess.org/node/9776>.

Congress Puts all Budget Bills for FY 2011 on Hold

After failing to pass any of the 12 appropriations/budget bills for fiscal year 2011, Congress passed a Continuing Resolution that keeps the federal government operating at current levels until Dec. 3, 2010. The federal fiscal year started on Oct. 1. The two main bills that affect people with disabilities are the appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education and the bill for the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). To track the status of budget bills, go to <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/approp/app11.html>.

Additionally, Congress has not acted to extend tax cuts that were adopted in 2001 and 2003 and expire at the end of this year. If not reauthorized, the changes would, for example, raise the percentage rate of taxes Americans pay, decrease the child tax credit (which went from \$500 to \$1,000), increase the estate tax (which has already expired) back to its 2009 level, and force married couples to pay a “tax penalty” again. Congress is currently adjourned until Nov. 15, 2010, after elections.

Federal Administration on DD Seeks Input on Disability Issues

The Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has scheduled five public forums on “Envisioning the Future,” including one in Dallas on Nov. 15, 2010. The other meetings will be held out of state.*

These summits are designed to obtain input that will be used in developing goals and priorities for the ADD’s five-year strategic plan. The ADD is interested in information on issues that pertain to people with developmental disabilities across the age spectrum, including preparation for college or a career, employment, housing, community supports and services, aging and end-of-life, and caregiving and support challenges. The strategic plan is to be completed by the spring of 2011.

Space is limited at the forums, and people wishing to attend need to pre-register. For general information on the meetings, to register to attend, or to provide input, go to <http://www.envision2010.net>. You can also contact Enterprise Services & Technologies at (301) 588-6046 or by e-mail to registrar@ent-s-t.com. For information on the forum agenda, contact the Summit Coordinator at Kathryn.Fialkowski@acf.hhs.gov or (202) 690-6590. Transcripts of the summits will be posted on the [envision2010](http://www.envision2010.net) website.

Are You Interested in Providing Input?

Individuals who want to speak at a summit or submit written comments are asked to focus on answering one of the following questions:

Childhood (0-21): How do we ensure that each child with a developmental disability will live a healthy and happy life in a loving family home; fully participate in all of the experiences of childhood in inclusive, welcoming communities; be empowered to advocate for themselves; and successfully graduate from school prepared for college or a career of their choosing?

Adulthood (21-60): In the future, what will be the most important contributing factors to ensuring that adults with developmental disabilities achieve equality of opportunity, independent living, economic self-sufficiency and full participation as valued members of inclusive, integrated communities? Which critical issues must be prioritized -- access to healthcare, employment, supports and services, technology, housing, transportation, other issues?

Aging (60-end of life): Aging concerns affect us all. But the number of adults with developmental disabilities age 60 years and older is projected to nearly double from 642,000 (2000) to 1.2 million (2030). What can we do to empower older individuals with developmental disabilities to remain in their own homes with a high quality of life, to maintain independence and good health for as long as possible, and to enjoy community and family relationships through the end of life?

Supports from families, caregivers, professionals and other allies. Over 75 percent of people with intellectual disability and developmental disabilities (I/DD) live with families, often with aging parents. Direct support workers usually earn very low wages. Families and caregivers often struggle to access any level of formal support at all. How can we address the future caregiving and support challenges of communities, families, and the allies who care about people with developmental disabilities?

* The ADD is responsible for implementing the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (the DD Act). This act authorizes DD Councils (such as TCDD), Protection and Advocacy Agencies (including Advocacy, Inc.) and University Centers for Excellence (including the Center for Disability Studies at The University of Texas and the Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M).

The Arc/U.S. Requests Input on I/DD Support Needs throughout Life

The Arc of the United States is conducting an informational, online survey of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) of all ages, and their families, on disability support needs throughout life. The Arc is a national disability organization that promotes and protects the human rights of people with I/DD and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.

Responses to the Family and Individual Needs for Disability Supports survey (FINDS) will be used to educate disability organizations, service providers, policy makers, and others on the supports that individuals with I/DD need now or expect to need in the future. All answers will be anonymous and confidential. Individuals with I/DD can have help filling out the survey, but responses in the first section of the survey should be those of the respondent, not a caregiver or personal assistant. Participants must be at least 18. The average time to complete this survey is 30 to 45 minutes.

The survey will be online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/thearcfinds2010> until Nov. 1, 2010. If you have any questions or want a copy in Spanish, large print or Braille, please contact:

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Illinois Agrees to Help More People Move Out of Large Institutions

A federal judge in Chicago approved an agreement on Sept. 29, 2010, that will enable thousands of people with mental illness currently living in large, private state-funded institutions for mental diseases (IMDs) in Illinois to move into community settings. The lawsuit, *Williams v. (Gov.) Quinn*, was filed on behalf of a class of 4,300 people living in two dozen large facilities. Illinois has agreed to develop individualized plans and make services available over the next five years, including housing, for all of the class members who are interested in moving into the community. Anyone who wishes to stay in an IMD may do so. In the past, Illinois only used state dollars to fund the IMDs. The state may now use federal Medicaid dollars for medications and health care services that class members receive in the community. The settlement also paves the way for sweeping nursing home safety reforms signed into law by the Illinois governor this year. More details on the settlement are at <http://www.accessliving.org/index.php?tray=release&tid=top683&cid=2a1137>.

RESOURCES

TCDD Adds More Entries to Internet Resources Web Page

TCDD is compiling [Internet Resources](http://www.txddc.state.tx.us/resources/internetresources.asp) at <http://www.txddc.state.tx.us/resources/internetresources.asp>. A brief summary of resources added this month follows. If you know of other resources that you would like to share, please send them to lucy.walker@tcdd.state.tx.us.

Resource Directories:

- **Statewide:** A list of statewide resources compiled by The Arc of Northeast Tarrant County is at http://www.arcnetc.org/uploads/Statewide_Resources_2-10.pdf.
- **Austin Area:**
 - An “*Austin Area Resource Guide for Children with Special Needs*” is at http://www.dellchildrens.net/services_and_programs/palliative_care/complex_chronic_illness_parent_advisory_group_/AARG%20PRINTER.pdf.
- **Fort Worth Area:**
 - A list of resources by topic is available from The Arc of Northeast Tarrant County at <http://www.arcnetc.org/Links.php>. Categories include [Assistive Technology](#), [Education](#), [Employment](#), [Funding](#), [Government Agencies](#), [Guardianship](#), [Person Directed Planning](#), [Prior Written Notice](#), [Self-Advocacy/Self-Determination](#) and [Transition Planning](#), etc.

Health:

- **The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) has information on health care insurance** at <http://www.texashealthoptions.com>, including different types of insurance, information for Texans with [disabilities](#), resources on [federal health care reform](#), [health and wellness](#), and [insurance companies](#) licensed in Texas. For Spanish, go to <http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/webinfo/08qenespanol.html>. TDI has a Help Line at 1-800-252-3439.
- **The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has information on mental health services** at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mhservices/default.shtm> and <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mentalhealth.shtm>. This includes [Local Mental Health Authorities](#) and [Consumer Rights](#). You can also call 1-800-252-8154 for information.
- **HealthCare.gov** was created by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in July to help Americans access quality, affordable health coverage. It provides information on public and private health coverage options.
- **CuidadodeSalud.gov** is a Spanish website designed to help people take control of their health care. It was created by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in September 2010 and includes information on quality rankings for local health care providers, as well as preventive services.

Miscellaneous Disability Resources:

- **The Department of Justice provides tips for planning and conducting accessible meetings** at <http://www.ada.gov/business/accessiblemtg.htm>.
- **A handbook on inclusive meetings and presentations to help self advocates participate in discussions** is at <http://www.mnddc.org/resources/pdf/TheGuide.pdf>.

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Internet Resources *Continued*

- **“Making Documents Accessible,”** by the Texas Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities is at http://governor.state.tx.us/files/disabilities/making_documents_accessible.pdf.
- **A web-based tutorial on how to make online presentations more accessible** for people with disabilities is at https://admin.na3.acrobat.com/_a774694537/p25975456.
- **The WGBH National Center for Accessible Media** is a research and development facility dedicated to achieving media access equality for people with disabilities. At <http://ncam.wgbh.org>.
- The U.S. Access Board provides information and develops guidelines on **accessible design related to buildings/facilities, transportation, telecommunications equipment, and electronic and information technology**. Examples of items covered include building entrances, ramps, parking, restrooms, recreation areas, telephones, computers, websites, electronic documents, and buses. More details and the guidelines/standards are at <http://www.access-board.gov/508.htm>.
- **The Attendant Network has an online registry** at <http://www.attendantnetwork.org> to help connect personal attendants and people needing attendant services in **Austin, Dallas-Fort Worth, El Paso, Houston and San Antonio**.
- An Impact newsletter discusses **“Sexuality and People with Intellectual, Developmental and Other Disabilities”** at <http://ici.umn.edu/products/impact/232>. For a free print copy, call (612) 624-4512.

Conferences, Training and Other Disability Events

Information on conferences, training and other disability events is in the **“Training and Events”** section of TCDD’s website at http://www.txddc.state.tx.us/training_events/training.asp. *If you would like to suggest an addition to the events list*, please send details to Melissa Rosser at melissa.rosser@tcdd.state.tx.us. Please note, however, that we do not include routine/monthly meetings or support groups in this list.

Got News? Please send any information you would like to submit for the **“FYI”** to: Lucy Walker, Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities, 6201 E Oltorf, Ste 600, Austin, TX 78741-7509; 1-800-262-0334 or (512) 437-5415; fax (512) 437-5434 or e-mail to lucy.walker@tcdd.state.tx.us. We’d especially like to hear about any advocacy opportunities, good resources, websites and conferences, etc.