

The logo for "Partners in Transition" features the text in a blue, cursive font. Behind the text is a green graphic consisting of concentric circles and radiating lines, resembling a stylized sun or a target.

# Partners in Transition

UPDATES March 22, 2010

## **Sharon Lewis Named Commissioner of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities at the Administration for Children and Families**

Sharon Lewis will be joining HHS as Commissioner of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities at the Administration for Children and Families.

Ms. Lewis has extensive experience as a disability policy advocate. She has worked as the Senior Disability Policy Advisor to U.S. House Committee on Education & Labor Chairman George Miller since 2007. In that role, she has advised Chairman Miller on legislative strategy and disability-related policy in education, employment and healthcare, and has served as the lead staffer on the disability provisions of key pieces of legislation and on implementation oversight. She will begin her work at HHS next month.

## **SITES OF INTEREST**

### **Campaign for Youth**

[www.campaignforyouth.org](http://www.campaignforyouth.org)

The Campaign for Youth is excited to announce the launch of its newly redesigned [web site](#). They invite you to visit [www.campaignforyouth.org](http://www.campaignforyouth.org), regularly to read the new blog, learn about their latest efforts and activities, stay up-to-date on legislative efforts, find out what others are doing, take action to support youth and more. For several years, the Campaign for Youth has focused on disconnected youth- the more than 5 million young people who are out of school and out of work- in an effort to ensure their access to education, employment, and service opportunities, working to lay the ground work for long-term federal investments in reconnecting youth and reclaiming the potential we would otherwise leave behind.

### **Campaign for Disability Employment**

<http://www.whatcanyoudocampaign.org>

What can YOU do? The Campaign for Disability Employment seeks to promote positive employment outcomes for people with disabilities by encouraging employers, and others, to recognize the value and talent that people with disabilities bring to the workplace, as well as the dividend to be realized by fully including people with disabilities at work. The Campaign is

a collaborative effort funded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), receives technical assistance from the Job Accommodation Network (JAN) and is supported by the Disability Policy Research Center (DPRC) at West Virginia University.

### **PACER Center**

<http://www.pacer.org>

PACER Center's mission is to expand opportunities and enhance the quality of life of children and young adults with disabilities based on the concept of parents helping parents. The Web site offers a number of useful resources related to postsecondary education. Search the site using the term "transition" to generate a list of resources.

### **Florida's Center for the Advancement of Child Welfare Practice**

[www.centerforchildwelfare.org](http://www.centerforchildwelfare.org)

The Center supports Florida's child welfare professionals in achieving practice excellence and developing communities of practice to help keep kids safe. Funded by the Department of Children and Families, the Center facilitates the distribution of relevant, accurate and consistent information and training that is easily accessible and readily available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### **Institute for Child Health Policy**

<http://hctransitions.ichp.ufl.edu/hct-promo/>

If you have a responsibility for or interest in the health and well being of young adults with chronic medical conditions and disabilities, you may be interested in receiving the "Transition Digest". This free e-mail monthly newsletter typically includes information about emerging trends, promising health care transition practices, lessons learned, materials for youth and parents, transition related publications (from a broad range of journals), websites, meetings, and questions from subscribers. It does NOT address medical management, but rather focuses on issues like improving systems of care, promoting teen's autonomy and medical decision making skills, assessing transition readiness and facilitating the transfer between pediatric and adult providers. Past issues of the Transition Digest (from 2009 and 2008) are available, as PDFs at

<http://hctransitions.ichp.ufl.edu/listserv.html>

To receive the Digest (at no cost) send a request by e-mail to [jgr@ichp.ufl.edu](mailto:jgr@ichp.ufl.edu) .

### **Ticket to Work**

<http://www.choosework.net>

The Social Security Administration launched the new ChooseWork.net website for people with disabilities receiving Social Security disability benefits. The site features an overview of Ticket to Work programs, videos and stories from individuals involved with Ticket to Work, links, resources, and more.

### **Disability.gov - Connecting the Disability Community to Information & Opportunities**

<http://www.disability.gov>

This site is federal Web site that contains disability-related resources on programs, services, laws and regulations to help people with disabilities lead full, independent lives. With just a

few clicks, visitors can find critical information on a variety of topics, including benefits, civil rights, community life, education, emergency preparedness, employment, housing, health, technology and transportation. Information may be found by topic or by state.

## **PARTNERS' HIGHLIGHTS/LINKS**

TASH [www.tash.org](http://www.tash.org)

*Don't miss In the News Announcements!*

Florida Youth Council <http://www.floridayouthcouncil.com>

*Be sure to check out the latest edition of The Noodle!*

Family Café [www.familycafe.net](http://www.familycafe.net)

*Mark your calendar for the next Family Café in Orlando June 18-20, 2010!*

## **STATE LINKS**

Florida Developmental Disabilities Council <http://www.fddc.org>

Florida Bureau of Exceptional Education & Student Services, Dept. of Education  
<http://www.fldoe.org/ese>

Project 10: Transition Education Network <http://www.project10.info>

*Be sure to check out the Transition Wheel and the ever-growing A-Z Library of Terms and Resources!*

The Able Trust <http://abletrust.org>

Agency for Persons with Disabilities <http://apd.myflorida.com/default.htm>

Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation <http://www.rehabworks.org>

Family Network on Disabilities of Florida <http://www.fndfl.org>

Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living <http://www.floridacils.org>

Florida Inclusion Network <http://www.floridainclusionnetwork.com>

SCIETT Supported Employment Project <http://www.flprovidernetwork.org>

FYI Transition Project <http://www.fyitransition.org>

## **UPCOMING CONFERENCES/WEBINARS/EVENTS**

**Volunteer Opportunity:** It's Our Story – National Disability Media & History Project

[http://campaign.constantcontact.com/render?v=001p2v57KM8pgYEw87d8oOfXx3z1wsBPZ8KQ\\_RqZ6m74HtB53AjA2QqskTKj1thiT9XFIGIn-KU52CLN1tHnqbL908cDv3eDRVexL740i5ZGg%3D](http://campaign.constantcontact.com/render?v=001p2v57KM8pgYEw87d8oOfXx3z1wsBPZ8KQ_RqZ6m74HtB53AjA2QqskTKj1thiT9XFIGIn-KU52CLN1tHnqbL908cDv3eDRVexL740i5ZGg%3D)

### **Your Opinion Wanted!**

Every five years, the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council develops a state plan, which guides them in identifying solutions to better meet the needs of Floridians with developmental disabilities and their families. They want to know what you think, and have created two surveys, one for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, and another for service providers. Please contribute to the development of the 2011-2016 state plan by

providing your input. All responses will remain anonymous. The survey may be completed in several ways; for further details contact the Council toll free at 1-800-580-7801 or TDD 1-888-488-8633. To complete the survey online, click one of the surveys below that applies to you, complete it, and then click Submit.

- Survey for Individuals with a Developmental Disability and their Families  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/88CSGCF>
- Survey for Providers  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8HPMJQP>

**The Florida Office on Disability and Health** currently is conducting two web-based surveys to collect more information about the health of Floridians with disabilities. One is for Florida residents with a disability age 18 or older, and the other is for Florida residents who are caregivers for individuals with a disability. Please visit [www.fodh.php.ufl.edu](http://www.fodh.php.ufl.edu) and click the appropriate link to participate. The data collected through the web surveys will be used to describe health needs and health disparities between Floridians with and without disabilities, to set priorities for future data collection efforts, and to create or support policies that improve the health and well being of Floridians with disabilities.

**Partners In Transition, in collaboration with TASH**, is pleased to announce a series of webinars focusing on students with significant disabilities. For more information or to register, send an email to [thompson@iel.org](mailto:thompson@iel.org). Materials from previous webinars may be found at [www.ncwd-youth.info/webinars](http://www.ncwd-youth.info/webinars).

- Navigating the Community for Youth with Significant Disabilities April 6, 2010; 3:00 – 4:15 pm EST

### **Youth Service Professionals Advanced Training Webinar Series**

[http://www.dynamicinstitute.com/Catalog/catalog\\_pkgdetail.cfm?ID=469](http://www.dynamicinstitute.com/Catalog/catalog_pkgdetail.cfm?ID=469)

NCWD/Youth, in partnership with Dynamic Works Institute, will conduct a series of five webinars from January to March 2010 aimed at providing youth service professionals with advanced training opportunities based on its work over the last nine years.

- Everybody Learns, Everybody Works: Creating Inclusive Workforce Development for Youth with Learning Disabilities March 24, 2010; 2:00 – 3:30 pm EST

### **APD Area 4 Annual Conference**

Jacksonville, FL May 14, 2010

The Family Care Council in partnership with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities announces the Area 4 Annual Conference at the Jacksonville Conference Center from 9AM to 2PM. John and Connie Lyle O'Brien will present "Developing Friendships through Person Centered Planning." For more information, contact the APD Area 4 office at 904-992-2440.

### **Florida Developmental Disabilities Council Focus Group - Tampa**

The Council will take comments and questions from self-advocacy organizations, individuals with disabilities, their family members and caregivers regarding quality of life, current services and supports, improving access, and other questions or concerns. It will be held Saturday, April 17, 2010 at All Peoples Life Center, 6105 E Sligh Ave., Tampa, FL 33617 from 11am-12:30pm. Please contact Allison Chase at: [achaseccg@comcast.net](mailto:achaseccg@comcast.net) or 850-566-9606 if you plan to attend.

### **Free Tax Preparation in Big Bend Area**

The Advocacy Center is proud to partner with the 2010 REAL ECONOMIC IMPACT TOUR, the United Way of Big Bend BEST Project, Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), Florida Division of Blind Services (DBS), North Florida Area Agency on Aging and the Internal Revenue Service/Stakeholder Partnership, Education and Communication (SPEC) on the Leon County Florida Disability Tax Initiative. In addition to free tax preparation, they offer information on the Earned Income Credit, Child Tax Credit, the New Making Work Pay Credit, and the First-Time Homebuyer Credit. Click [Tax Preparation](#) to visit the webpage on the Advocacy Center website.

### **Free Tax Preparation in Tampa Bay Area**

Free tax preparation is also available compliments of the United Way of Tampa Bay for Bay area residents. Visit [www.uwtb.org/freetaxhelp](http://www.uwtb.org/freetaxhelp) for further details.

### **Visions XVII: A Life of Possibilities**

Presented by the Florida Division on Career Development & Transition and Florida Special Needs Association will be held April 28-30, 2010. The Registration Form and further registration details may be obtained from Patrick Mulvihill at [PatMFL@aol.com](mailto:PatMFL@aol.com).

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

If you know of others who might be interested in the newsletter and the work of Partners In Transition, they can sign up by sending an email with the word SUBSCRIBE in the subject line to [thomsont@iel.org](mailto:thomsont@iel.org) . Please send comments, inquiries, and suggestions for transition related resources and tools to [thomsont@iel.org](mailto:thomsont@iel.org) .

