

# FYI Newsletter December 7, 2015



Indiana Institute on Disability and Community



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## UPCOMING



## December ADA-Indiana Audio Conference

This month's audio conference features attorney Joyce Walker-Jones from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) on the EEOC's outreach and enforcement activities under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

*Open Dialogue with the Equal Employment  
Opportunity Commission*

Tuesday, December 15th  
2:00-3:30 p.m. (EASTERN)

Indiana Locations

[Free and Open to the Public](#)

Listen to an update on Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) Enforcement and Guidance Activities and pose your questions to the guest speaker Walker-Jones, Senior Attorney Advisor. This is an interactive session and participants are encouraged to bring their tough issues and concerns forward. Learn from what others may be experiencing and the questions and issues that they may have as well.

[Click](#) for more specific information about hosted site locations. If you are unable to attend at one of the hosted locations, [register](#) for the free web streaming of the session. For more information about this session, contact Matt Norris at (812) 855-6508, or email [adainfo@indiana.edu](mailto:adainfo@indiana.edu). The Indiana ADA Audio Conference program is sponsored by [ADA-Indiana](#), [Great Lakes ADA Center](#), and the [Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities](#).

**KUDOS**



## Pratt Appointed to Indiana Bicentennial Legacy Project Working Group

[Cathy Pratt](#), director of the [Indiana Resource Center for Autism](#) at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, has been appointed by Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann to participate in an [Indiana Bicentennial Legacy Project](#) to develop a long-term vision for the future of Indiana around youth and education.

The project is an activity of *Indiana's Bicentennial Commission*, co-chaired by former Lt. Governor Becky Skillman and former Congressman Lee Hamilton. Its outcomes will be to produce a number of "big ideas" for the state of Indiana's future which may drive positive change in Indiana's third century.

Pratt, a board certified behavior analyst and immediate past chair of the National Autism Society, and other individuals representing various subject areas from across Indiana will come together in a series of working sessions facilitated by Ellspermann. Other areas of focus include historical celebration; nature conservation; and community involvement. These ideas will be incorporated into a document to be published next summer.

"I look forward to facilitating these visioning sessions where our experts will share and discuss their ideas and then identify the most promising ideas to put forward in the report," Ellspermann said. "This report is not intended to be a political manifesto with specific policy recommendations. Rather, we see it as a resource document with a collection of big ideas and broad goals for Indiana's future."

Hamilton explained how he developed the idea, "Observing the Indiana Bicentennial is a time to celebrate our history and all of the past contributions that have made us the state and the people that we are today," he said. "However, I believe that we miss an opportunity as we focus on our state if we do not also look ahead to our future. A study of our past is most fully meaningful if we use those history lessons as a foundation for our future. I see this Visioning Project as a way to capture the best ideas for Indiana's future from today's big thinkers across a wide range of economic, social and cultural issues."

## ACROSS THE COURTYARD



### New Staff

The Institute's [Early Childhood Center](#) would like to welcome [Joy Jones](#) to the staff. Jones is the Center's new Office Services Assistant. Jones has a background in psychology from Milligan College (1995) and a Master of Divinity in Pastoral Care and Counseling from Emmanuel Christian Seminary (1999). After starting a family, she became interested in the area of early childhood and spent ten years working with Bloomington Area Birth Services (BABS). Jones

volunteers on the board of directors of Flourish, a non-profit organization that provides free, clinical, breastfeeding support to local families. She also serves on the board of directors at Windfall Dancers, a non-profit group that provides dance education and performance opportunities to people of all ages. Welcome Joy!



### Holiday Tips Article

While many happily anticipate the coming holiday season, families of sons/daughters on the autism spectrum also understand the special challenges that may occur when schedules are disrupted and routines broken. The Institute's [Indiana Resource Center for Autism](#) in conjunction with the [National Autism Society](#), the [Autism Society of Indiana](#), [Riley Child Development Center](#), [Easter Seals Crossroads](#), [Sonya Ansari Center for Autism at Logan](#), and the Indiana Autism Leadership Network have compiled a few [helpful tips](#) that may lessen the stress and anxiety created by the holiday season and make it a more enjoyable experience for everyone involved!

## OUR RILEY CONNECTION



### Research Study on Parents' Perspectives and Support Groups

Trainees with the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) program at the [Riley Child Development Center](#) are completing a research study regarding parents' perspectives on Support Groups.

This study consists of an online survey and the opportunity to participate in a Support Group in Indianapolis, IN. The Support Group is only for Spanish-speaking families with children with ASD. However, the survey is for Spanish-speaking or English-speaking parents of children with ASD. The survey contains 9 questions and should take 2-5 minutes to complete. Responses will provide valuable information regarding parents' perspectives on Support Groups.

- If you know a Spanish-speaking parent of a child with ASD, please direct them to the following [survey](#).
- If you know an English-speaking parent of a child with ASD, please direct them to the following [survey](#).

Contact Caitlin Martin at [caitmart@iupui.edu](mailto:caitmart@iupui.edu) or (317) 944-8167 or Aura Roblero at [aurarobl@iupui.edu](mailto:aurarobl@iupui.edu) or (317) 944-8167 with any questions.

## IN INDIANA



## Utility Support Program

[The Arc of Indiana](#) is pleased to announce their new Utility Support Program. The program is designed to assist people with disabilities and their families through the distribution of funds for heating or cooling bills.

Eligible Utility Support Services include:

- Funding to prevent disconnection of services
- Funding to reactivate services
- Funding to cover utility debt back to one year from date of application
- Deposit assistance to begin services
- Up to two months heating or cooling utility bill assistance

[Click](#) for more information and an application form. If you have questions or need more information, contact Gina Parella-DeWilde at 1-800-573-9816 or e-mail [gdewilde@arcind.org](mailto:gdewilde@arcind.org).

## LIBRARY CORNER



### Library Corner

- Lang, G. (2003). *Looking out for Sarah*. Watertown, MA: Talewinds.

“In this story of friendship, loyalty, and trust, Sarah and her guide dog, Perry, go about their busy day. Perry helps Sarah go shopping, to the post office, and take the train to school. Sarah, a blind musician and teacher, entertains the children and tells them about the time she and Perry walked from Boston to New York to show the world what a blind person can accomplish with the help of a guide dog like Perry.” –publisher A Schneider Family Book Award winner

- Lyon, G. E., Avril, L., & Sfetsios, D. (2010). *The pirate of kindergarten*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

“Ginny sees double chairs at reading circle and double words in her books. She knows that only half of what she sees is real, but which half? The solution to her problem is wondrously simple: an eye patch! Ginny becomes the pirate of kindergarten. With the help of her pirate patch, Ginny can read, run, and even snip her scissors with double the speed!” – publisher A Schneider Family Book Award winner

- Rabinowitz, A., & Chien, C. (2014). *A boy and a jaguar*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

“Alan loves animals, but the great cat house at the Bronx Zoo makes him sad. Why are they all alone in empty cages? Are they being punished? More than anything, he wants to be their champion—their voice—but he stutters uncontrollably. Except when he talks to animals... Then he is fluent.” –publisher A Schneider Family Book Award winner

These new materials may be borrowed from the [Center for Disability Information and Referral](#) (CeDIR) at the Institute. To check out materials, contact the library at 800-437-7924, send an e-mail to [cedir@indiana.edu](mailto:cedir@indiana.edu), or visit us at 1905 North Range Road in Bloomington.



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