Dear Friends,

For a very long time, Idaho Parents Unlimited has been publishing a newsletter on a quarterly basis. In today’s digital age, information is coming faster than ever before, and we decided it would be beneficial to families to change our format to a monthly newsletter, as a result. We hope you enjoy more frequent communication, and we always appreciate your feedback. We welcome your input on topics you’d like to learn more about, and we absolutely love to hear your stories of success as a result of IPUL’s information and assistance. Drop us a line anytime!

~Angela Lindig, Executive Director

Idaho Parents Unlimited supports, empowers, educates and advocates to enhance the quality of life for Idahoans with disabilities and their families

500 South 8th Street
Boise, Idaho 83702
208.342.5884
800.242.IPUL (4785)
208.342.1408 Fax
http://www.ipulidaho.org
parents@ipulidaho.org

Find us on Facebook:
Facebook.com/
IdahoParentsUnlimited
Facebook.com/
CreativeAccessArtCenter
Keeping All Students Safe Act
CALL IN AND E-MAIL JUNE 12

Mark your calendars for June 12, 2014 to call-in and email your Senators and Representatives asking them to cosponsor the Keeping All Students Safe Act, the restraint and seclusion bills introduced by Senator Harkin (D-IA) and Representative Miller (D-VA). The day is being planned in collaboration with the national Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), the Alliance to Prevent Restraint, Aversive Interventions and Seclusion (APRAIS), and other coalitions. The House and Senate must hear from parents, people with disabilities, students, advocates, professionals, friends, families, and neighbors regarding this important legislation!

This legislation will prohibit the use of physical restraint unless a student’s behavior poses an imminent danger of physical harm to self or others, while ensuring that personnel receive proper training, that parents are aware of any restraint used with their children, and that the most dangerous types of restraint and seclusion are eliminated. Restraint and Seclusion have resulted in numerous serious injuries and fatalities and are disproportionately used on students with disabilities.

http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml

Making Sense of the Idaho Core Standards for Students with Severe Disabilities— A Training Opportunity:

Making Sense of the Idaho Core Standards for Students with Severe Disabilities

Presented by the Center for Disabilities and Human Development and Idaho State Department of Education

June 25 and 26, 2014 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
$35.00

Hilton Garden Inn - Boise Spectrum
7699 West Spectrum Street
Boise, Idaho 83709

For more information, contact Robin Greenfield at (208) 364-4012 or rgreen@uidaho.edu

IPUL Calendar of Events

Thu Jun 12 @10:00AM -12:00PM
Resources for Parents and Parent and Professional Collaboration

Thu Jun 19 @ 6:00PM -08:00PM
Skills for Effective Parent Advocacy

Tue Jun 24 @10:00AM -11:00PM
Webinar Series- Youth Advocacy and Healthy Transition

Tue Jun 24 @ 1:00PM -02:00PM
Webinar Series- Youth Advocacy and Healthy Transition

Tue Jun 24 @ 6:00PM -07:00PM
Webinar Series- Youth Advocacy and Healthy Transition

Fri Jun 27 @10:00AM -12:00PM
Journey to Adulthood- What Parents Need to Know (Sexuality)

Visit: www.ipulidaho.org for locations and registration information or give us a call.
Connecting the Dots

Early Intervention and the Medical Home

At Idaho Parents Unlimited, we work with families who have infants and toddlers with developmental delays, disabilities and/or special health care needs in providing information about early intervention services and supports, which includes Part C (early childhood) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). We also provide information about the importance of a Medical Home at any age - that is comprehensive coordinated health care.

Families are important, and you have a critical role in developing a plan that best meets the needs of your child; so it makes sense that as members of your infant or toddler’s educational, developmental, and health teams, these systems of care would be connected and coordinated.

Navigating such systems can be extremely challenging and complex. The Idaho Medical Home Portal provides excellent resources and tools for families and providers to understand how to create the right partnership for your child’s care. Take a look at the information within the following link, and always feel free to contact our office to ask questions, or learn about any training and support opportunities.

http://www.medicalhomeportal.org/living-with-child/early-services-0-5-years/early-intervention-part-c-program

Did you know that there are nearly 77,000 people in Idaho who make too much money to qualify for traditional Medicaid, and who also earn too little to be eligible for health insurance premium assistance?

These hardworking individuals are falling into what is known in Idaho as the coverage gap.

The vast majority of families that IPUL serves have insurance coverage for their children, but often do have insurance for themselves.

Our kids need healthy parents to care for them. Healthy parents make for healthier families!

If you fall into the gap, and you’re wondering what can be done, take a look at this resource: closethegapidaho.org

CHIP Legislation (Children’s Health Insurance Program)

CHIP operates through state-run health plans based upon federal guidelines, and is designed to reach children and pregnant women who do not qualify for Medicaid but for whom affordable private coverage is still out of reach. No two programs are alike, but they generally all enjoy broad bipartisan support in the states for providing high-quality, cost-effective care to children and pregnant women in working families.

Were the program to expire, nearly two million children would no longer have access to affordable health care, and over eight million children would lose the specific care, services and networks that CHIP provides. Legislation was introduced June 11, 2014 to extend CHIP through 2019. Take a look at the CHIP Extension Act of 2014 introduced by Senator Rockefeller of West Virginia, here: http://www.rockefeller.senate.gov/public/

Medicaid Eligibility for Former Foster Youth

The Affordable Care Act requires states to provide Medicaid coverage to individuals who were in a state’s foster care system when they turned 18 until the month of their 26th birthday.

Unfortunately, this coverage is guaranteed only if the individual still lives in the state where he or she was in foster care.

This article discusses implementation of this ACA provision, including measures states have taken to reach out to this population, as well as the action of 11 states to extend Medicaid to former foster care youth who lived in another state at the time they were in the child welfare system.

For continued accurate, up to date information on the ACA and how it affects children with special health care needs, visit National Family Voices website at: http://www.familyvoices.org/
Creative Access Artist in Residence Program

Featured Residency:

IPUL, through our VSA Idaho program, and under a contract with the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts with further support from the Idaho State Department of Education, provides high quality art education to students with disabilities each year in Idaho’s public schools.

Our teaching artists do extraordinary things with extraordinary kids, and we want to share the great successes we get to see with each of you!

Artist Helen Grainger Wilson recently worked with Potlatch Elementary School, in one of our most rural communities. Helen involved the entire student body which includes more than 30 children with disabilities. She had not only the support of teachers, administration, and parents, but also that of the Potlatch Arts Council which further helped fund greatly needed art materials such as paint and brushes.

The children received a full week of art education including painting, drawing, color and design, and it was tied directly to their science curriculum. Students were given painting and drawing lessons which included biology curriculum of Idaho’s native plant and animal populations. Each student chose a plant and an animal to study, including their behaviors, habitat and life cycles. Then students went on to paint and draw pictures of their plant and animal selections. The lessons also included related vocabulary, concepts of design, color theory and color mixing and cultural/arts appreciation.

Students gained artistic skills, knowledge and confidence in accordance with Idaho state standards for arts and humanities as well as science/biology curriculum. 21st century skills used by students include: communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. The students were able to accomplish the art lessons, as well as a sense of personal pride and community. Helen observed many students encouraging, helping and admiring each other’s art work. The residency opened doors to the world of art and creativity for students with a range of abilities and disabilities.

This residency shows that just one arts education experience makes a difference in the lives of students. It also has the power to reverberate through an entire community, with a lasting educational benefits extending to many more students and community members. The residency mobilized this community and shows the exceptional power of arts to bridge academic subjects and bring people together.

Further information on IPUL’s art programming can be found on our website.