

# Monday Bulletin on Services to Youth

To Coordinate... To Enhance... To Serve... Through Communication...

## The BEST of Monday Bulletin

Thank you to all who have contributed to *Monday Bulletin* through articles, information, and your outstanding work in transition services.

For several years, *Monday Bulletin* has been sharing transition news and resources with people throughout Michigan. In November 2006, *Monday Bulletin* received the Excellence in Media Award from the National Rehabilitation Association.

*Monday Bulletin* has provided resources to help counselors, teachers, and transition coordinators better serve students. This issue highlights some of these resources along with some new articles and "Save the Dates." Please download the attachments sent along with this edition of *Monday Bulletin*, and save these valuable resources in a handy place.

### Look inside for...

- [Requesting GED Accommodations](#)
- [Resources for People with Learning Disabilities](#)
- [The Learning Needs Screening Tool](#)

### Announcing...

## Michigan Rehabilitation Service's Updated On-Line Transition Course

Michigan Rehabilitation Services' (MRS) Transition course was substantially revised with assistance from many MRS counselors and transition partners. The updates reflect changes brought about as a result of the amendments to IDEA (IDEA 2004). Unit II now includes information on the following:

- Updated assessment requirements
- The Present Level of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (PLAAFP)
- The Michigan Merit Curriculum
- The Summary of Performance
- The Personal Curriculum
- The Education Development Plan

MRS staff members who completed the Transition Course before July 23, 2007 and received CRC credit for the course may now complete the revised Unit II for an additional one credit. Contact Carole Shepherd at [sheppcas@msu.edu](mailto:sheppcas@msu.edu) for details.

Transition Coordinators and others interested in Transition may take the public course by visiting: <http://www2.mrs.state.mi.us> and registering for the public course.

## MRS Transition Course Features

Originally created by Sheryl Avery-Meints, Lynn Boza, Jan Newman, Carole Sheppard, and Rosanne Renauer, the on-line course was updated in June, 2007. Along with "frequently asked questions," case studies, and quizzes, here is a sample of the resource sites and materials you will visit while taking the course.

**The National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance and Dissemination Center (NSTTAC)** has synthesized research from the last 20 years. Funded from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2010 by the

Continued on page 2

# MRS Transition Course

Continued from page 1

U. S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), its purpose is to improve transition planning, services, and outcomes for youth with disabilities. <http://www.nsttac.org/>

**The National Center on Secondary Education and Transition** provides access to an on-line newsletter as well as information on model programs and other resources. <http://www.ncset.org/>

**National Transition Research Institute** at the University of Illinois provides descriptions of model transition programs prior to 1999. <http://www.ed.uiuc.edu/sped/tri/institute.html>

**Michigan Transition Resources** includes articles, publications, and access to newsletters. <http://www.cenmi.org/tspmi/>

**OSEP-Reviewed Materials on IDEA 2004** features information on topics such as assessment and due process. <http://www.nichcy.org/idealist.htm>

The **Michigan IEP Team Manual** includes the IEP form, detailed instructions for completing the form, and legal references. [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/7-28-05IEPManual\\_132279\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/7-28-05IEPManual_132279_7.pdf)

## Resources for People with Learning Disabilities

*Resources for People with Learning Disabilities* provides a comprehensive, up-to-date listing of state and national resources. This document is distributed as an interactive PDF. It will be most functional if saved to the computer desktop (or other directory) and used with an Internet connection. By clicking on the red addresses, the user will jump directly to additional information on the web.

This document was reviewed and revised in September, 2007. Please replace previous copies with the one sent with this edition of Monday Bulletin. This resource is also posted on the MRS Public web site at: [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdcd/LDRResources07\\_208411\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdcd/LDRResources07_208411_7.pdf)

## Requesting GED Accommodations

- By Lynn Boza

The GED Testing Service has established specific criteria and processes for requesting accommodations. Rehabilitation counselors and other professionals can play an important role in assisting individuals with the application and documentation process. To this end, we have prepared the *Guide to Requesting GED Accommodations*.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, tests must be administered in facilities that are accessible to individuals with disabilities or alternative accessible arrangements must be made. In addition, entities that administer such tests are required to make reasonable modifications to the test and to provide reasonable auxiliary aids, such as testing accommodations, for persons with documented impairments to ensure the examination results accurately reflect the individual's aptitude or achievement level. A testing entity need not provide an auxiliary aid or other testing accommodation that fundamentally alters the examination or results in an undue burden to the testing entity. In other words, an individual with a qualifying disability is entitled to a reasonable and effective accommodation, but not necessarily the accommodation of his or her choice.

The *Guide to Requesting GED Accommodations* is intended to walk you through the process established by the GED Testing Services. Critical background information and eligibility criteria are listed in an easy to use fashion. If used on an Internet connected computer, click-able links lead to GED forms or other topics within the document. The document has been reviewed for accuracy by officials experienced in the GED accommodation request process.

The *Guide to Requesting GED Accommodations* was e-mailed along with this edition of *Monday Bulletin*. It is also available on the Michigan Rehabilitation Services E-Learn system. Simply type GED into the search field. If you do not have access to E-Learn, send a note to Melissa Emmer [EmmerM@michigan.gov](mailto:EmmerM@michigan.gov) and a copy will be forwarded to you.

**Award Winning  
Book on Autism  
Now in Spanish**

Learn more on the web at:  
<http://www.asdatoz.com/>



## Learning Needs Screening Tool

The *Learning Needs Screening Tool* and instructions for administration were sent with this *Monday Bulletin*. The screening tool can be administered in less than 10 minutes, and may save time, frustration, and dollars. The tool is designed to identify individuals who may benefit from work or program accommodations, or further assessment. The *Learning Needs Screening Tool* is NOT a diagnostic tool and is not designed to determine the existence of a Learning Disability.

The Learning Needs Screening Tool is brief and extensively researched. It consists of a short, oral interview developed by Nancie Payne, and funded by federal and state resources. Therefore, the research and screening tool are in the public domain and may be used at no cost.

The Learning Needs Screening Tool may be used as an aid in identifying participants who should be referred for further testing. A score of 12 or more is one indication that the person may benefit from further assessment or accommodations.

### Possible applications:

- During orientation/intake: Applicants with a score of 12 or more should be considered for further evaluation.
- If problems arise during any part of the program process, the screen may help in determining if further psychological testing to rule out a learning disability is warranted.

### Cautions regarding use of this tool:

- The *Learning Needs Screening Tool* cannot diagnose learning disabilities. It can help you determine if further diagnostics should be considered.
- This screening tool should not be used with non-English speaking people, or those whose education was outside of the United States school systems.
- This tool was validated on welfare-to-work program participants and not on any other population. Use caution when administering the tool with people who do not fit this criteria.

From REFERENCE POINTS...

## Perceptions and Expectations of Youth With Disabilities

### A Special Report of Findings from the National Longitudinal Transition Study-2

This report from NCSER provides a picture of the self-representations and expectations of youth with disabilities, how they differ across disability categories and demographic groups, and how they compare with youth in the general population. The National Longitudinal Transition Study-2 (NLTS2), funded by IES, was initiated in 2001 and has a nationally representative sample of more than 11,000 students with disabilities. This report presents findings drawn primarily from telephone interviews or self-administered mail surveys collected from youth when they were ages 15 through 19. The report addresses questions such as how youth with disabilities describe their feelings about themselves and their lives, their secondary school experiences, their personal relationships, and their expectations for the future.

To obtain the publication as a PDF file, please visit:

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncser/pubs/index.asp#NLTS2perceptions>

---

## New Issue Brief on Role of CTE in Secondary-Postsecondary Transitions

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) has released a new issue brief on the role of career and technical education (CTE) in secondary-postsecondary transition. As states and national organizations are implementing new initiatives designed to improve the secondary and postsecondary education outcomes of our nation's youth, numerous reform strategies that involve a strong focus on CTE have emerged.

To read the report, go to: [http://www.acteonline.org/resource\\_center/upload/Transitions.pdf](http://www.acteonline.org/resource_center/upload/Transitions.pdf)

# Save the Dates Events & Training

## SEPTEMBER

**MALDE 34th Annual Conference**  
**Nuts & Bolts of Differentiated Instruction**  
September 27-29  
Shanty Creek Resort  
Bellaire, MI  
[www.Mimalde.net](http://www.Mimalde.net)

## OCTOBER

**Universal Education: Principles, Practices, and Outcomes**  
October 10, 2007  
Fairlane Center, University of Michigan- Dearborn  
Dearborn, Michigan  
Karen Hobden: 313-577-7980 or [khobden@wayne.edu](mailto:khobden@wayne.edu)

**ACMH 2007 Conference: Success One Day At a Time: Fostering Your Family's Mental Health**  
October 15-16, 2007  
Kellogg Center at Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan  
<http://www.acmh-mi.org/2007fallconf.pdf>

**Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan: Annual Conference**  
October 21-23  
Kellogg Center, East Lansing, MI  
[www.ldaofmichigan.org](http://www.ldaofmichigan.org)

**Michigan Rehabilitation Conference**  
October 24-26, 2007  
DeVos Center  
Grand Rapids, MI  
[www.MARO.org](http://www.MARO.org)

## Please Forward or Print Monday Bulletin

E-mail your contributions or ideas for "Monday Bulletin on Services to Youth" to Julie Eckhardt: [jewel@chartermi.net](mailto:jewel@chartermi.net) or call 231/590-2764. To subscribe, contact Julie Eckhardt. Views expressed in Monday Bulletin articles are not necessarily the views of the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth nor Michigan Rehabilitation Services.

## NOVEMBER

**Symposium on Postsecondary Opportunities on College Campus for Students with Intellectual/Cognitive Disabilities**  
November 5, 2007 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM  
University of Michigan Dearborn- Fairlane Center  
For updates on the Symposium: [www.ddi.wayne.edu/postsecondary\\_symposium.php](http://www.ddi.wayne.edu/postsecondary_symposium.php)  
To request a conference brochure, contact Latosha Marshall at [du8586@wayne.edu](mailto:du8586@wayne.edu)

## DECEMBER

**Universal Education: Principles, Practices, and Outcomes**  
December 12, 2007  
Fairlane Center, University of Michigan- Dearborn  
Dearborn, Michigan  
Karen Hobden: 313-577-7980 or [khobden@wayne.edu](mailto:khobden@wayne.edu)

## FEBRUARY 2008

**Universal Education: Principles, Practices, and Outcomes**  
February 7, 2008  
Fairlane Center, University of Michigan- Dearborn  
Dearborn, Michigan  
Karen Hobden: 313-577-7980 or [khobden@wayne.edu](mailto:khobden@wayne.edu)

## Family-to-Family Health Education and Training Center (F2FHIEC)

The goal of F2FHIEC is to improve access to quality care and supports for children with special needs in their communities by empowering families. Together with other family, community, and state-wide partners, F2FHIEC seeks to enhance resources and expand outreach to families across Michigan through information, education and parent-to-parent support.



F2FHIEC is offering training programs in locations throughout Michigan. To learn more see:  
<http://www.bridges4kids.org/f2f/>