

Orange County Office on Disability Quarterly Winter 2017



Mark Your Calendars!



Free Webinar on ADA Access
Are you interested in learning about landlord/tenant responsibilities under Title III of the ADA? Then join the ADA National Network's free webinar, "What Every Tenant and Landlord Needs to Know About ADA Access Violations," on Feb. 15, 2017, from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. (EST). To register for this seminar and other ADA seminars, visit <https://adata.org>.



Transportation Disadvantaged Legislative Day, March 15, 2017

Show your support for Public Transportation and the Transportation Disadvantaged Program. Individuals, businesses and advocates are welcome to attend. Questions? Email LisaBacot@floridatransit.org or call 850-878-0855. For more information, visit www.fdot.gov.

Local & State News



Autism Space Walk & Family Fun Night

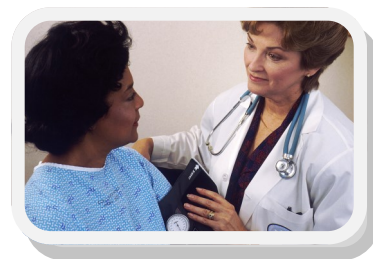
Join families from all over for this 12th annual fundraising event hosted by the Autism Society of Greater Orlando at the Orlando Science Center on Saturday, March 18, 2017, from 6–9 p.m. All proceeds go to support the Central Florida autism community. Register as a walker or event sponsor at <http://asgo.org>.

Medicaid Alert System

Do you know the Florida Medicaid program has an automated an email alert system that notifies registered subscribers or interested parties of "late-breaking" healthcare information? To sign up, visit <http://ahca.myflorida.com>, then type Florida Medicaid Health Care Alerts in the top right search field and click on "Search."

Greater Flexibility and Access to Quality Primary Care

— For the 2017 legislative session, Florida Sen. Tom Lee filed a bill (SB 240), designed to improve access to direct primary care. The proposed bill would allow patients to pay a flat monthly fee as opposed to the traditional third party, fee-for-service system. According to Sen. Lee, "This type of free-market approach grants patients greater flexibility and expands access to concierge-level healthcare that was once available only to the wealthy." Read article at www.flsenate.gov.



OASDI and SSI Program Rates and Limits 2017

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income recipients can download the 2017 Program Rates and Limits fact sheet by visiting www.ssa.gov, click on SEARCH, then type SSI Program Rates and click on the magnifier icon.

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Web: www.ocfl.net

Email OfficeOnDisability@ocfl.net to subscribe



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Legislative Report

The Florida House and Senate will convene on March 7, 2017 for the 2017 regular legislative session. Below are proposed bills that could impact the disability community (click on bill title for details):

- [HB 7: Availability of Health Care Services for All Florida Patients](#)
- [HB 151: Proceedings Involving Minors or Persons With Intellectual Disabilities](#) (Related bill [SB 416](#))
- [HB 233: Students with Disabilities in Public Schools](#)
- [HB 371: Assistive Technology Devices](#)
- [SB 154: Autism Awareness Training for Law Enforcement Officers](#) (Related bill [HB 39](#))
- [SB 268: Housing Discrimination](#)
- [SB 326: Alternative Treatment Options for Veterans](#) (Related bill [HB55](#))
- [SB 432: Vulnerable Road Users](#)

To follow these bills and more, visit www.myfloridahouse.gov and www.flsenate.gov.

Local & State News (cont.)

Brain Injury Awareness Day Walk

More than 5.3 million people in the United States live with a disability caused by a traumatic brain injury.

To raise awareness and dollars for brain injury prevention, education

and treatment support, the Brain Injury Association of Florida will host Walk About Brain Injury 2017 in Tallahassee, FL. on March 18, 2017, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Details or register at <http://biaf.org>.

Walk About Brain Injury 2017



Big Changes For Medicaid Long-Term Care Program

Earlier this year, the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) settled with four Plaintiffs who challenged AHCA's management of their Medicaid Long-Term Care (LTC) Program. This means that health plans with LTC will be required to offer more home and community-based options to avoid institutionalization. Find out more at www.disabilityrightsflorida.org.

2015-17 Disability Resource Directory

The Office on Disability offers a free Disability Resource Directory to residents who need local and national disability resource information. To download a copy, visit www.ocfl.net, type the directory name in the "Search our site" field, press the "Enter" key and click on the PDF listing—"Disability Resource Directory."

Orange County Disability Advisory Board (DAB) Meeting

Join the Orange County DAB public meeting as a community advisor or citizen to share and learn about current topics and events in the Central Florida disability community. The next meeting is on Monday, February 13, 2017, at 2010 E. Michigan St., Facilities Training Center, Orlando, from 2–4 p.m. Details at www.ocfl.net, then click on the *Boards and Special Districts* under the *Stay Connected* section.

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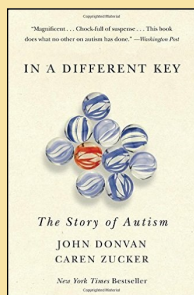


By the Numbers...



The Veterans Administration just released its 2016 *Compensation and Pension by County* data, which collected county-level estimates of Veterans who received VA Disability Compensation or Pension benefits during the fiscal year. To read report, visit www.va.gov/vetdata/report.asp and locate under “What’s New.”

A Good Read...



This recently published best selling book — *In a Different Key: The Story of Autism* by John Donovan

and Caren Zucker—offers a narrative history of autism by parents with personal experience. Check out its availability through the Orange County Library System at www.ocls.info.

National News

Health & Medical

Nearly 12 million people with Medicare have saved over \$26 billion on prescription drugs since 2010 — Millions of seniors and people with disabilities with Medicare continue to save on prescription drugs and see improved benefits in 2016 as a result of the Affordable Care Act. Read article at www.cms.gov.

Study Shows Exercise May Cut Behavior Issues In Half

A recent Harvard study found that behaviors among students with autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, anxiety and mood disorders dropped by more than 70 percent after an active exercise program. To find out more, visit www.disabilitycoop.com.

Technology

New Tech Giving People Power to Deal With Disability

Around the world, several prototype technologies are in the works that could help disabled people contribute more in the workplace and improve their quality of life. Learn about these new and innovative devices at www.bbc.com/news/business-35427933.

Employment

For People With Developmental Disabilities, Food Work Means

More Self Reliance — Children born with a developmental disability often find gaining their independence as a huge challenge, but some find their path to self-reliance by working in the food industry. To read or listen to their stories, visit www.npr.org, click on the magnifier icon, type the article title and press “Enter” on your keyboard.

A Cafe Helps Transition-Age Students And Serves Good Lattes

Learn about a new program in California that is helping 18- to 22-year-olds with special needs to gain employability skills. Read the article at www.fresnobee.com.

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