



Spring 2015

District of Columbia  
Developmental Disabilities Council

# Herald

*Self Determination "Nothing About Us – Without Us"*

District of Columbia Department on Disability Services

District of Columbia Developmental Disabilities Council

Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development  
University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (DC's UCEDD)

**Project ACTION!**

Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities

University Legal Services (DC's Protection and Advocacy Program)

***Cordially invites you to join us at the***

*District of Columbia Developmental Disabilities  
Awareness Month Reception*



*Thursday, March 26, 2015  
4:00p.m. - 6:00p.m.*

*John A. Wilson Building, Mayor's Press Briefing Room  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004*

**Invited Guests:**

**Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton**

**Mayor Muriel Browser**

**Councilmember Yvette Alexander**

**RSVP** to Courtney Clark  
at 202-459-4013 or [cclark@dcqualitytrust.org](mailto:cclark@dcqualitytrust.org)

**REQUESTS FOR ANY ACCOMMODATIONS OR INTERPRETATION SERVICES NEEDED TO  
ENSURE YOUR FULL PARTICIPATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 24, 2015.**

**MARCH 2015**  
**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH (DDAM)**

Share your  
photos,  
videos &  
stories!

# Side-by-Side

*Celebrating togetherness during  
Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month*

#sidebyside



## **#SideBySide: Celebrating Togetherness during DDAM**

Help raise awareness by sharing ways people with and without developmental disabilities make contributions to their communities side-by-side!

### **What is a developmental disability?**

A *developmental disability* (DD) is a severe, chronic disability that begins before the person reaches age 22 and is likely to continue throughout one's life. Examples of DD include intellectual disabilities, autism, and cerebral palsy. SEC. 102 DEFINITIONS [42 USC 15002](8)

**An estimated 4.7 million Americans have and  
Intellectual or developmental disability.**

(LARSON, 2001)

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The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) invites you to celebrate togetherness during DDAM by sharing photos, stories and videos of people with and without developmental disabilities participating together in community life.

### **How can I participate?**

To participate in the campaign, post your photos, with a brief description, stories or videos directly to [NACDD's Facebook page](#) and/or [Twitter account](#) and tag it #SideBySide! \*

For questions about the campaign or if you do not have access to Facebook or Twitter, contact [Angela Castillo-Epps](#) or call 202-506-5813.

\*When you publish content or information using the Public setting, it means that you are allowing everyone, including people off of Facebook, to access and use that information, and to associate it with you (i.e. your name and profile picture). In addition, NACDD reserves the right to potentially use select entries for future advocacy efforts, campaigns, and publications and social media.

## PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES: REGISTER FOR SMART911



Smart911 is a free online safety profile that can provide first responders with vital information on persons that have called 911 for assistance. Have you registered for the enhanced 911 system to prepare for an emergency? Now is the time. Please consider signing up today at [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com). If you need assistance, please contact the DC Developmental Disabilities Office at 202-724-8612 or [denice.mccain@dc.gov](mailto:denice.mccain@dc.gov).

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## U.S. CURRENCY READER PROGRAM TO HELP PEOPLE WITH VISION DISABILITIES

The Department of the Treasury's Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) is now accepting applications from people who have vision disabilities and wish to receive a currency reader to denominate U.S. currency. U.S. citizens or individuals legally residing in the U.S. and its territories who have vision disabilities can obtain a currency reader device at no cost. The currency reader, known as the iBill@ Talking Banknote Identifier, is compact in size, easy to use, and provides a response within just a few seconds. A user simply inserts a Federal Reserve note into the device, presses a button on the side, and the reader identifies the denomination. The device operates on a standard AAA battery and can read U.S. currency in circulation today. The reader can be set to indicate the note's denomination by voice, a pattern of tones or series of vibrations.

Reprint from Mid-Atlantic ADA Center E-Bulletin dated February 24, 2015

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## ACHIEVING A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE (ABLE) ACT



Vice President Joe Biden

Last week, Vice President Joe Biden hosted an event at the White House with Members of Congress to highlight the benefits and achievements of the ABLE Act. TASH's Barb Trader was in attendance to celebrate its' signing into law.

The ABLE Act, signed into law on December 19, 2014, creates a new savings account for families with people with disabilities. These tax-preferred accounts allow families to save for future disability-related expenses without losing Medicaid and Social Security benefits.

Many families are now wondering when they can create their ABLE accounts. The answer?; not so fast. The Secretary of the Treasury must issue regulations or other guidance sometime between now and mid-June. Once the regulations have been approved, each state will then decide whether to offer an ABLE account, and if so, whether it will be state-run or managed by another entity, such as a financial services firm. A state could also opt to contract with another state and allow its residents to use an ABLE program from another state.

Reprint from TASH Info dated February 17, 2015

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL**

**Council Chairperson**

Tina Campanella

**Self-Advocates & Family Members**

Joyce Forrest  
Dr. Shearon Smith  
Gabriel Savage  
Ricardo Thornton  
Kathleen Gosselin  
Victor Robinson  
L. Thomas Mangrum  
Tiffany Smallwood  
Alisa Jackson-Gray  
Amber Keohane

**Protection and Advocacy**

Jane Brown  
University Legal Services

**University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities**

Tawara Goode  
Georgetown University

**State Agency Representative**

Laura Nuss  
Department on Disability Services/Developmental Disabilities Administration

**Council Staff**

Mat McCollough, *Executive Director*  
Sudie Johnson, *Program Analyst*  
Denice McCain, *Staff Assistant*

**Contact Information:**

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) of the District of Columbia seeks to strengthen the voice of people with developmental disabilities and their families in DC in support of greater independence, inclusion, empowerment and the pursuit of life as they choose. We strive to create change that eliminates discrimination and removes barriers to full inclusion through our advocacy.