

# PA Independent Living Project Update



October 2003



## **PENNSYLVANIA IL REGIONAL MEETINGS**

Once again we are in the throws of the 4 IL Regional Meetings. This years trainings will take place October 3 in Hazelton at the Best Western Genetti, October 8 in King of Prussia at the Radisson Valley Forge, October 15 in State College at the Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center and finally October 22 in Mars at the Four Points Sheraton in Pittsburgh. Registration for the events is closed, but if you would like to attend a regional next year and did not get information on the event, please contact Sally Logan at 717-795-9048 ext 231 to be added to our mailing list.



## **INDEPENDENT LIVING BULLETIN UPDATE...**

Yes, once again it's time to start writing the IL Bulletin for the 2004-2005 fiscal year. William Wilson at the Department of Public Welfare is busy modifying the document to make completion easier and less time consuming. He also is working diligently to ensure that everyone has ample time to complete their applications.

## **GUIDEBOOK FOR YOUTH MENTORING RELEASED**

Foundations of Successful Youth Mentoring: A Guidebook for Program Development has been released. Mentoring has become a popular strategy for helping youth stay on track, but setting up and sustaining a successful program takes some thought and know-how, according to this new guidebook from the national mentoring center. The manual includes checklists to gauge the strength of your efforts, and a timeline for setting up new programs. To download a free copy or for ordering information, go to [www.nwrel.org/mentoring/foundations.html](http://www.nwrel.org/mentoring/foundations.html).

## **PENNSYLVANIA YOUTH ADVISORY BOARDS**

Over the past several months the Youth Advisory Board in Pennsylvania has presented in over 5 events statewide. The board presented at this year's IL statewide meeting in May and has also presented for the staff of the Department of Public Welfare OCYF Division of Program Development. The group also has a new and exciting website at [www.independentlivingpa.com](http://www.independentlivingpa.com). If you would like more information about supporting a Youth Advisory Board in your area, or have a youth that is interested in participating on a regional or statewide level, please contact Bill Motsavage or Tracey Eisenreich of Valley Youth House at (610) 317-0721.

## **GEDONLINE PREPARES PEOPLE FOR THE GED TEST**

GED online is now in their fourth year working with individuals and organizations. GEDonline offers online grading of the Official GED practice tests, interactive practice lessons, student activity and test score reporting, essay grading, online help, and much more. We also have a CD version for people without Internet access. Please go to [www.gedonline.org](http://www.gedonline.org) for more details.

**PRACTICE STANDARDS**

Due to the recent findings of the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR) and the subsequent Program Improvement Plan (PIP) the Department of Public Welfare has begun to plan for the development of the independent living practices standard. These standards will guide public and private agencies in developing appropriate services for youth transition from foster care. To accomplish this goal, the Department plans to organize an IL Practice Standards Workgroup. The Workgroup will be comprised of individuals for a cross section of public and private agencies, will act in an advisory capacity to the Office of Children Youth and Families, and will provide support and guidance to both the Department and local communities in the development of written practice standards. Though opportunities to participate in this Workgroup may be limited to space, funding, etc. if you are interested in participating, please contact William Wilson at 717-214-3810.

**EDUCATION TRAINING VOUCHERS**

See enclosed page for an overview of the Educational Training Vouchers (ETVs) and how Pennsylvania will be managing the distribution ETVs.

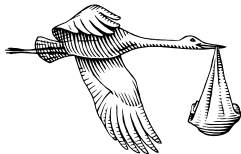
**IDEA-MOU STATE INTERAGENCY TRANSITION TEAM**

See enclosed page for an overview of the State Interagency Transition team, how you can become a member and how youth your program may benefit from this program.

**GOOD LUCK & BEST WISHES TO A MEMBER OF OUR TEAM**

In early November, William Wilson the State IL Grant Coordinator will be leaving his position at the Department of Public Welfare. While William will remain at DPW, he will now be working with the Youth Development Centers across the state. A replacement for Will has not yet been announced. Contact David Derbes at (717) 705-2911 should you need assistance.

**CONGRATULATIONS**



Melissa Zoner-McLaughlin and her hubby Scott welcomed a baby girl into the world on September 27, 2003. Aidanne Lee weighed 8lbs 7oz and was 21inches long. All are very blessed and doing well.

**Reminder** \*SAT Waivers & College Application Fee Waivers are available for your youth enrolled in IL with a completed and entered form #1. Please contact Sally Logan for additional information.

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