



August 15, 2014

This week's edition includes important information I want to share with you:

- **An Ounce of Prevention:** For this week's issue, we are shifting focus to a responsibility that DIDD employees share with the provider community. Policy 70.2.1, "Reporting Fraud, Waste, and Abuse of Government Funds and Property," specifies in Section VI.A.(4) that DIDD shall... "Routinely include information on how to report fraud, waste or abuse of government funds and property in DIDD newsletters."

Policy 70.2.1 specifies the protections employees have as "whistleblowers" and the duties employers have to respond to allegations of fraud, waste and abuse. A copy of the policy can be found [here](#) under the Quality Management section.

This policy also references signs which shall be prominently displayed, "which inform staff, volunteers, and contractors how to report wasteful, inefficient, or fraudulent activity involving government funds and property."

An updated poster for placement in DIDD offices and facilities is available [here](#).

- **Employment First Community of Practice Webinar:** On September 16 from 1:00-2:30 CST, Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) Subject Matter Expert Abby Cooper will conduct a presentation on Customized Job Development. She will provide an overview about Customized Job Development and the components involved. Additionally, Abby will elaborate about the assumptions made about people with disabilities, employers and work environments. To RSVP for the event, please contact Betty Chester at Betty.Chester@tn.gov. Please dial 615-741-1193 or toll free at 1-877-214-0097 to hear the webinar. To join the meeting via Adobe Connect, participants should enter this link in their web browser: <http://stateoftennessee.adobeconnect.com/empdaysvcs/>. Select the option to enter as guest, type in your first and last name and click on the option to enter the meeting room. If you have never connected to an Adobe Connect meeting before on your computer, please test your connection prior to the meeting [here](#). You may be prompted to install an Adobe Connect Add-In, which may take a few minutes to download and install. You may also need to temporarily disable your pop-up blocker. Please contact DIDDHelpdesk@tn.gov if you need any assistance.
- **Winchester Wriggle:** A reminder the town of Winchester will hold its first annual evening of art and music with local musicians, bands and artists on September 26 from 6:00 p.m-9:00 p.m. New Life (formerly Franklin County Adult Activity Center) will host *Art. In the Works*, a show and silent auction featuring artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities from across the state. The event will be held at San Miguel Coffee Co. in the Special Occasions room. For more information, please contact Sherry Ashley at sherry.ashley@newlifetn.com.

- **Save Your Seat:** Registration is now open for the West TN Multicultural Special Education & Post-Secondary Transition Institute sponsored by Support and Training for Exceptional Parents (STEP). The event will be held September 6 from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Bartlett United Methodist Church (5676 Stage Road, Bartlett). This event is the place for students, parents, teachers and service providers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to find answers to their questions, make connections and receive tools that will help ensure children who need it, will have access to special education and leave high school prepared to live, work and participate fully in their community. Highlights will include:
 - Strengthening Individual Education Plans
 - Communication & Behavior Needs
 - Self-Advocacy
 - Employment
 - Information Fair

Additionally, a keynote address will be provided by Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell. Assistant Commissioner Joey Hassell of the TN Department of Education (TDOE), will also speak at the event.

Childcare is available to those who pre-register their children by August 29. For complete details and to register, click [here](#).

- **Greene Valley Accolades:** Greene Valley recently received a thank you letter from Kathy Myers, director of the Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) of East Tennessee in regards to several employees' actions prior to and during an incident that occurred recently at an in-service training session held at the facility's campsite.

Mrs. Myers was very impressed with the hospitality extended to the FGP. Before the training began, former campsite manager Russell Overholt and grounds nurse Teresa Foshie, arrived to make sure everything was in order and provided their phone numbers. Their actions proved to be very forward thinking as a grandparent volunteer experienced a medical emergency after the training.

After being summoned to the volunteer, Mrs. Myers notified 911 and the rest fell into place. Russell was called and immediately came to the campsite; Teresa was also called, but could not answer her phone. Switchboard operator Kim Westmoreland calmly paged Teresa who proceeded immediately to the campsite. Although she could not provide professional help, Teresa's medical knowledge and calm presence was comforting during the wait for EMS. Greene Valley Security Officer Keith Gass received a page by the operator and had already taken action by being in position to direct EMS to the campsite. The foster grandparent was transported to the hospital and thankfully is recovering and hopes to return next week.

Mrs. Myers expressed, "I am extremely grateful to all those GVDC staff present; their professionalism and helpfulness extended to the FGP is to be commended! I have stated before how appreciative I am to GVDC; this is clearly another example of how our programs work together to create a safe environment for staff, clients and volunteers. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!"

The Foster Grandparent Program has been based at Greene Valley since its inception in 1970 and over the decades, program participants have showered untold amounts of love and attention

to children in their early years and now to several adults who live at Greene Valley. They are a vital part of the Greene Valley family and we appreciate each one of them!

- **2014 East Tennessee Access-Life Expo:** A free event for persons with disabilities and their families will be held on August 24 from 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at The Point Marina and Resort (122 Boat Dock Drive, Dandridge, 37725). A variety of events will be offered from boat rides, archery, arts, crafts, kayaking, fishing and more. If interested, please register [here](#) to participate or volunteer. For those volunteering, check-in will begin at 1:30 p.m. For more information, contact Doug and Leanne Goddard at doug@access-life.org or 214-893-9056.
- **IDD Toolkit Appears on National Disability Blog:** Janet Shouse, a disability employment specialist for Tennessee Works and parent of a child with autism, wrote a blog post for the nationaldisability.gov blog about the IDD Toolkit, which DIDD partnered with Tennessee's University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs) to create.

The Toolkit is important because clinicians often have little or no training or experience in providing health care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). People with IDD experience increased physical health and mental and behavioral health challenges compared to the general population; additionally, health issues may go unrecognized and untreated. Therefore, having specific recommendations, based on the best available evidence, can improve providers' care, while at the same time empowering people with IDD, their families and caregivers with knowledge.

Thanks to Janet for writing a blog that will draw a national audience to the toolkit. We encourage everyone to check out the IDD toolkit by clicking [here](#).

Be safe and have a great weekend!

~Debbie