

ASERT is funded by the Bureau of Autism Services, PA Department of Human Services

Announcements

Community Living Waiver Approved



The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) is pleased to announce that the new Community Living Waiver has been approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The Community Living Waiver became effective January 1, 2018.

The Community Living Waiver was developed in accordance with the enacted budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018, which provided funding for the development and implementation of a new intermediate waiver that will provide services to approximately 1,000 individuals with an intellectual disability or autism, as well as children under age 9 with a developmental disability.

The Community Living Waiver will support individuals to live in their homes and communities through the provision of a variety of services that promote community involvement, employment, communication, self-direction, choice and control.

The enrollment process for the Community Living Waiver is the same as the enrollment process for the Consolidated and Person/Family Directed Support Waivers. The Administrative Entities (AE) have been notified of their Community Living Waiver capacity allocation and are responsible for determining who will be enrolled in the Community Living Waiver. Questions about this communication should be directed to the appropriate Developmental Programs Regional Office.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Announcements
- Sexual Abuse Resources
- Events & Trainings
- Resource Spotlight
- Your Money, Your Goals

Sexual abuse against people with disabilities is widespread — and hard to uncover

Article adapted from PBS News Hour, interview by Judy Woodruff [click here](#) to read the full transcript.



People with developmental disabilities become victims of sexual assault at a rate seven times higher than those without disabilities, according to a Justice Department figure uncovered by a year-long NPR investigation. Judy Woodruff sits down with NPR's Joseph Shapiro and Nancy Thaler from the Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs to discuss why the problem has received little attention.

Nancy Thaler: "I think a lot can be done. And I think, you know, going back to childhood, I think teaching children that they have mastery over their bodies, asking permission to touch people when we're providing care to them, will give them a sense that they have control.

I think that teaching people about sexuality, we have this myth that people are not sexual, when that's not true. They have the same feelings as everybody else. So, being open about that, so they understand how to have a relationship and what good touch is and what bad touch is.

I think that, as a system, we need to be vigilant, our surveillance in detecting and acting quickly, making sure that people report it. And I think, above all, helping self-advocates find their voice and have a voice and feeling empowered through training and support groups, so we have to attack this problem from a lot of different angles."

ASERT has developed a collection of resources that provides information of organizations that help those who have experienced sexual violence. To view this resource [click here](#).

Interested in PA's Adult Autism Programs? The first step is to request an application online at www.dhs.pa.gov/irt or by calling toll-free, 1-866-539-7689.

Events & Trainings

2/9/18- Housing Options for Individuals with Disabilities, Webinar

2/9/18- Self-Determination Housing Project of Pennsylvania's Lunch and Learn Series" Exploring Independent Living, Webinar

2/10/18- ASD and College Bound, Pittsburgh

2/12/18- Families CCAN Resource Meeting: Siblings are for Life, Maintaining Strong Sibling Relationships, Philadelphia

2/15/18- 2017-2018 LADDER Family Center Workshops, Philadelphia

2/15/18- Bureau of Autism Services Virtual Targeted Training: Social Stories, Webinar

2/18/18- Autism Connection of PA 14th Annual Camp Fair, Pittsburgh

2/20/18- Person Centered Thinking Training, Schnecksville

2/22/18- Bureau of Autism Services Virtual Targeted Training: Reconceptualizing Autism, Webinar

2/27/18- Bureau of Autism Services Virtual Targeted Training: What to Do When the Going Gets Tough, Tools for the Behavioral Specialist, Webinar

3/6/18- Futures Planning Overview Presented by: ACHIEVA Family Trust, Pittsburgh

3/7/18- Person Centered Thinking Training, McVeytown

3/7/18- 2018 Transition Fair for Dauphin, Cumberland, and Perry Counties, Harrisburg

For a full list of events and trainings, check out our events and training page on PAutism.org/events.

Don't forget about our [eLearning resources](#), complete a training at your own convenience.

Your Money, Your Goals

Your Money, Your Goals is a set of financial empowerment materials created by The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) for organizations that help people meet their financial goals by increasing their knowledge, skills, and resources.



Focus on People with Disabilities Companion Guide

This guide contains tips, information, tools, and skill-building resources for people with disabilities and from organizations that serve the disability community. It's based on the idea that everyone has a right to control their own money and make their own financial decisions. This fully dynamic and accessible companion guide includes 11 new tools designed to help individuals learn how to:

- Set up an Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Account and build savings
- Pay for assistive technology to achieve independence
- Understand how income from work impacts Social Security Income (SSI)
- Identify financial abuse and exploitation and how to get assistance

"Focus on People with Disabilities" was developed with the support of people with disabilities and organizations that serve the disability community. The toolkit is available [here](#) and the companion guide for people with disabilities can be found [here](#).

Resource Spotlight

Physical Health Bundle: pautism.org/health



Individuals with autism often have additional physical and medical health conditions that can have a negative impact on the individual. Some of the most common physical and medical health conditions for individuals with autism are seizures, sleep problems, gastrointestinal issues, and obesity-related conditions. This resource bundle provides resources by condition as well as general physical health resources for individuals with autism, their families, and providers.