

Access Bits

Flood Safety



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



At the time of writing this article, the cities of Fargo and Moorhead have started making sandbags in preparation for a possible spring flood. Flooding is beginning to be a more common thing in our area and some of us may get complacent when it comes to flood safety. We would like to point out some flood facts.



Flood facts:

- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle can be quickly swept away.
- Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling. A foot of water will float many vehicles. And two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles (SUV's) and pickups.

Access has an emergency procedure in place for relocation of clients, if needed, during an emergency. It is explained in our Program Policies booklet which is located at each of our sites. Page 11 of this booklet has 'Emergency Procedure for Relocation of Clients'. When our clients would need to be relocated due to an emergency or other event, such as a flood, Access has plans in place for relocating these clients to other locations. The safety of our clients and staff is of utmost importance.

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Governor's Budget for 2012-13

On Tuesday, February 15th, 2011, Governor Dayton released his budget for the Fiscal Year 2012-13. Initial analysis shows that there are significant cuts and surcharges to services for people with disabilities, including:

- A 4.5% rate cut for providers of home and community-based services.
- Caps on waived services. For the next two years, there would be only 72 new developmental disability waiver slots per year, only 72 new traumatic brain injury (TBI) waiver slots per year, and 720 new Community Alternatives for Disabled Individuals (CADI) waiver slots.

Steve Larson, Public Policy Director of the Arc of Minnesota states the following regarding Gov. Dayton's Human Services Budget for people with disabilities:

"It is a stunning disappointment as it cuts funding to providers of community-based disability supports by 4.5%, and it continues caps on Minnesota's waiver programs. Parents who have children with disabilities and service providers have already been telling us that these cuts will hurt. They said cuts of this magnitude will mean cuts in staff, and because people with disabilities may be unattended for longer period of time, their health and safety could be at risk.

The caps on new waivers are also a blow to individuals and families. This extends the wait for almost 4,000 Minnesotans who need services to live independently, contribute to their communities, and keep their families together. We knew that this was going to be a difficult legislative session.

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Quote of the Month



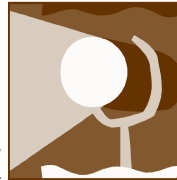
“No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn.”

~Hal Borland



Employee Spotlight

Access would like to recognize our employees who have reached annual milestones.



We are very proud of all our staff and especially congratulate those listed below!

Those celebrating **one year** service this month are: Direct Care Staff— Amanda Bonnema, Sara George, and Colin Jorgenson.

Two years service: Direct Care Staff— Stephanie Risser.

Six years service: Direct Care Staff— Heather Pederson.

Governor’s Budget (cont.)

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But disability services have already been singled out twice for significant cuts— first by the Minnesota health plans in their recent ‘Minnesota Healthcare Imperative Report’, and now by the Governor. The Governor’s budget is especially worrisome, because it may be seen by the Legislature as a starting point for even deeper cuts.


Fortunately this is not the final word on the budget. We’ll need to ramp up our work with the Legislature to prevent these cuts from getting worse and, hopefully, soften their blow. Sharing your stories, responding to action alerts, and coming to Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Capitol is more crucial than ever. “

You may view this as well as other articles on Public Policy on the Arc’s website at www.arcmn.org.

Schedule of Classes

- A Medication Administration Class is currently scheduled for 9:00 am on Tuesday, March 8th at the Access office.
- TI (Therapeutic Intervention) classes are currently scheduled for Wednesdays in March from 10 am-noon. All classes are held at the Moorhead Library, unless otherwise noted.
- Red Cross CPR dates for March are posted on our Access bulletin board in the office. Please check the sign-up sheets for availability. Remember to sign up for these classes on the bulletin boards in the HR Department and Access will register you.

March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 TI class 10am-noon at Library	3 Expense reports due	4 PAYDAY	5
6	7	8 Med. Admin class -9am	9 TI class 10am-noon at Library	10	11	12
13	14 Timesheets due at noon	15 Expense reports paid	16 TI class 10am-noon at Library	17 	18 PAYDAY	19
20	21	22	23 TI class 10am-noon at Library	24	25	26
27	28 Timesheets due at noon	29	30 TI class 10am-noon at Library	31		

MCLC News

- ⇒ The **winter hours** at the MCLC are Monday through Thursday from 5:00-8:00 pm.
- ⇒ The MCLC is always **FREE and FUN**, so bring your clients and enjoy the crafts, all the new board games, Wii games and more!!
- ⇒ An MCLC **Arts and Crafts** session will be held on Friday, March 18th from 5:00-6:30 pm. (Note: there is **no class** on Friday, March 4th.)
- ⇒ **Movie nights** are held the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 5:30 pm. Come check it out!! Movie titles to be announced.
- ⇒ The MCLC is for **all** of our clients, no matter what age. It is a way to get out, see friends, do homework, or make a craft.

Community Events

Reel Movies for Real Needs is a specially designed program to serve families with special needs such as autism or other challenges, who seldom attend movies. It creates a welcoming and comfortable environment— lower sound, lights up, where families with children who need accommodations will be able to share the experience of seeing family friendly films in the theater. These are held at the West Acres Cinema and the Century Cinema in Fargo one Saturday a month at 10:30 am. March 5th's movie is 'Rango', and the movie on April 16th is 'Rio'. This is a wonderful service by the theater — it is a great option for an outing with a client.



Frosty Flicks—Kids Winter Film Series is on Saturday mornings at 10 am at the West Acres Cinema and the Century Cinema in Fargo . You can view family friendly family flicks for just \$2.00! March 5th is 'Cats and Dogs'. March 12th is 'Megamind', and March 19th is 'Yogi Bear'.

2011 Moorhead Ice Show will be Friday, March 18th through Sunday, March 20th at the Moorhead Sports Center. Tickets will be available at the door. Admission is \$6.25 for adults and \$4.25 for children.



Flood Safety (cont.)

Page 13 of the Program Policies manual lists the 'Emergency Procedures for Flooding':

- 1) **Flood or flash flood watch:** A flash flood can occur quickly, sometimes with little notice. Monitor radio and TV for additional information. Be prepared to evacuate to higher ground.
- 2) **Flood or flash flood warning:** Prepare to evacuate the building and monitor radio for additional information.

If you have any questions on these sections of the Program Policies, please check with your supervisor or the Services Director, Bill Smith at the office.



Check us out online at www.accessrrv.org

MISSION

The mission of Access of the Red River Valley is to provide care and to support children and adults in their right to lead dignified, independent lives in the community.

For 26 years Access of the Red River Valley has provided quality care and compassionate support to assist people with disabilities realize their full potential. Access is known throughout the community for our professional full time and part-time staff members who share in the Access mission and make a lifetime of impact.



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