

**NDCPD TRAINING EVENTS**

**Train the Trainer to Train the Staff in Therapeutic Intervention**

*Presenter: Ron Odden*

**Dates, Sites & Times:**

April 9, 2008: Comfort Inn, Bismarck

9:00 am-4:00 pm

July 10, 2008 (follow-up): Comfort Inn, Bismarck

9:00 am - Noon

**North Dakota Association of Community Facilities Annual Conference (NDACF)**

Dates: April 23-25, 2008

Site: Fargo - Doublewood Inn

For more information contact:

<http://ndcpd.org/events/workshops.shtml>

or

Cheryl Rystedt @ 1-800-233-1737 or

[Cheryl.Rystedt@minotstateu.edu](mailto:Cheryl.Rystedt@minotstateu.edu)

**The COLLABORATOR**

North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities at Minot State University

Executive Director: Bryce Fifield, Ph.D.

The Collaborator format, layout and logo design by Susan Anderson, edited by Cynthia Salazar.

For additional information ...

Voice/TDD: (701) 858-3580

Toll Free: (800) 233-1737

Email: [ndcpd@minotstateu.edu](mailto:ndcpd@minotstateu.edu)

Website: [www.ndcpd.org](http://www.ndcpd.org)



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**North Dakota Congressional Delegation Announces  
The Great Plains Autism Spectrum Disorders Treatment Program**

*By Wendy Thomas, NDCPD Community Services Core Coordinator*



The North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD) announced the arrival of a new autism initiative

during their Autism Symposium held at Minot State University March 17, 2008. Nearly 300 professionals, parents, and students attended the symposium to network, listen to nationally renowned speakers, and discuss key autism issues for the State of North Dakota (ND). Work conducted during the symposium will help guide future activities of the Great Plains Autism Spectrum Disorders Treatment Program (GP-ASD-TP).

- Conduct research on the use of tele-health technologies for supporting children with autism and their families;
- Examine long-term infrastructure systems for supporting children with autism and their families;
- Provide scientifically-based information about autism treatment to schools, medical professionals and families throughout the state.



**The goals of the GP-ASD-TP are to:**

- Establish multi-disciplinary teams to provide consultation and evaluations for youth in ND suspected of having an autism spectrum disorder;
- Work with schools, families, medical professionals and others to provide follow-up consultation for children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders;

**GP-ASD-TP will:**

- Provide great opportunities to reach out to under-served rural ND communities and families.
- Utilize NDCPD's expertise in training, technical assistance and tele-health technologies to work with schools, families, and health professionals.

(Cont. from Page 1 – Wendy Thomas)

- Bring together many state partners in both government and private practice to work toward excellence in services for youth with autism.
- Develop a long-range plan for autism services in ND using the best methods, technologies and personnel available.

For more information about this initiative, contact Wendy Thomas, Community Services Core Coordinator at 1-800-233-1737 or visit [www.ndcpd.org/autism](http://www.ndcpd.org/autism).



“This is an exciting new chapter”, commented Senator Dorgan during his video welcome to the symposium participants.



**National Autism Facts:**

- ◆ 1 in 150 children is diagnosed with autism
- ◆ 1 in 94 boys is on the autism spectrum
- ◆ 67 children are diagnosed a day with autism
- ◆ Early intervention can lead to improvement in many areas of development

<http://www.autismspeaks.org>

**North Dakota (ND) Autism Facts:**

- ◆ 1 in 238 school-age children in ND is diagnosed with autism
- ◆ 5 times as many children in ND are diagnosed with autism than 10 years ago

(Askvig, B. A. [2008]. *Autism in North Dakota*. Unpublished data. Minot, ND: North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities.)

**Disability Course Sponsored by NDCPD Receives University Approval**

During the 2007/2008 academic year, NDCPD offered a new course called “Disability and Society”. This course is designed to address disability issues, challenge myths and prepare students to encounter and respect people with disabilities. This small, discussion-based class introduces disability issues across the lifespan. Learners review information on how disability impacts careers. Course content includes real-world, hands-on assignments, in-class activities and presentations by speakers with disabilities, family members and professionals.

The “Disability and Society” course was recently approved by the MSU faculty senate to meet the university requirement for diversity credits. This approval will hopefully encourage students to register for the course. Because people with disabilities are encountered in all walks-of-life, this course complements *any* major. As students become more prepared to interact successfully with people with disabilities and families, everyone benefits.

For MSU students seeking more information about this course, please contact JoLynn Webster, Pre-Service Training Coordinator, at 858-3206 or 1-800-233-1737.

The **North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities** is a member of the **Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)**. AUCD is a national network of interdisciplinary centers advancing policy and practice through research, education and services for and with individuals with developmental and other disabilities, their families, and communities.



North Dakota Chapter

**ND APSE Chapter Seeking Partners for Statewide Marketing Initiative**

By Lisa Johnson, NDCPD Strategic Planning Coordinator

The North Dakota (ND) Association for Persons in Supported Employment (APSE) chapter recently purchased national APSE marketing materials promoting the message of inclusion and access to community-based employment. The marketing kit includes brochures, presentation slides, a short video presentation on successful employment of people with disabilities, and two public service announcements. The media kit was purchased through combined funding from Creative Training Accelerated Talent (CTAT), Friendship, Inc., North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD), and the ND APSE chapter.

The slide presentation opens with several slides citing significant statistics regarding people with disabilities, their desire to work, and employment related statistics of people with disabilities. The presentation continues with a number of myths regarding the employment of people with disabilities, followed by correct information and positive employment statistics. In closing, the slide presentation cites numerous quotes and photos of successful employee/employer relationships.

The six-minute DVD entitled “Great Hires” offers moving testimony from three individuals and their respective employers who communicate the mutual benefit to both the employee and the company through supported employment in their community. The DVD is a great platform from which to facilitate an open discussion.

The public service announcements are a wonderful opportunity to raise awareness within a broad region and to reiterate the importance of community participation and community support for employment of people with disabilities.

Most urgently, ND APSE is seeking collaborative partners who wish to promote inclusion and access to community-based employment with an emphasis on reaching both high school and college students within the remaining school year. Presentations in classrooms and/or at student organizations using the newly purchased marketing kit will be used to facilitate an open discussion with students. Secondly, ND APSE will make the marketing materials available to all interested ND providers that are providing community-based employment supports.

Perhaps you or your organization would like to join ND APSE in spreading the message of diversity, inclusion, and ability to future and present business leaders in ND. The marketing kit can be customized to include personal contact information, your organization’s logo, as well as photos and quotes from successful or creative employment partnerships for hiring people with disabilities in your community. Please contact a ND APSE member in your region to schedule a presentation or to assist in facilitating a discussion in your community.

Fargo	Don Brunette	701-235-8217
Bismarck	Tatum Hirschhorn	701-667-8616
Minot	Lisa Johnson	701-858-3494
Wahpeton/Valley City/Jamestown	Scott Burlingame	701-478-0459

## The Talents of Art Venture on Display at NDCPD

By Cynthia M. Salazar, NDCPD Dissemination Core Coordinator  
and Linda Olsrud, Dakota West Arts Council

The North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD), a University Center of Excellence in Disability Research, Services, and Education at Minot State University (MSU), is honored to host a display of artwork created by children with disabilities from the Art Venture program of Bismarck. NDCPD, in partnership with the Dakota West Arts Council (DWAC), is bringing this vibrant collection of artwork to Minot. This rotating display located in Memorial Hall on the MSU campus will treat visitors to a new series of art every other month.

The Art Venture program is in its ninth year of providing unique, quality arts experiences to children who are “at risk”. The core Art Venture program is in the Bismarck Early Childhood Education Program at the Richolt School of Bismarck. The children are ages 3-6 and most of them have disabilities, ranging from mild to profound. Art Venture also provides classes at Head Start, whose children are at risk. After School programs for Art Venture are done in partnership with the Missouri Valley Family YMCA and provide art classes for kids grades K-6. Many of these children are economically disadvantaged and some have disabilities. Overall, the Art Venture program reaches about 500-600 students.

Art Venture classes are taught by teaching artists who have experience in art, in education, and/or in working with kids who have disabilities. Each teaching artist designs and implements unique lesson plans that do not replicate those taught as part of regular school programming. Classes in visual arts, creative movement, performance art, and theatre are offered.

All classes are evaluated regularly to assess improvements in the recipient children in the areas of cognitive thinking, social skills, fine and large motor skills, self-esteem, teamwork, and listening skills. These evaluations are documented proof of the value of Art Venture.

Art Venture is managed by DWAC and furthers their mission to support and encourage artistic opportunities to area residents and visitors. Funding for the Art Venture program is provided through a matching grant with VSA arts international in association with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. VSA was founded in 1974 by Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith to ensure all people have equal access to the arts. VSA stands for:

- V**ision of an inclusive community
- S**trength through shared resources
- A**rtistic Expression that unites us all

With affiliates in all 50 states and 61 foreign countries, DWAC is the only North Dakota affiliate organization. Because of the success of the Art Venture program a separate 501 (c) 3, VSA arts of North Dakota, is being formed with the intent of creating a statewide VSA program with possible programs in Grand Forks, Minot, and Fargo.

For more information about Art Venture contact, Linda Olsrud, Executive Director, DWAC, at 701-222-6640 or [linda@dakotawest.org](mailto:linda@dakotawest.org).

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## We're Ready

ND Disaster Readiness  
By Rich Berg, Project Coordinator

The North Dakota (ND) We're Ready Project (WR) is in its second year of a projected 5-year project cycle. This project is a three-way collaboration between the ND State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD), North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD), and the ND Protection and Advocacy Project (P&A). The primary goals of the project are: 1) to ensure the involvement of persons with disabilities in current disaster planning and 2) to involve persons with disabilities in on-going and future disaster planning processes. The activities in the first year involved mapping current state and county disaster planning occurring across ND. The project also contacted each county planner to inform them of the WR and its linkage to the state team through its partnership with ND P&A.

Now in the second year of WR, project staff are working with first responders, persons with disabilities, and other citizens of ND to augment current disaster preparedness materials. WR identified that state and national materials, while addressing the vast needs of people during a disaster, did not fully address the needs of persons with disabilities. The needs of those who are non-readers were of particular concern.

Materials developed during the second year primarily center around disaster kits

known as “To-Go-Kits”. These kits provide basic information and supplies for sheltering at home, moving out of your home for several days, and situations where you do not have time to pack the larger kit. These kits address not only the needs of individuals but also of service animals and pets. Additional materials have been created to meet the needs of first responders working with people with disabilities during emergencies. As a result, a set of quick tips for responders has been put together in cooperation with the C-MIST project. C-MIST, which stands for communication, medical, maintaining functional independence, supervision, and transportation, is a framework that focuses on a person's functional needs rather than disability label.

These disaster preparedness materials, as well as information for requesting technical assistance to use these materials, can be accessed through the WR website. This summer, project staff will present these materials throughout the state to individuals and groups interested in preparing for disasters, and to those working with citizens with disabilities. Please feel free to contact us at 1-800-233-1737 or visit our website at <http://www.ndcpd.org/ready> for more information.



## New Faces at NDCPD

NDCPD welcomed two new faces to the center in February, Neil Scharpe and Tam Le.



A Minot State University (MSU) graduate with a master degree in Special Education, Neil is working as a Research Associate, developing fee for service sources and occupational skills training for students with significant disabilities at MSU.

Tam is originally from Australia and is married to a Minot native. She loves to travel and has lived, worked, and studied in Malaysia, Canada, France, and Taiwan. She brings her diverse background to the Kaylyn Project, ND Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP), and NDCPD Consumer Advisory Committee as administrative support.

We welcome them to NDCPD and MSU.



### Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

NDCPD wants to hear from you! In order to meet the needs of our consumers, NDCPD gathers satisfaction information from time to time from the individuals who receive and use our products. We want to hear what you think. Please complete the enclosed consumer satisfaction card and rate this newsletter. Then visit our website at [www.ndcpd.org](http://www.ndcpd.org) and take a few minutes to tell us what you think of the site by completing the "Visitor Survey".

We welcome your feedback!

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Assistive Technology Expo

Come learn about Assistive Technology (AT) and how it can help you or someone you know! The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual AT Expo on **April 10, 2008** at the **Ramada Plaza Suites in Fargo, ND** will highlight AT devices and services for people of any age and ability to help them live, learn, work, and play. People interested in attending may need AT for themselves, a friend, a family member, a student, an employee or a client. Whether you have a child with a learning disability, a parent with memory loss, or need help staying in your own home and getting back to work, this AT Expo is for you!

The concurrent Assistive Technology sessions in the morning are **\$20** with lunch included if registered by **April 3, 2008**. The afternoon exhibit hall is **FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

For further information, please contact: Jenifer Swetland or Jeannie Krull at 1-800-895-4728. Email: [jswetland@ndipat.org](mailto:jswetland@ndipat.org) or [jmkrull@ndipat.org](mailto:jmkrull@ndipat.org). Forms can be obtained online at: [www.ndipat.org/newsevents](http://www.ndipat.org/newsevents).

**For additional copies of the Collaborator contact Cynthia Salazar at 1-800-233-1737.**

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## Treat Your Medicare Card Like You Would a Credit Card



Identity thieves seek out Social Security Numbers (SSNs) so they can use these numbers to assume the identity of another person and commit fraud. It's relatively easy for someone to fraudulently use your SSN to assume your identity and gain access to your bank account, credit accounts, utilities records, and other sources of personal information. Identity thieves also can establish *new* credit and bank accounts in your name, or use your SSN for employment purposes or to obtain medical care.

The Social Security Administration has worked to protect us by making states issue driver's licenses with unique numbers, not SSN as were used in the past. However, then Medicare turns around and sends everyone over age 65 a card with their SSN on it and it has to be presented to every doctor and hospital the beneficiary goes to.

"To qualify for Medicare, you must also qualify for Social Security so the two go together," said Peter Ashkenaz, a spokesman for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. "It's your primary U.S. identification number, so that's why we use it."

Although there was a push a few years ago by Congress to limit the use of SSN by government agencies for identification purposes, the move stalled when it was discovered the cost and effort of issuing new Medicare cards without those numbers would be prohibitive.

Treat your Medicare card like you would treat a credit card. You have to carry it in case of an emergency. If you have to go to an emergency

room, you'll need your Medicare card to get full benefits and proper care.

While that is good advice, it's also important to understand that losing your wallet to a thief or by accident isn't quite the same when the contents include your Medicare card and credit cards. With credit cards, you can call the 800 numbers to close those account numbers. With a Medicare card, losing your SSN could expose you to criminals who could open new accounts in your name or draw on your existing bank accounts.

The Privacy Rights Clearinghouse suggests that you photocopy your Medicare card and then cut out or use a black marker to cross out the last four digits of your number. If your wallet is stolen, this will help minimize your risk.

But the Clearinghouse also warned that you probably need to bring your original Medicare card with you the first time you visit a health care provider. Ashkenaz also warned that if you're in an emergency and are unable to share the last four digits of your Medicare card, you might not receive all benefits.

Should you lose your Medicare card, be sure to call 800-MEDICARE or 800-633-4227 in order to put a watch on your billing information and then request a fraud alert through the credit agencies. Be sure to monitor your credit reports for unusual activity and consider requesting a freeze on your credit reports.



Source: *Baltimore Sun*