

# **Healthcare Coverage Options & Adult Providers**

# Finding healthcare coverage as an adult:

## **Texas Health Options**

(This is a great place to start learning of your healthcare coverage options.)

www.texashealthoptions.com

Texas Health Options is a comprehensive website for finding healthcare coverage, including low-cost options, and is a resource provided by the State of Texas.

You first "Select Your Profile" and then it will delineate options for healthcare coverage that best match your profile and health coverage needs.

Depending on the profile you select for yourself, Texas Health Options will suggest certain steps to take in order to get health care coverage, and it will provide more detailed information on the steps.

Some of the steps Texas Health Options may suggest might be, but are not limited to, the following:

- If you're covered on a parent's policy, try to continue this coverage if possible.
- Find-out if your college or university offers a student health plan. (The website lists college/university links to coverage.)
- Seek coverage through your employer (some employers offer coverage to part-time employees).
- If you're seriously disabled, apply for Social Security Disability Income.



## **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**

www.ssa.gov/pubs/11000.html 1-800-772-1213 (TTY: 1-800-325-0778 if you are deaf or hard-of-hearing) www.socialsecurity.gov/locator (Find an office closest to you at this link.)

For disability purposes in the SSI program, a child becomes an adult at age 18, and the Social Security Administration uses different medical and nonmedical rules when deciding if an adult can get SSI disability payments. For example, the Social Security Administration does not count the income and resources of family members when deciding whether an adult meets the financial limits for SSI. They count only the adult's income and resources. They also use the disability rules for adults when deciding whether an adult is disabled.

If your child is already receiving SSI payments, the Social Security Administration must review the child's medical condition when he or she turns age 18. They usually do this review during the one-year period that begins on your child's 18th birthday. They will use the adult disability rules to decide whether your 18-year-old is disabled. If your child was not eligible for SSI before his or her 18th birthday because you and your spouse had too much income or resources, he or she may become eligible for SSI at age 18. If a recipient has SSI, they will also have Medicaid for healthcare coverage.

In order to learn more about SSI, go to www.ssa.gov/pubs/11000.html. It will provide comprehensive information about the program, including benefits, eligibility criteria, and the application process.

In order to prepare your SSI application, you may get "Disability Starter Kits" which provide a fact sheet, application checklist and worksheet.

www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/disabilility\_starter\_kits\_adult\_eng.htm.

## Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)

www.ssa.gov/disability 1-800-772-1213 (TTY: 1-800-325-0778 if you are deaf or hard-of-hearing) www.socialsecurity.gov/locator (find an office close to you)

An adult child also may qualify for benefits on a parent's earnings record if he or she has a disability that started before age 22 *and* one of his or her parents must: be receiving Social Security retirement or disability benefits; or must have died & have worked long enough under Social Security. The recipient will also receive Medicaid coverage.



If you don't qualify for health care coverage through options such as trying to remain on your parent's healthcare insurance plan or obtaining coverage through an employer or college/university or if you don't qualify for SSI/SSDI ( which entitle you to Medicaid), then there are options such as:

## **The County Indigent Health Care Program**

www.dshs.state.tx.us/cihcp/default.shtm (Find your local office at this link.)

The County Indigent Heath Care Program (CIHCP) is a part of the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) and provides health care services to eligible residents through the counties, hospital districts and public hospitals in Texas. Counties are required to provide Basic Health Care Services and may elect to provide a number of TDSHS—established Optional Health Care Services.

<u>Parkland Healthcare System</u> is the County Indigent Health Care Program for *Dallas county residents only.* 

In order to learn more about the Parkland Community Health Plan, go to www.parklandhospital.com/patients visitors/healthplan.html.

#### The Epilepsy Foundation

1-888-548-9716

e-mail: clinic@eftx.org

If you have been diagnosed with epilepsy or a seizure disorder and do not have health insurance (they also accept Medicaid), the Epilepsy Foundation offers specialized medical care and diagnostic testing at their clinics for adults with epilepsy. All of the clinics are funded in-part by a grant from the Texas Department of Health Services. Clinic sites are located in Amarillo, Beaumont, Fort Worth, Grapevine, Houston, Lubbock, & Lufkin. The Epilepsy Foundation Clinic also can help patients with obtaining their seizure medication at low or no cost, if they qualify.

## **Other Community Clinics**

There are other clinics in the community which provide healthcare; however, they most often provide primary care & don't often provide specialty care like neurology. They charge fees based on what you can afford. They may have samples of medications but often can't provide medication assistance, especially for medications to treat a chronic condition.

You may find community clinics in your area by utilizing these resources:

- http://bphc.hrsa.gov/search HCC.aspx The Department of Health and Human Services'
   Bureau of Primary Health Care's Provider Locator helps find a primary care provider in your
- <u>2-1-1 Texas</u> Call 2-1-1 or go to www.211.org)



# **Prescription Assistance:**

If you have no medication coverage as part of your health care coverage, there are some pharmaceutical assistance programs which may be able to provide assistance:

# Partnership for Prescription Assistance

www.pparxtx.org 1-888-477-2669

Partnership for Prescription Assistance unites America's pharmaceutical companies, doctors, patient advocacy organizations, and civic groups to help low-income patients without prescription coverage.

## Rx Hope

www.rxhope.com

Rx Hope provides access to applications for various national pharmaceutical assistance programs.

## Rx Outreach

www.rxoutreach.com 1-800-769-3880

Rx Outreach provides more than 50 generic medications that treat a wide range of conditions to people who financially qualify.

## **Texas Rx Card Program**

www.texasdrugcard.com

Texas Rx Card Program free prescription drug discount card for Texas residents.

## **Rx Assist**

www.rxassist.org

Rx Assist gives providers access to pharmaceutical company patient assistance programs.

## National Organization of Rare Disorders Medication Assistance Programs

www.rarediseases.org

1-800-000-6673

National Organization of Rare Disorders Medication Assistance Programs assists uninsured or underinsured individuals in securing life-saving or life-sustaining medications.



# Finding healthcare providers (i.e. physicians and advanced practice providers):

 If you receive Medicaid, then the Texas Medicaid and Healthcare Partnership has a "provider look-up" by which you may find primary care, neurology and other specialty providers who accept patients with your form of Medicaid and who are located close to you.

## http://opl.tmhp.com/ProviderManager/AdvSearch.aspx

- If you have another form of healthcare insurance coverage, then you may search for providers through your healthcare insurance provider. Healthcare insurance plans have various ways by which to search for a provider, which is usually via an internet search on the healthcare insurance website or by calling a 1-800 number on your insurance card.
- Also, many healthcare systems located close to you provide assistance in finding providers who
  are a part of their system and who accept your form of health insurance. For example, you may
  look-up neurologists who are associated with UT Southwestern by going to,
  http://www.utsouthwestern.edu/patientcare/doctor/findphysician.html



## **Federal and State Assistance**

There are numbers and website addresses listed for each of the listed governmental resources; however, if you need your local office or additional contact information for the listed resources, call **2-1-1 Texas** or go to the website **www.211texas.org**. 2-1-1 Texas is a program of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. It has information for over 60,000 state & local human service programs. Information is available in more than 90 languages, and you may contact them 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

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## Adult Foster Care (AFC)

Contact your local Department of Aging and Disability Service office. In order to locate the office nearest you, go to www.dads.state.tx.us/services/contact.cfm

AFC provides a 24-hour living arrangement with supervision in an adult foster home for persons who, because of physical, mental, or emotional limitations, are unable to continue independent functioning in their own homes.

## **Community Attendant Services (CAS)**

Contact your local Department of Aging and Disability Service office. In order to locate the office nearest you, go to www.dads.state.tx.us/services/contact.cfm

CAS is a non-technical, non-skilled service providing in-home attendant services to individuals with an approved medical need for assistance with personal care tasks. CAS is available to eligible adults and children whose health problems cause them to be functionally limited in performing activities in daily living according to a practitioner's statement of medical need. CAS services are provided by an attendant.

This service is available using the Consumer Directed Services (CDS) option. The CDS option allows participants who live in their own private residences or the home of a family member to choose to self-direct certain services. By choosing to self-direct these services, participants will assume and retain responsibility to recruit their service providers; conduct criminal history checks; determine the competency of their service providers; and hire, train, manage, and fire their service providers.

## **Community Based Alternatives (CBA)**

Contact your local Department of Aging and Disability Service office. In order to locate the office nearest you, go to www.dads.state.tx.us/services/contact.cfm

The CBA program provides home and community-based services to persons who are aging and persons with disabilities age 21 or older as cost-effective alternatives to institutional care in nursing facilities.

Case management is provided and covered services include the following: adaptive aids and medical supplies, adult foster care, assisted living, dental, financial management services, emergency response services, home-delivered meals, minor home modifications, nursing, occupational therapy, personal assistance services, physical therapy, respite, speech/hearing/and language therapy, prescription medications (unless the individual is eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid), support consultation, and transition assistance services (a service provided to Medicaid eligible Texas nursing facility residents to assist in transitions from the nursing facility into the community).



## Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS), TxDADS

1-877-438-5658 – Call this number to have a person placed on the wait-list. Be prepared to provide Social Security and Medicaid numbers, type of disability, age of onset of the disability, date of birth, address and phone number of the person to be placed on the interest list.

CLASS provides home and community-based services such as therapy and personal-attendant care, limited nursing care, job training, daily living skills, adaptive aids, psychological counseling, home medication & respite care for persons with disabilities other than the primary diagnosis of mental retardation. The age of onset of disability must be prior to age 22.

CLASS is funded by Medicaid through a waiver that allows participants to live in the community with a degree of freedom & choice. Qualification is based on approved needs. Applicants for CLASS services must have demonstrated needs for and be able to benefit from habilitation assistance and support services.

\*Please see CLASS Case Management Assistance offered through Easter Seals of North Texas, which is listing under "Assistance in the Community" in this hand-out.

## **Client Managed Personal Attendant Services (CMPAS)**

Contact your local Department of Aging and Disability Service office. In order to locate the office nearest you, go to www.dads.state.tx.us/services/contact.cfm

Under the CMPAS program, the Department of Aging and Disability Services contracts with licensed agencies to provide personal assistance services to individuals with physical disabilities who are mentally and emotionally competent and able to supervise their attendant or who have someone who can supervise an attendant for them. Individuals interview, select, train, supervise, and release their personal assistants. Licensed Personal Assistance Services agencies determine eligibility and the amount of care needed, develop a pool of potential personal assistants, and provide emergency back-up personal assistants.

## **Day Activity and Health Services (DAHS)**

Contact your local Department of Aging and Disability Service office. In order to locate the office nearest you, go to www.dads.state.tx.us/services/contact.cfm

DAHS facilities provide daytime services Monday through Friday to individuals residing in the community in order to provide an alternative to placement in nursing homes or other institutions.

#### **Emergency Response Services (ERS)**

Contact your local Department of Aging and Disability Service office. In order to locate the office nearest you, go to www.dads.state.tx.us/services/contact.cfm

ERS are provided through an electronic monitoring system used by functionally impaired adults who live alone or who are socially isolated in the community.



## Family Care (FC) Services

Contact your local Department of Aging and Disability Service office. In order to locate the office nearest you, go to www.dads.state.tx.us/services/contact.cfm

FC is a non-skilled, non-technical attendant care service available to eligible adults who are functionally limited in performing activities of daily living. Family Care services are provided by an attendant and do not require the supervision of a registered nurse.

## <u>Home-Delivered Meals Services (HDM)</u>

Contact your local Department of Aging and Disability Service office. In order to locate the office nearest you, go to www.dads.state.tx.us/services/contact.cfm

## In Home and Family Support (IH & FS)

Contact your local Department of Aging and Disability Services office. In order to locate the office nearest you, go to www.dads.state.tx.us/services/contact.cfm

IH&FS provides the funding for yearly grants to individuals and/or their families. The individual/family may receive assistance to access services related to their disability that maintains or improves their ability to live at home/community. The grant monies can be used for specialized equipment, home modifications, medical services, personnel attendants, training, and respite. There are income limits (higher than Medicaid) and co-pays may apply. There are waiting list.

## **PHC (Primary Home Care)**

Contact your local Department of Aging and Disability Services office. In order to locate the office nearest you, go to www.dads.state.tx.us/services/contact.cfm

PHC is a non-technical, non-skilled service providing in-home attendant services to individuals with an approved medical need for assistance with personal care tasks. PHC is available to eligible adults whose health problems cause them to be functionally limited in performing activities of daily living, according to a practitioner's statement of medical need. PHC services are provided by an attendant.

# **Residential Care (RC)**

Contact your local Department of Aging and Disability Service office. In order to locate the office nearest you, go to www.dads.state.tx.us/services/contact.cfm

The Residential Care program provides services to eligible adults who require access to care on a 24-hour basis but do not require daily nursing intervention. Services include but are not limited to the following: personal care, home management, escort, 24-hour supervision, social and recreational activities, and transportation. Services provided under the RC program are delivered through one of two arrangements: residential care and emergency care. Residential care is a 24-hour living arrangement in which the individual pays room and board & keeps a monthly allowance for personal and medical expenses. The remained of the income is contributed to the total cost of the care. Emergency care is a living arrangement that provides services to eligible individuals while case managers seek a permanent care arrangement. Emergency care individuals do not contribute toward the cost of their care.



## **Special Services to Persons with Disabilities (SSPD)**

Contact your local Department of Aging and Disability Service office. In order to locate the office nearest you, go to www.dads.state.tx.us/services/contact.cfm.

Special Services to Persons with Disabilities (SSPD) includes services provided to community individuals in a variety of settings. These services are designed to assist individuals in developing the skills needed to remain in the community as independently as possible.

Special Services to Persons with Disabilities (SSPD) 24-hour Shared Attendant Care (SAC) makes attendant care available to individuals on a 24-hour basis. Individuals live independently in clustered living arrangements and use this service to achieve habilitative or re-habilitative goals.

# <u>Home and Community-Based Services (HCS), Mental Retardation Services Department (MRSD)</u>

In order to seek enrollment, contact your local Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority (MHMR) or Local Authority (LA) regarding individual referrals and interest list registration. In order to find a listing of your local MHMR/LA, go to www.dads.state.tx.us/contact.mra.cfm.

The HCS program is a Medicaid waiver program that provides services to individuals with mental retardation who either live with their families, in their own home, in a foster/companion care setting, or in a residence with not more than four individuals who receive services. HSC services include residential assistance, day habilitation, respite, nursing, attendant care, adaptive aids, counseling, therapy, minor home modification, and supported employment.

Home and Community-based Services

## **Texas Home Living Waiver (TxHmL)**

In order to seek enrollment, contact your local Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority (MHMR) or Local Authority (LA) regarding individual referrals and interest list. In order to find a listing of your local MHMR/LA, go to www.dads.state.tx.us/contact.mra.cfm. Tell the person who answers that you wish to schedule an intake for services.

The TxHmL program is one type of Medicaid waiver that waives a Medicaid requirement so that a list of services such as respite can be delivered by someone other than a licensed practitioner and paid by Medicaid. Therefore, the family's income must meet eligibility for Medicaid to qualify. The TxHmL program provides essential services and support so that Texans with mental retardation can continue to live with their families or in their homes in the community. TxHmL services are intended to supplement.



# <u>Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with an Intellectual Disability or Related Conditions</u> (ICF/ID/RC Program)

In order to seek enrollment, contact your local Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority (MHMR) or Local Authority (LA) regarding individual referrals and interest list. In order to find a listing of your local MHMR/LA, go to www.dads.state.tx.us/contact.mra.cfm

The Intermediate Care Facility for Persons with Intellectual Disability or a Related Condition (ICF/ED/RC) Program provides residential and habilitation services to people with a diagnosis of intellectual disability and/or related condition.

#### **State Supported Living Centers**

In order to seek enrollment, contact your local Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority (MHMR) or Local Authority (LA) regarding individual referrals and interest list. In order to find a listing of your local MHMR/LA, go to www.dads.state.tx.us/contact.mra.cfm. Tell the person who answers that you wish to schedule an intake for services.

There are 13 state supported living centers that provide 24-hour/day residential treatment and training services for people with a diagnosis of an intellectual disability. Each facility is certified as an Intermediate Care Facility for Persons with an Intellectual Disability (ICF/ED), a Medicaid-funded federal/state service program.



# **Assistance in the Community**

# **Services:**

## **The ARC of Texas**

1-800-252-9729 www.thearcoftexas.org

The mission is to expand opportunities for people with mental retardation & other developmental difficulties. Arcs are found throughout the country & are affiliated with the parent organization, The Arc of The United States, and state subsidiaries (The Arc of Texas). All Arcs hold to a common set of core values & positions related to quality of life, inclusion, & rights. The Arc of Dallas offers both advocacy & direct services.

## **The ARC of Dallas**

www.arcdallas.org 214-634-9810

The Arc of Dallas offers both advocacy and direct services. The Arc of Dallas service area includes Collin, Dallas and Rockwall counties. The ARC provides client services, family services, community resources, professional services, and advocacy.

## **Arcdays: Redefining Day Hab**

Adults and teens, ages 16 and older with intellectual and developmental disabilities can meet new friends improve self-esteem and enhance life skills at The Arc's daily programs in Collin and Dallas counties. Arcdays currently operate in locations in Allen, DeSoto and Garland.

Classes are open daily from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm and include activities for a variety of ability levels and a wide range of interests, talents and skills. Participants can choose from one day to all five days a week. State-approved rates appply for HCS, TxHmL and respite care clients, or private pay is an option at just \$30 per day. To enroll or for more information, contact Melody Berryhill at The Arc (214) 634-9810, Ext 106. or via email at m mberryhill@arcdallas.org

#### **Leadership Institute**

Leadership Institute is designed for older teens and young adults with intellectual and related developmental disabilities to increase the participant's ability to form opinions, participate in government, volunteer in the community and speak publicly.

Leadership Institute is usually an eleven-week program of 90-minute classes (one evening per week). However, special arrangements are available to teach the curriculum on a different timetable. Participants are instructed about their role as contributing citizens of the community and receive a certificate upon graduation. Class size is limited and participants must apply. Thanks to the underwriting of the Hatton Sumners Foundation, there is no participation fee for Leadership Institute. For more information or for an application, contact leadership@arcdallas.org



#### **Weekend Outings**

Supervised fieldtrips in The Arc's three-county service area are offered through The Arc L.I.F.E. program for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Arc L.I.F.E. (Learning Is Fun and Educational) classes and activities, including evening dances, are held in many locations throughout Collin, Dallas and Rockwall counties in conjunction with community partners. For our current schedule see the calendar section of our website, or sign up to receive The Arc's quarterly newsletter and schedule. Fees range from \$5 for dances to \$50 for field trips to area attractions. Sometimes an additional supply or transportation fee applies.

## **Twelve Steps to Success**

Twelve Steps to Success is a comprehensive education series that helps families map out their individualized road to success. Twelve Steps to Success provides information and insights on twelve essential topics that empower families. Topics range from early childhood interests, to school-aged issues, to life as an adult. Professionals provide relevant up-to-date information.

Also, the North, South and East "Live the Dream" EXPOs provide regional venues that connect families to community service providers. In addition, forums and consultations are available on a variety of topics that help families answer questions and solve problems.

## **My Possibilities**

469-241-9100 www.mypossibilities.org

Is a full day (8:00 am – 6:00 pm), full year continuing education program for adults with special needs/disabilities who have "aged out" of secondary education.

My Possibilities offer a variety of programs:

**Achieve Program**: focus on reading/writing skills, personal wellness, home economics and development of social and vocational skills

**Explore Program**: offers programming that is designed to be innovative and enriching in the areas of personal goal development, physical wellness, and social interaction through community centered opportunities

**Create Program**: offers programs designed to help individuals find their hidden talents and self-expression through art

**University Program**: offers the higher-skilled individuals the opportunity to more fully develop their vocational skills and be exposed to resume writing and proper interview techniques



#### **Connect to Care**

www.connecttocaredallas.org

Provides information, referral and assistance to caregivers, professionals, older adults and individuals of all ages who need help navigating the system.

## **Directory of Community Resources in Texas**

www.disability resources.tamu.edu

## **Easter Seals North Texas**

1-888-617-7171

www.ntx.easterseals.com (There are 4 locations which you may find listed on their website.) Lenee Bassham, VP of Community Living Services, 817-759-7951; lbassham@ntx.easterseals.comback to services page

CLASS (Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services; Community Living Assistance and Support Services) Case Management:

There are two types of providers in the CLASS program: case management agencies and direct service agencies. Easter Seals provides Case Management services. Some of Easter Seals' responsibilities are screening, eligibility determination, initial assessment, assistance in the enrollment process, advocacy for the participant in obtaining services, response to crisis situations, identification & linking participants with community resources, overall coordination of CLASS services, monitoring services that are provided.

Referrals can be received from any source, including self-referral. All initial referrals must be passed on to DADS in Austin for submission to the interest list. To register in the Community Living Assistance and Support Services interest list please call 1-877-438-5658.

## **Epilepsy Foundation**

1-888-548-9716 www.eftx.org

The Epilepsy Foundation leads the fight to stop seizures, find a cure, and overcome the challenges created by epilepsy. Established in 1983, the Epilepsy Foundation Texas-Houston/Dallas-Fort Worth/West Texas provides a number of programs and services, including the following: Public and Professional Education & Awareness Programs, Education and Consultation Services, Employment Services, Camp and Recreation for people with epilepsy and their families, and specialized medical care in nine clinics throughout the state.



## Texas Center for Disability Studies (TxCDS), University of Texas at Austin

1-800-828-7839 or 7830 TTY - 1-800-735-2989 www.tcd.edb.utexasd.edu

The mission of TxCDS is to serve as a catalyst so that people with developmental and other disabilities are fully included in all levels of their communities and in control of their lives. TxCDS consists of an inter-disciplinary team of professionals at the university level, persons with disabilities from state, regional, and local communities, statewide services providers and advocacy organizations.

## **Texas Technology Access Project (TTAP)**

1-800-828-7839 (answered by TxCDS) http://techaccess.edb.utexas.edu/

The TTAP provides information, conducts training and technical assistance and works with policy makers to support children and adults with disabilities in their efforts to acquire and use technology as a routine part of day-to-day living

## **Deaf Action Center**

214-521-0407 www.deafactioncentertexas.org

## **American Foundation for the Blind - Southwest**

214-352-7222 www.afb.org

AFB's priorities include broadening access to technology; elevating the quality of information and tools for the professionals who serve people with vision loss; and promoting independent and healthy living for people with vision loss by providing them and their families with relevant and timely resources.

## **Reading and Radio Resource** (Resources for the vision-impaired)

214-871-7668 www.readingresource.org

## **Talking Book Program**

1-800-252-9605

www.TexasTalkingBooks.org

Free library service that provides reading material in large print, Braille, and on cassette for loan to individuals with qualifying physical, visual, and learning disabilities.



# **Advocacy:**

## **ADAPT of Texas**

512-442-0252 www.adapt.org

Disability rights advocacy group comprised mainly of individuals with disabilities and focuses on promoting services in the community.

## **Disability Rights Texas**

1-800-252-9108 www.advocacyinc.org

Non-profit corporation funded by Congress to protect and advocate for legal rights of people with disabilities. Also provides a listing of resources.

## <u>Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TxCDD)</u>

1-800-262-0334

The mission of TxCDD is to create change so that all people with disabilities are fully included in their communities and exercise control over their own lives.

# **Deaf Blind Multi-Handicapped Association of Texas (DBMAT)**

www.dbmat-tx.org

DMAT's mission is to promote and improve the quality of life for all Texans who are deaf, blind, and multi-handicapped and blind multi-handicapped.



# **Employment Assistance**

## Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)

www.dars.state.tx.us/
1-800-628-5115
In order to contact your local DARS office, go to www.dars.state.tx.us/drs/offices/OfficeLocator.aspx

If you have a physical or cognitive disability that is keeping you from living independently or from finding a job, the Division for Rehabilitation Services (DRS) provides the following types of assistance:

## Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program

Is a state-federal partnership that helps people with disabilities prepare for, find & keep jobs. Work related services are individualized & may include counseling, training, medical treatment, assistive devices, job placement assistance, and other services. Eligibility criteria for this program include: the presence of a physical or mental disability that results in a substantial impediment to employment, whether the individual is employable after receiving services, & whether services are required to achieve employment outcomes. The VR program helps Texans with disabilities prepare for, find & keep employment. This program also helps students with disabilities plan the jump from school to work. Please see our Vocational Rehabilitation Guide to Applicants to learn about the process of applying for VR services.

## **Independent Living (IL) Services and Centers**

Concentrate on self-sufficiency and quality of life, even if work potential is limited. Independent Living Centers and Services promote self-sufficiency despite significant disability - providing people with disabilities with improved mobility, communication, personal adjustment and self-direction. Independent Living Centers are operated by and for people with disabilities throughout the state to provide assistance through peer counseling, information and referral, advocacy support and other measures that encourage people to make their own decisions.

#### **Supported Employment**

Serves consumers of the Vocational Rehabilitation Program who need on-going support to maintain competitive employment. Counselors ensure that consumers in this program have the opportunity and support necessary to work in their communities. (\*Please see Easter Seals North Texas information)

#### **Transition Planning**

Counselors provide consultative and technical assistance to public school personnel in planning the move from school to work for students with disabilities. Assist counselors in coordination with schools, independent school districts, and regional Educational Service Centers.

## **DRS Rehabilitation Technology Resource Center**

Helps keep track of new equipment and engineering services designed to help people with disabilities be more independent.



#### **Easter Seals North Texas**

www.ntx.easterseals.com

Director of Employment Services (Tempe Pate)-817-759-7958; tpate@ntx.easterseals.com Assistant Director of Employment Services (Linda Baker) - 817-759-7967; lbaker@ntx.easterseals.com.

## **Employment Services**

Match skills & interests of people with disabilities with opportunities for success in the workplace. They provide the following: on-the-job training, person-centered planning, job coaching, ongoing follow-up, retention & advancement services, rapid re-employment assistance, job development services, resume instruction, interview training, and job search skills training.

## **Ticket to Success (Ticket to Work Program)**

Provides assistance to people who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and are interested in returning to work.

#### **Supported Employment**

As a provider Supported Employment is a one-on-one intensive approach to job placement in which the trained employment consultants work individually with each job seeker and acts as the job seeker's advocate to the business community.

#### Job Placement

Assist those more able to participate in their own job search. Clients receive resume instruction, job skills search training & job leads.

#### **Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Services**

Support adults receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits learn about the financial and medical incentives for returning to work or obtaining employment, so that they can make informed decisions.

## **Community Options**

www.comop.org (There are 6 offices throughout the State of Texas; the numbers & contact people may be found @ this website.)

Community Options believes that every person who wants to work can work. It rejects the view that a disability means a person has to accept unemployment or below minimum wage jobs. It also rejects the view that a disability means the person must work in a sheltered workshop or a segregated work place.

Community Options is successfully placing people with severe disabilities in real jobs - at minimum wage or better. It is increasing the numbers of people with disabilities landing better jobs with better benefits in the competitive marketplace. Community Options' technology department works with employers to adapt and apply relevant technology to enable people with disabilities to work as effectively as possible.



## **Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind**

www.dallaslighthouse.org 21-821-2375; e-mail: info@dallaslighthouse.org

**Business Training** - The Dallas Lighthouse offers business training that enables visually impaired individuals to function effectively & productively in skilled service positions in a variety of office environments.

**Computer skills** - The Dallas Lighthouse Technology Lab offers one-on-one courses and training for the visually impaired to learn or enhance computer skills.

**Manufacturing** – The agency currently offers more than 150 manufacturing jobs in its Industrial and Sewing Centers and the majority of employees filling those positions are visually impaired.

**Recreation** - The Dallas Lighthouse provides a social community for its clients in addition to its many other services.



# **Guardianship & Alternatives to Guardianship**

"Guardianship is a legal method used to protect a person's well-being when he or she cannot protect themselves. A guardian is a court-appointed person or entity that makes decisions on behalf of a person with diminished capacity." Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services

A patient may only need help with certain types of decisions or activities, so s/he may not need a court-appointed guardian. For example, a patient may not be able to manage money, so a power of attorney limited to financial matters may be helpful. For certain types of government benefits, a trusted family member/friend can be appointed as representative payee to manage the money for the patient. Some patients may only need to designate someone through a durable power of attorney for health care to make decisions about health care if the patient becomes unable to do so for his/herself.

## **Resources:**

"Guardianship and Alternatives to Guardianship Information Packet",
The Arc of Greater Houston,
http://www.aogh.org/images/pdfntlnktobastemp/GuardAndAlternatAug2011.pdf

"Guardianship for Texans with Disabilities", Disability Rights Texas www.disabilityrightstx.org/files/Guardianship\_for\_Texans\_with\_Disabilities.pdf

"Guardianship", Texas Project FIRST, http://texasprojectfirst.org/Guardianship.html

#### **Texas Guardianship Association**

Frequently Asked Questions: http://texasguardianship.org/faqs-2/ Guardianship Alternatives: http://texasguardianship.org/guardianship-alternatives/

"Protecting the Incapacitated: A Guide to Guardianship in Texas from Application to Oath", http://www.tyla.org/tyla/index.cfm/resources/general-public/family-law



# **Legal Assistance:**

## "Referral Directory for Low-Income Texans",

http://www.texasbar.com/Content/NavigationMenu/ForThePublic/CantAffordaLawyer/ReferralDirectory.pdf

## **Lawyer Referral Information Service**

1-800-252-9690

If you do not qualify for legal aid, this may be a resource. Through the Lawyer Referral Information Service, a person may have a thirty-minute consultation with an attorney for \$20. At the end of the consultation, the attorney and individual may discuss possible representation and price structure. Please understand that the Lawyer Referral Information Service is not a pro bono or reduced-fee program. You should ask for a referral to an attorney who handles guardianship matters.

## <u>TexasLawHelp</u>

www.TexasLawHelp.org is a website where low-income Texans can find information about their civil legal issues and find out about free legal assistance in their area.

## **Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas**

1-888-529-5277

Serves 114 TX counties, including the Dallas/ Ft. Worth area and NorthWest Texas. They have offices in 15 cities. In order to obtain the numbers to each city office, go to www.lanwt.org/contact\_home.asp

## **Lone Star Legal Aid**

1-800-733-8394 www.lonestarlegal.org

Serves the Houston area and East Texas (72 counties).

## Texas RioGrande Legal Aid

www.trla.org 1-888-988-9996

Serves the Austin/ San Antonio area, El Paso area, and South Texas.

## **Guardianship Program - Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services**

http:ww.dads.state.tx.us/services/faqs-fact/guardianship.html

#### The ARC of Texas

www.arcoftexas.org



# **Recreational Resources**

# **Sports Leagues:**

## **The Angel League**

www.angelleague.com

The Angel League is a baseball program for boys and girls with physical or mental disabilities ages 4 - 15 and an adult league for those 16-60.

## **McKinney Magic**

972-896-8774

www.mckinneymagic.org

Provides year-round sports training, athletic opportunities and competition in a variety of sports for people ages 8 and older with intellectual disabilities.

## **RISE Adventures**

469-762-5075

www.riseadventures.org

Helps promote independence for individuals with disabilities through sports, recreation, and other outdoor events and programs.

## **Special Olympics- Texas**

www.sotx.org (To find the Special Olympics in your area, go to the website and click on your area on the map of Texas)

Dallas- 214-943-9981; Plano- 972-596-2487; Ft. Worth - 817-332-3433

The mission of Special Olympics Texas is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Special Olympics Texas offers 22 sports: Aquatics, Athletics, Basketball, Bocce, Bowling, Cycling, Equestrian, Figure Skating, Flag Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Kayaking, Power-lifting, Roller Skating, Sailing, Soccer, Softball, Speed Skating, Table Tennis, Tennis, Triathlon and Volleyball.

Special Olympics Texas holds more than 300 competitions annually on area, regional and state levels. Special Olympics athletes train intensely for eight weeks prior to each sports competition.

To compete in Special Olympics, a person must be at least eight years old. Children at the age of six may begin a training program, but are not able to compete until the age of eight. A person must also be identified by an agency or professional as having one of the following:

Intellectual Disabilities [Mental Retardation]. Closely related development disability, which means having functional limitations in both general learning and in adaptive skills such as recreation, work, independent living, self direction, or self care.



**Therapeutic Recreation Centers:** 

## **Bachman Therapeutic Recreation Center**

www.dallasparks.org (Under "Facilities" & "Recreation Centers") or www.dallasparks.org/facilities/recreation.aspx. 214-670-6266

## **Plano Parks and Recreation**

www.plano.gov

Addy Hijarpe, Therapeutic Recreation Supervisor – 972-941-7327 addh@plano.gov

Plano Parks & Recreation Therapeutic Programs provide year-round recreational programs for children, teens and adults from age one year old to over 60 years of age. The programs include outings to local businesses and restaurants, dances, in-house classes that cover academic issues, and programs that include arts and crafts, music, games and a lot of social interaction. The programs are created specifically for individuals with special peeds and each program is geared to a specific age group. The

specifically for individuals with special needs and each program is geared to a specific age group. The programs provide fun and peer social interaction for the participants as well as respite for the families. It is a safe environment for families to leave their children.

## Soaring Eagle Center, Desoto

972-223-2450

www.soaringeaglecenter.org

Serves young adults with developmental disabilities and their families through Special Olympics, social activities, educational classes and a day program.

## Southwest Wheelchair Athletic Association, Hurst

www.swaasports.org

Provides wheelchair basketball, track, soccer, and other sports for people with disabilities.

The Y (YMCA) – Offer a variety of sports and other recreational activities for people with special needs

#### **YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas**

214-880-9622

www.ymcadallas.org

(Go to "Locations" in order to find the information to over 20 branches of The Y in Dallas)



## **Tennis:**

#### **Dallas Wheelchair Tennis Club**

972-317-7972

www.dwtc.org

Strives to create opportunities to improve the physical and emotional qualities of life for people with disabilities.

# **Gymnastics:**

## Special Needs Gymnastics, North Richland Hills

806-438-3227 or 214-813-7074

www.specialneedsgymnastics.com

Private and semi-private gymnastics for persons of any age who require special attention.

# **Adaptive Adventure Sports:**

## **Metroplex Adaptive Water Sports**

214-803-9955

www.youcanski.org

Provides opportunities for people with disabilities to experience water sports.

# **Performing Arts:**

## **JESTERS at Highland Park United Methodist Church**

214-521-3111 or 214-523-2134 (Ramsey Patton- Jesters coordinator)

e-mail: pattonr@hpumc.org

www.hpumc.org (Under "Congregational Care", go to "Jesters")

A performing theater group which stars teens (age 16 and up) and adults who have autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, or other disabilities and who might enjoy a theater experience.

## Art:

## **The Art Station**

817-921-2401

www.theartstation.org

A nonprofit organization offering individual and group art therapy and community programs to children and adults



# **Equine Therapy:**

## **All Star Equestrian**

Mansfield, TX 76063 817-477-1437 www.allstarfoundation.org

## **Blue Sky Therapeutic Riding & Respite**

Crossroads, TX 76277 940-595-1101 juliecoady@gmail.com

# **Bridlewood Stables and Equestrian Center Stable Strides Therapeutic Program**

Flower Mound, TX 75028 940-595-3600 www.stablestridesfarm.org www.bridlewoodequestrian.com

## **Campfire Creek Therapeutic Riding Center**

Waxahachie, TX 75167 972-937-7265 oliver@ectisp.net

## **Equest Therapeutic Horsemanship**

Wylie - 972-412-1099; 1-800-208-2136 www.equest.org

Provide equine assisted activities and therapies to children and adults with physical, cognitive and emotional disabilities in North Texas.

## **Equine Angels Special Therapy Center**

Bartonville - 214-212-4107 www.equineangels.org

## **Grace Lake Ministries**

Anna, TX 75409 972-837-4621 www.gracelakeministries.org

## Hannah's Horseshoes of Hope

Bonham, TX 75488 903-640-9106 www.hhhequitherapy.org



## **Haven's Horses**

Keller, TX 817-925-1982 www.havenshorses.org

## Lucas Therapeutic Riding Center-Angels Among Us, LLC

Lucas, TX 75002 630-484-5542 Mabutler6@sbcglobal.net

#### ManeGait

McKinney,TX 75071 469-742-9611 www.manegait.org

# **Prospect Mountain Therapeutic Riding Center**

Scurry, TX 75158 contactus@pmtrc.org www.mptrc.org

## **Reata Rehabilitation**

Ponder - 940-479-2612 www.ridingunlimited.org

## **Reins of Life Therapeutic Riding**

Waxahachie, TX 75167 972-923-9045 reinsoflifetx@aol.com www.reinsoflifetx.org

## **Riding Unlimited**

Ponder, TX 76259 940-479-2016 www.ridingunlimited.org

Rocky Top Therapy Center/T.R.A.I.L. Foundation NARHA Premier Accredited Center

Keller, TX 76248 817-379-5717 information@rockytoptherapy.org www.rockytoptherapy.org



# Spirithorse Therapeutic Riding Center SpiritHourse International

Corinth, TX 76210-3017 940-497-2946 spirithorsethera@aol.com www.spirithorsetherapy.com

## **Stajduhar Stables**

Colleyville - 817-849-1999 www.stajduharstables.org

# **Swan View Therapeutic Riding Center**

Weatherford, TX 76088 817-910-5199 svtrc@svtrc.org www.svtrc.org

#### **TROT**

Cedar Hill, TX 75104 972-293-3388 www.trottx.org

## Wings of Hope

817-790-8810 wingsofhope@prodigy.net www.wingsofhopehorses.org



# **Camps**

# **Out-of-town camps:**

## **Camp Summit**

972-484-8900 www.campsummittx.org

Camp designed for children, teenagers, and adults with disabilities. Separate sessions are scheduled for specific ages and level of functioning. Camp Summit offers week-long camp sessions during the summer and fall months and spring break, and weekend sessions and respite days in the fall and spring seasons. Campers are offered a wide variety of traditional camp activities in our barrier-free environment.

## SEEK (Summer Events for Exceptional Kampers) Camp

www.seekcamp.org

Children's Camper Director, Chaney Cheatham 806-535-4479, chaneycheatham@yahoo.com Youth Camper Director, Diana Sharber 903-651-1605,dsharber@denisonisd.net

SEEK Camp is a non-denominational Christian camp experience sponsored by the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. Children's Camp is held at Bridgeport Camp and Conference Center. All activities are designed to accommodate the special needs of our campers. Each camper is encouraged and assisted by their counselor to participate in the camp community. SEEK Camp experiences are available for children ages 9 to 14, youth ages 15 to 20 and adults. SEEK Camp is a unique opportunity for campers who are physically and/or mentally challenged to learn about love, friendship, sharing, caring and living in a Christian community.

## **Camp Barnabas**

Purdy, MO 65734 417.476.2565 (Camp office) 417.886.9800 (Springfield office) e-mail: info@campbarnabas.org

Camp Barnabas exists to provide life-changing opportunities to people with special needs in a Christian camp setting. We offer acceptance and love to more than 1,300 campers with special needs and chronic diseases - and their siblings - in locations across the United States. Through adaptive activities, people with physical, intellectual, and/or medical challenges become participants, not observers, in the world around them. They leave Camp Barnabas knowing they are uniquely created to live lives of ability.



# **Day Camps:**

## **Adventure Camp**

www.arcdallas.org (Go to "What we do", "Client services") Camp@arcdallas.org

Adventure Camp is a day camp for children and teens ages 5-21 with intellectual and related developmental disabilities. Siblings may attend as well if space allows. Adventure Camp is held Monday through Friday during spring and summer school breaks in order to provide recreational day care for campers and respite to caregivers in a fun, safe and experiential environment. Camp hours are 9:00 am to 3:00 pm with extended care available. Activities include crafts, games, entertainment, swimming, free play and field trips. Summer camps are held concurrently in two-week sessions throughout the summer (with the exception of the week of July 4th). Space is limited to 25 per session. Camper to staff ratio is generally 4:1 and is often supplemented by volunteers as needed. Camp provides a semi-structured environment with opportunities for free play and leadership. Fees are similar to daycare. Scholarships are available on a limited basis.

## **Bachman Therapeutic Recreation Center**

www.dallasparks.org (Under "Facilities" & "Recreation Centers") or www.dallasparks.org/facilities/recreation.aspx. 214-670-6266

#### **Plano Parks and Recreation**

www.plano.gov Addy Hijarpe,Therapeutic Recreation Supervisor – 972-941-7327 addh@plano.gov

Plano Parks & Recreation Therapeutic Programs provide year-round recreational programs for children, teens and adults from age one year old to over 60 years of age. The programs include outings to local businesses and restaurants, dances, in-house classes that cover academic issues, and programs that include arts and crafts, music, games and a lot of social interaction. The programs are created specifically for individuals with special needs and each program is geared to a specific age group. The programs provide fun and peer social interaction for the participants as well as respite for the families. It is a safe environment for families to leave their children.



# **Fun for Adults with Disabilities**

# **Amusement Park:**

Morgan's Wonderland in San Antonio, the brainchild of the father of a daughter with special needs and billed as the world's first ultra-accessible family fun park, features rides and attractions easily enjoyed by those in wheelchairs or with cognitive disorders. Admission to the 25-acre park is free for those with cognitive or physical disabilities; family members and friends pay \$5 a person. Kids 3 and under are free. Cost for those without a disabled patron in their party is \$15. Reservations are required to visit.

The park (its' website is morganswonderland.com) includes rides, interactive exhibits, playgrounds, gardens, a fishing lake and amphitheater. It has Braille signage.

5223 David Edwards Drive San Antonio, Texas 78233 e-mail: info@morganswonderland.com (210) 495-5888 Reservation line: (210) 637-3434

## Zoo:

## **Grisham Farms Therapy Zoo**

214-544-7255 www.grishamfarms.org

toll free (877) 495-5888

Private place for children and adults with special needs to come and learn about and spend time with all types of animals.



We highly advise that you start conducting research and making a plan for the total care of your child far in advance of his/her turning 18 years old. Many decisions, such as whether or not to pursue guardianship, should be made and implemented prior to your child turning 18 years old.

Furthermore, in order to ensure that there is not any lapse in your child's medical care when he/she turns 18 years old, you will need to determine what kind of health care coverage he/she will have when he/she turns 18 years old, as well as which primary care physician and specialists (such as neurologists) will provide care when he/she becomes an adult.

We have compiled a comprehensive transition resource booklet for you which we highly recommend that you begin reviewing and which we hope is a tool for you and your child as you all prepare for his/her transition to the adulthood.

Many of these resources have websites which provide extensive information; therefore, if you do not have access to a computer, Children's has family resource libraries which have computers you may utilize free-of-charge.

- Holman Family Resource Library located on the Lower Level of Tower D in the main hospital at the Dallas campus; 214-456-7735; hours are 9 am 7 pm Monday- Thursday and Friday 9:00 am 4:00 pm. They are occasionally open on weekends; call for information.
- Pavilion Family Resource Library located in the lobby of the Pavilion at the Dallas campus. 214-456-4787; hours are 8:00 am- 3:00 pm Monday Friday.
- Karahan Family Resource Library located in the lobby of the hospital at the Legacy campus. 469-303-7735; hours are 9:00 am 7:00 pm Monday Friday.
- Family Resource Library at the Specialty Care Center in Southlake –817-724-0004; hours are 9:00 am 5:00 pm Monday Friday.

If you have any questions about the resources listed in this packet, please contact Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) Stacy Roush at 214-456-7771 or stacy\_roush@childrens.com.