

BELIEVING IN THE POTENTIAL OF ALL

Imagine! That

THE IMAGINE! NEWSLETTER

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IMAGINE!'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES OFFERS "LUNCH AND LEARN" SERIES

Imagine!'s Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) delivers psychiatric, therapeutic, and behavioral health services for Medicaid recipients over the age of 18 living in Boulder and Broomfield counties who also qualify for developmental disability supports. Imagine! provides these services in collaboration with Foothills Behavioral Health and the Mental Health Center of Boulder and Broomfield counties.

The IBHS mission also includes an education component. In that spirit, IBHS is proud to be hosting a "Lunch and Learn" inservice series designed to provide caregivers, families, and professionals the opportunity to learn from experts in the field of developmental disabilities about a variety of behavioral and mental health topics. Previous topics have included self-injurious behavior and preference assessments. Upcoming sessions will discuss issues including escape behaviors, the ABCs of data collection, functional behavior assessments, and transitions. On April 15, the "Lunch and Learn" topic will be behavior psychopharmacology (see inset box for more details).

So, grab your brown bag lunch and join IBHS for a mid-day learning experience! For more information on the IBHS program and future "Lunch and Learn" events, contact Judy James-Anderson at (303) 926-6461.

Imagine!'s Behavioral Health Services

LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES:
*Introduction to Behavior
Psychopharmacology*

Presented by Suzanne Sundheim, MD

Date: April 15, 2008

Time: 11:30 AM—1:30 PM

Location: Imagine!, 1665 Coal Creek Drive, Lafayette

Cost: \$15 per person

Grab your brown bag lunch and join IBHS for a mid-day learning experience!

To register, please call (303) 457-5719

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NEW PROGRAM DESIGNED TO HELP ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES TO LIVE AS INDEPENDENTLY AS POSSIBLE

Do you know of an adult with developmental disabilities who is living at home or in a group situation who may be able to live more independently if given the opportunity?

Do you know of an adult with developmental disabilities who is living at home and doesn't have a social life unless it is pre-arranged by someone else?

Do you worry about what will happen to your family member with developmental disabilities when you can no longer care for him or her?

If you answered YES to any of these questions, you may be interested in a new adult living program that is ready to begin early in 2008. The program will provide minimal support services to help adults (at least 18 years old) with developmental disabilities to learn how to be as independent as possible. The program has been designed to encourage and promote peer interaction without parent or advocate intervention. Most importantly, the program has been designed to provide continual advocacy for the adult, even when family members can no longer care for the individual.



This apartment living program will also make it possible for adults with developmental disabilities to develop a strong social network **in the least restrictive environment!**

The program will include:

- ✦ *Apartment living without 24/7 supervision*
- ✦ *Social environment with peers*
- ✦ *Minimal support*

The intent of the program is to:

- ✦ *Transition the participant from a dependent lifestyle to an independent lifestyle*
- ✦ *Integrate the participant into the community where he or she will live, work, and socialize*

The program is unique because:

- ✦ *It facilitates a living and social environment that becomes progressively less structured and with less support as the participant's self-reliance increases*

Friends of Broomfield, Inc. will be implementing this private pay program, with annual costs expected to be between \$5,000 and \$8,000.

For additional information regarding this program, contact Jane Fouchey at (303) 459-4396 or by email at: janevouchey@comcast.net.

NEW WEB SITE HELPS EXPLAIN MEDICAID

Boulder County Public Health (BCPH) and Boulder County Department of Social Services (BCDSS) have joined together to provide an online and user-friendly resource aimed at simplifying medical benefits for groups of low-income people, some of whom may have no medical insurance or inadequate medical insurance.

"Medicaid can be a

confusing system to navigate," said Albino Bustillos, Jr., Early & Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) outreach specialist for BCPH. "Our hope is that this site will help residents find and understand all of the benefits available to them so that they can get the help they need."

The site provides up-to-date information about Medicaid eligibility, the

application process, benefits for adults and children, a providers search tool, and other helpful information. Links to other county, state, and federal programs are also included to ensure residents have access to the information they need.

Visit the new web site at www.BoulderCountyMedicaid.org to find out more.



SUPPORT GROUP AVAILABLE FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

Being the parent of a child diagnosed with autism can be lonely, bewildering, and frustrating. A new support group is being created in Longmont that will offer an opportunity for parents to share their experiences in raising children diagnosed with autism through all of the ups and downs. The group will address self-care techniques and behavioral approaches. Parents will also have an opportunity to

share resources.

The group will be facilitated by Colleen Paul, who has been working with children and adults diagnosed with autism in the Boulder area for five years. Colleen specializes in applied behavior analysis and positively reinforced behavior planning.

The group will meet for seven weeks, beginning April 3, from 6:30—7:30

PM. The classes will be held at Access Counseling, 24 9th Avenue in Longmont. The cost is \$15 per person, per session. For more information, contact Colleen Paul at (303) 776-8211 x 305.



FREE SAFETY FIRST CLASS HELPS WITH CONSUMERS' DECISION-MAKING SKILLS



The Boulder Police Department is offering a free Safety First Class for adults with cognitive disabilities. The class is designed for people 18 years and older who are not in a structured school environment. The adult sessions will be on the following Thursdays: April

3, 10, 17, 24, and May 1 from 4:00—6:00 PM at 1805 33rd Street in Boulder.

The classes are a combination of lecture, small group, and hands-on activities. The curriculum covers decision-making skills, street-smart safety, home security, fire

prevention, and safety while riding public transportation.

To register for the class, please contact Kris Gibson at (303) 441-3332.

There will also be a similar class for teens this coming fall, look for more information in upcoming newsletters.

IMAGINE! OFFERS FREE BEHAVIORAL SEMINAR

**THIS
INTRODUCTORY
SEMINAR USES
NON-TECHNICAL
LANGUAGE TO
HELP EDUCATE
THE GENERAL
POPULATION
ABOUT POSITIVE
BEHAVIORAL
APPROACHES.**

Imagine! will be offering a free seminar entitled "Building Cooperative Behavior," designed to describe the principles of behavior, the pitfalls and dangers of using coercive tactics, and eight procedures useful in building cooperative relationships.

This introductory seminar uses non-technical language to help educate the general population about positive behavioral approaches. The next seminar is scheduled for Wednesday,

April 16, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Imagine!, 1400 Dixon Street, Lafayette.

To RSVP, call Jeff Kupfer at (303) 604-5434. Contact Dr. Kupfer about additional seminars on topics including replacement behavior training and analysis of functional relations.

Imagine! is dedicated to ensuring that families have the opportunity to better educate themselves about issues surrounding developmental disabilities, and we need your input to

make this happen.

Please feel free to call Dr. Kupfer or email him at jkupfer@imaginecolorado.org and let him know how to make it convenient for you to attend similar seminars.

Ideas may include changing the time or the day, or perhaps you need respite services or a translator. Please help us help you by letting us know how we can improve. Thanks in advance for your support.

AUTISM SOCIETY OF BOULDER COUNTY PRESENTS FREE AUTISM RISK AND SAFETY WORKSHOP

On Monday, April 21, the Autism Society of Boulder County will present a free autism risk and safety workshop as part of its National Autism Awareness Month (NAAM) Free Lecture Series.

Research indicates that persons with autism are seven times more likely to come in contact with law enforcement professionals than others. Special guest lecturer Dennis Debbuadt is the proud father of a young man with autism and has been a professional investigator and journalist

for 29 years.

Dennis turned his attention to autism spectrum disorders in 1987 after his son was diagnosed. He has developed materials and trained families, educators, care providers, as well as professionals in law enforcement, first response, and criminal justice throughout the U.S., Canada, and the U.K.

This informative and interactive session will identify issues of risk and provide strategies that can help manage these risks at

home, school, and in the community. Tools and options for developing partnerships with law enforcement, initial and emergency response techniques, and criminal justice agencies will be presented.

The workshop will take place at the Pounds Conference Room at Imagine!'s Coal Creek Conference Center, 1665 Coal Creek Drive, Lafayette, from 7:00—9:00 PM. RSVP to asbcmeetings@gmail.com or (720) 272-8231.



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**Imagine! That
is the newsletter of Imagine!**

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THE MISSION OF IMAGINE! IS TO CREATE AND OFFER INNOVATIVE SUPPORTS TO PEOPLE OF ALL AGES WITH COGNITIVE, DEVELOPMENTAL, PHYSICAL AND HEALTH RELATED NEEDS SO THEY MAY LIVE FULFILLING LIVES OF INDEPENDENCE AND QUALITY IN THEIR HOMES AND COMMUNITIES.

Imagine!
1400 Dixon Street
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

New Program Designed to
Help Adults with
Developmental Disabilities
to Live as Independently as
Possible.

Read More Inside.

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BELIEVING IN THE POTENTIAL OF ALL
Imagine!
*Innovative Resources For Cognitive and
Physical Challenges*

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