



# FAMILY



# CONNECTIONS

A NEWSLETTER FOR FAMILIES

VOLUME 27

Oklahoma Areawide Services Information System (OASIS) **FALL 2010**

## OKLAHOMA ADOPTS NEW GUARDIANSHIP LAW

Taken from [www.abnet.org/aging](http://www.abnet.org/aging)

Oklahoma has joined 18 other states in enacting the Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act (UAGPPJA). The act was signed into law by Governor Brad Henry on May 11, 2010 and will go into effect November 1, 2010.

The Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act (UAGPPJA) addresses the issue of jurisdiction over adult guardianships, conservatorships, and other protective proceedings to establish a uniform set of rules to determine jurisdiction in guardianship actions, transfer of existing guardianships and registration of out-of-state guardianships.

Under the act, a “guardian” is appointed to make decisions regarding the person of an incapacitated adult, and a “conservator” is appointed to manage the property. The objective of the new uniform act is simple: to ensure that only one state has jurisdiction at any one time.

To that end, the act contains specific guidelines to specify which court has jurisdiction to appoint a guardian or conservator for an incapacitated adult. The act does this by prioritizing the states which might claim jurisdiction. The state with primary jurisdiction is the “home state,” defined as the state in which the adult has lived for at least six consecutive months immediately before the beginning of the adult guardianship or protective proceeding.

The second is the “significant-connection state,” which is broadly defined to include the location of the individual’s family, a state where the individual might have lived for many years, or the state where the individual’s property is located. The act provides that once a court has jurisdiction, this jurisdiction continues until the proceeding is terminated or transferred.

For more information and complete law go to: [www.abanet.org/aging/guardianship jurisdiction](http://www.abanet.org/aging/guardianship_jurisdiction)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 26: On the Road Family Perspective Conference.** Pontotoc Technology Center, Ada Oklahoma. More information call OASIS at 800.426.2747.

**November 19 - 20: Oklahoma Statewide Autism Conference.** Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center, Norman, Oklahoma. Conference presentations include those on medical, education and social skills, and family support and advocacy. Sponsored by the Oklahoma Autism Network. For more information go to [www.okautism.org](http://www.okautism.org) or contact the OAN at 877-228-8476.

### ONGOING EVENTS

**Special Education Workshops:** The Oklahoma Parent Training and Information Center, in partnership with TARC and the Oklahoma Parent Center presents parent trainings across the state throughout the year. Workshops address issues that are important for parents with children in the special education system, including IDEA Updates, Transition issues, Developing IEP's, Communication and Early Intervention. For training locations or more information visit [www.oklahomarent.org](http://www.oklahomarent.org) or call 1-877-553-4332.

If you would like to on the OASIS mailing list or become an OASIS Parent Contact please fill out the form below:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE\_\_ ZIPCODE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ (OPTIONAL)

BE ON THE OASIS MAILING LIST

BE AN OASIS PARENT CONTACT

WISH TO BE TAKEN OFF THE OASIS MAILING LIST

WISH TO BE TAKEN OFF THE OASIS PARENT CONTACT LIST

ALL INFORMATION IS KEPT CONFIDENTIAL AND ONLY SHARED WITH YOUR PERMISSION.

### OASIS STAFF:

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# OKLAHOMA YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM

## Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council

By Jennifer Randle

A select group of 25 teenagers, among the estimated 1.8 percent of the population across Oklahoma who have developmental disabilities, will be chosen to attend the annual Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) held every year in June at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in Chickasha, Okla.

This week-long camp, sponsored by the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council (ODDC), is a unique leadership training program for high school juniors and seniors. The goal of the YLF is to help prepare them for life after high school.

Students who have attended this program have gone on to college and careers with greater self-confidence as a result of their experiences at YLF. A recent graduate of the Oklahoma YLF has this to say about his experience. "Being chosen for the forum is one of the biggest successes in my life. I learned that no one can be judged by the way he or she looks." Another one of our graduates had this to say. "At YLF I learned that the solution to a situation isn't always obvious. It also helped me learn to live outside the house I grew up in."

Internationally known speakers are featured

throughout the week and the students spend a day at the Oklahoma State Capitol in Oklahoma City. While there, they meet with legislators and participate in a mock legislative debate. Each student also develops their own Personal Leadership Plan. And, students have a chance to learn from past graduates. Every year, a select number of YLF graduates are invited to return as mentors for their peers.

To be eligible to apply, a student must be an Oklahoma resident returning to high school for the next school year as a junior or senior, and have a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). We assure that all students can play an active part by providing staff support, nursing care, assistive technology and physical access to all activities. The YLF is provided at no cost to accepted to the applicants.

Applications are accepted year-round; the annual deadline is March 9. Applications are sought from potential students as well as staff members. More information about the program and application forms are available on the ODDC Web site, [www.okddc.ok.gov](http://www.okddc.ok.gov), or by calling ODDC at 405-521-4984, or outside the Oklahoma City metro, 800-836-

# **NEW OUHSC THERAPY PROGRAM; LOKOMAT THERAPY By Laura Rauh,PT**

OUHSC Introduces Pediatric Lokomat® Therapy to Improve the Walking Abilities of Oklahoma Children with Neurological Impairments

The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) is excited to announce the introduction of pediatric Lokomat® therapy to serve Oklahoma children with neurologic conditions like cerebral palsy. Pediatric Lokomat® therapy, or robot assisted gait training, is a new form of physical therapy designed to help improve the walking abilities of children. OUHSC is one of only a handful rehabilitation centers offering Lokomat® therapy in the country at this time.

Many times, ambulatory children with neurological impairments have learned bad habits during walking due to muscle weakness, spasticity, decreased coordination, or other reasons. Lokomat®, or robot assisted gait training, allows children to experience a normal walking pattern with the help of a robot to guide the legs through the walking motion on a treadmill. Consistency and amount of practice set Lokomat® therapy apart from traditional gait training. The goal is that the child will learn a new, improved gait pattern to reach his or her mobility goals. For example, one young boy who recently discharged began walking short distances of 5-10 feet using a wall for balance. He left the program ready for school walking over 500 feet with improved confidence, safety, and balance.

Candidates for this therapy are children ages 3 and up who are ambulatory (with or without an assistive device) or nearing ambulation. A doctor's order is required to participate in Lokomat® therapy, and a physical therapist will perform a full evaluation to determine a child's appropriateness. The pediatric Lokomat® clinic offers convenient after school hours from 4pm to 8pm Monday - Thursday and 8am-4pm on Saturday. The clinic accepts Medicaid, Medicare, and some private insurance plans. For questions and referrals, please contact Laura Rauh, PT at [laura-rauh@ouhsc.edu](mailto:laura-rauh@ouhsc.edu) or (405) 271-2866.

# OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

## PRESENTS

### FUTURE SHOCK CAREER DAY

By Linda Graber & Jeanne Meyer

The Oklahoma School for the Blind(OSB) Parent Teacher Organization hosts a very special career day in November of each year called "Future Shock". We target a specific group of students and offer a different approach to informing these young adults and their families of the career opportunities that are available to them.

Therefore, we would like to request that this day be set aside so that **ALL** Oklahoma students who are blind and visually impaired and their families could attend "Future Shock" Career Day. We understand the difficulty in arranging transportation and time away from school, especially those who live a long way from Muskogee. We also realize that some local schools may have their own career day, but "Future Shock" is totally different from the standpoint that it is designed for blind and visually impaired students.

One unique feature is that the majority of our speakers are blind or visually impaired. These speakers have achieved the success and independence the students at OSB, as well as all blind and visually impaired individuals, are wanting for themselves. We have colleges and universities from across the state in our information center to answer questions about the courses they have to offer. Several local companies, as well as companies from Kansas, Texas, New Jersey, Arkansas, Washington, and Florida , who employ the blind and visually impaired, are on campus and eager to share their knowledge.

Our goal is for every blind and visually impaired student across the state of Oklahoma get the opportunity to attend this one of a kind educational experience.

**THE NEXT "FUTURE SHOCK" CAREER DAY IS**  
**NOVEMBER 4, 2010**  
**OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND(OSB)CAMPUS**  
**MUSKOGEE, OK**  
**9:00 A.M. – 2:50 P.M.**

If you need additional information please contact Linda Graber, or Jeanne Meyer, [lgrab@osb.k12.ok.us](mailto:lgrab@osb.k12.ok.us), [jmijer@yahoo.com](mailto:jmijer@yahoo.com) . You can also call 877-239-7136 and ask for Linda or Jeanne.

OASIS/OUHSC  
PO BOX 26901  
OKC OK 73126



## On The Road Family Perspective Conference



GO ONLINE TO <http://oasis.ouhsc.edu>

Download a Registration Form

For the

On The Road Family Perspective Conference

Tuesday, October 26, 2010

Ada OK

Pontotoc Technology Center

IT IS FREE!!!!

Or Call (800) 426.2747