



DDRBR

# Bulletin

SPRING 2007

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES RESOURCE BOARD  
OF ST. CHARLES COUNTY



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## St. Louis Society Sports Camp Includes Round-Trip Transportation for St. Charles County Youth

Applications are now being accepted for all St. Charles County youth ages 6-21 with physical disabilities alone or in conjunction with developmental/cognitive disabilities to participate in St. Louis Society's amazing one-week day camp at the spacious North County Recreation Complex and includes door-to-door transportation both to and from camp.

This year's camp runs Monday through Friday, June 4-8, 2007, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Morning pickup times are

from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and afternoon drop off times are between 3:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Camper fee is only \$50 with a limited number of scholarships still available.

Activities include adapted baseball, basketball, soccer, golf, hockey, tennis, bocce ball, and martial arts, as well as music and art therapy. A fully trained staff includes on-site medical personnel along with many counselors and instructors who, themselves, have physical disabilities.

Founded in 1927, St. Louis Society serves both children and adults with physical (and often other) disabilities by providing a wide variety of year-round social and recreational programs, door-to-door transportation, transportation training, community awareness and advocacy.

Contact Jerry Ehrlich, St. Louis Society Executive Director at [jerrye@stlsociety.org](mailto:jerrye@stlsociety.org) or by calling (314) 989-1188, ext. 23 to register or for additional information.

## DDRBR to Unveil Enhanced Web-site in March 2007

The DDRB is adding many new features to its website to include more resources to families and individuals with developmental disabilities. The change over is scheduled for March 2007 with all sections complete by June 2007.

An entire section is dedicated to individuals and families. Topics include case management, who is eligible for services, legislation as it relates to individuals with developmental disabilities and how to advocate for change or express support on the state

level, life stages planning that includes transition preparation and check lists, guardianship and financial planning and planning guides that can be printed or saved to your home computer.

This has been an exciting project that will continue to evolve with

your help. Please visit the website at [www.ddrb.org](http://www.ddrb.org) and let us know what you think. A survey has been developed to provide feedback on what is currently on the website and to let us know how we can better respond to your information needs.

## DDRB Celebrates 30 Years!

**“Jubilant Backers See Respite Care Win”.** That was the St. Charles County Journal headline following the April 5, 1977 county-wide ballot issue to provide residential and respite-care, maintain a sheltered workshop and provide related services to individuals with developmental disabilities. The proposal called for a tax of \$.10

for each one hundred dollars assessed valuation and passed with a 52% voter approval. In 1986, St. Charles County voters approved an additional \$.08 property tax.

That first year, the

Handicapped Facilities Board (as it was then named) provided funding to six agencies that served individuals with developmental disabilities. Today, the DDRB provides funding to over 30 agencies providing an array of services to meet the needs of the growing population of the county.

The DDRB gratefully acknowledges the many board members throughout our 30-year history for their dedication to enhancing the lives of St. Charles County citizens with developmental disabilities.

## DDRB Establishes FY08 Funding Priorities

### FY08 Priorities Set

In November 2006, the Developmental Disabilities Resource Board held a public hearing to gather input regarding services for individuals with developmental disabilities. Based on the information gathered, and the realities of the State’s economy, the Board prioritized needs for FY08 funding, FY08 runs from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. The Board decided to allow agencies up to 3% cost of living adjustment and hold hearings for requests for growth of services that are critically needed, growth of services that are necessary to an individual’s development, but is not critical, and rate adjustments to agencies that are in jeopardy of future viability and/or ability to provide a service.

### FY08 Applications Accepted

The Developmental Disabilities Resource Board anticipates receiving applications from the 30 agencies currently receiving funds to provide services and supports for people with developmental disabilities in St. Charles County. Per the DDRB funding policies, agency applications are due March 22, 2007. All applications include a budget of expenses and income and measurable performance targets. A public summary of funding requests is scheduled to be available in mid April 2007.

### FY08 Budget Public Hearing

A public hearing is scheduled during the April 19, 2007 DDRB board meeting. This is an excellent opportunity to express your support or concerns about services and supports being considered by the DDRB. The hearing is scheduled to begin at 7:00 PM and will be held at the St. Charles County Ambulance District Headquarters located at 4169 Old Mill Parkway, St. Peters.

### Applications Reviewed

Two agency hearing meetings are scheduled to consider requests beyond the FY08 priorities. The agency hearing dates are Saturday, May 19 at 9:00 a.m. and Thursday, May 31, 2007, at 5:30 p.m. The DDRB Working Session begins at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 6, 2007. All meetings are open to the public.

### FY08 Budget Approval

The Board will make final funding decisions at the June 21, 2007 DDRB board meeting. This meeting will be held at the DDRB office at 156 St. Peters Centre Boulevard, St. Peters, MO. The Board meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.

Please visit the DDRB website at [www.ddrb.org](http://www.ddrb.org) to confirm meeting dates, times, and location or contact Karen Craven at 636-939-3351, ext. 3106.



## Legislative Update

One of the closely watched bills in the 94<sup>th</sup> General Assembly is House Bill 39 – Medical Assistance for Employed Persons with Disabilities, sponsored by Representative Dr. Charles Portwood of District 92. The bill recently passed the House and is being considered by the Senate.

This bill establishes the eligibility requirements of an employed disabled person requesting medical assistance under the federal Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999. The following summary was prepared by the Research Staff of the Missouri House of Representatives and is used by permission.

The bill requires the Department of Social Services to determine the eligibility of an employed disabled person requesting medical assistance whose family gross income is less than 250% of the federal poverty level.

### The bill:

1. Requires that an individual meet the definition of a disabled person under the federal Supplemental Security Income Program or of an employed individual with a medically improved disability under the federal Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999;
2. Requires an individual who has a net income that does not exceed the limit for permanent and totally disabled individuals to receive non-spend down Missouri Medicaid benefits;
3. Requires any participant whose gross income exceeds 100% of the federal poverty level to pay a premium for participation in this program;
4. Requires an individual to participate in an employer-sponsored health insurance plan if the department determines that it is more cost effective;
5. Exempts deposits of up to \$5,000 per year into a medical savings and/or an independent living account from the asset limits for eligibility.

Supporters say that the bill is important for employed disabled persons because it offers them an opportunity to escape poverty and to participate in society while maintaining health care coverage. The bill reduces fear associated with returning to work, reduces an employer's fear of hiring a disabled person and increases self-sufficiency. The sheltered workshop income exemption is seen as a benefit as it reduces an individual's need to choose between working and obtaining medication.

There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

To voice your opinion regarding HB39, contact Rep. Charles Portwood, 201 West Capitol Avenue, Room 113, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

## People First of Missouri Spring Conference

The People First of Missouri spring conference titled "Gateway to Our Dreams, Roads to Real Lives" is scheduled for April 27-29, 2007 at the Hilton Hotel-Frontenac, St. Louis, MO.

Registration is \$110 for Self Advocate, People First Advisor, Family Member and Direct Care Staff, and \$140 for Professionals. The registration deadline is March 25, 2007. Registration includes all sessions and meals for Saturday and a Sunday brunch.

Registration does not include hotel rooms. A block of rooms is reserved under *Missouri People First Conference* until April 4, 2007. Make your reservations early for the best choice!

This year's keynote speaker is Dave Hingsburger. Mr. Hingsburger works providing direct service to people with developmental disabilities. He is a consultant for schools, parents and agencies regarding problematic behavior. His session is for people with developmental disabilities and focuses on learning to say, "No" and how and when to non-comply. The session teaches language about the body as well as discussing feelings and privacy. It is a fast paced and fun workshop that aims at maximum participation from the attendees.

Break out sessions will focus on personal growth, leadership, community activism and self-empowerment. For specific information regarding the break out sessions or other questions email [mopeoplefirst@hotmail.com](mailto:mopeoplefirst@hotmail.com) or call 800-558-8652.



**Developmental Disabilities Resource  
Board of St. Charles County**  
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## **Remember the DDRB Offers a Conference Stipend!**

The Developmental Disabilities Resource Board of St. Charles County offers a Conference Stipend Program for Individuals and Families. St. Charles County residents can request up to \$500 per person per fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). A co-pay of \$25.00 per event is required. The stipend can be applied to conference fees only.

A Training Stipend Program for Direct Support Professionals is also available. Applicants are eligible for up to \$75 per person per fiscal year. A co-pay of \$25 per event is required. The employee's supervisor must approve the application.

Contact the DDRB office at 636-939-3351 for further information or visit our website at [www.ddrb.org](http://www.ddrb.org) for the stipend applications and policies.



**Developmental Disabilities  
Resource Board  
of St. Charles County**  
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[www.ddrb.org](http://www.ddrb.org)

Ensuring that individuals with developmental disabilities have quality opportunities and choices to be fully included in society.

### **DDR B Board Members**

Harry Corbett, President  
Joann Leykam, Vice-President  
Joe Armour, Treasurer  
Pam Beussink, Secretary  
James Bryner  
Denita Malone  
Cindy Ostmann  
Dr. Brian Stufflebam  
Heidi Weiss

### **DDR B Meeting Schedule**

The Developmental Disabilities Resource Board holds public meetings on the Third Thursday of each month. Meetings are usually held at the St. Charles County Ambulance District Headquarters, 4169 Old Mill Parkway, St. Peters, MO 63376. Occasionally meetings are held at different sites. Call the DDRB office or visit the DDRB website at [www.ddrb.org](http://www.ddrb.org) for location information. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.