

ASANC News Flash December 2009

All Current & Perspective Members of ASANC

It's a new year with much promise for great things for self advocates of North Carolina and self advocates around the world! Each new day brings new opportunities to have our voices heard and action taken to improve our lives and the world we live in. The Association of Self Advocates of North Carolina, Inc (ASANC) is the only statewide member organization in North Carolina with more than 20 member groups and close to 1,000 individual members. The momentum with the passage of the People First Language Bill; which was introduced and championed by ASANC, has catapulted self advocacy issues to the forefront and we need to keep that momentum going! With your involvement we can keep moving forward and make our voices heard. Did you know that ASANC's annual dues for individual members is only \$10 for the year? What do you receive for that \$10/year? Access to technical assistance and support from ASANC staff ASANC newsflash Updates on issues and conferences being held The opportunity to have an impact upon self advocacy in your community New ideas and plans for our voices to be heard

Transition Protocol for Individuals Moving from State-Operated Developmental Centers and Community ICF-MR Facilities to the Community Using Money Follows the Person

Money Follows the Person (MFP) Demonstration Project is federal funding used to assist individuals transitioning from institutions and nursing facilities to the community. Individuals are given priority to enroll in the CAP/MR-DD waiver and funding for the first 365 days of community living is provided by MFP funds during the demonstration period. Projected Discharge Date is a date by which the individual is expected to leave the current home and move into the identified new home based on the *Transition Plan*. It is critical that all transition activities be completed as outlined in the *Transition Plan*, prior to the actual move to the new home, to ensure the success of the individual in their new home. Attached to this document is *A Guide for Transition Planning: Money Follows the Person Project*, that provides guidelines regarding the expectations of the **Transition Planning process**. The state Money Follows the Person (MFP) specialist/designee will distribute information regarding the MFP project to the: Local Management Entities (LME) Developmental Disability Points of Contact and/or care coordination units Developmental Center transition coordinators (Each Developmental Center transition coordinator will determine their own process for distributing information to other staff of the centers.) community ICF-MR providers

ROSA'S LAW

The Problem: At the turn of the 20th century, people who were viewed as having limitations in intellectual advancement and social behavior were institutionalized. The prevailing sentiment at the time being that such people could not and should not interact with "normal" people. In federal statute, they were termed "feeble-minded." As a country we have come a long way since those years of forced institutionalization and exclusion. Through federal legislation - such as the *Americans with Disabilities Act* and the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* - Congress has taken great strides to ensure that Americans with intellectual disabilities are afforded: Educational opportunities that lead to success in the workplace Equal opportunity without discrimination Supports for independent-living, community-based or otherwise While our efforts reflect a commitment to the progress of the more than 6 million people diagnosed with intellectual disabilities in this country, our maintenance of the terms "mental retardation" or "mentally retarded" (MR) communicates a fundamental disconnect between our intent and our values. What kind of message are we sending when Congress maintains an antiquated and stigmatized label while the World Health Organization, the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS), and the President of the United States [*through the President's Committee on Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities*] have all shifted to using the term intellectual disability in the place of MR?

Make Plans to Join Us For

In Such a Time as This...

Responding Wisely in Difficult Times

Many of you have been writing or calling asking about the 2010 ASANC Annual Statewide Convention. At a recent Executive Board meeting we discussed whether or not we should hold the 2010 Convention given the current economy. It was suggested that due to the way in which the Association's resources have been affected by the economy, that we not hold the Convention in 2010. After much discussion, the ASANC Executive Board voted unanimously not to hold the Convention in 2010. At the following Board meeting the Executive Board heard a proposal from Steve Potts of Community Resource Alliance (CRA) that would include ASANC in an International Conference that they are sponsoring March 7-9, 2010 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel & Convention Center in Raleigh/Durham. CRA has offered ASANC the opportunity to host a 4-hour pre-conference training session as well as two breakout sessions on Monday March 8th and two breakout sessions on Tuesday March 9th that would be dedicated to self-advocate topics such as ones we've had at past Conventions. While we would not be offering the same number of sessions as we have at our Conventions, this offer allows us to still have an event for self-advocates and actually opens the door for us to gain more national and possibly international exposure! Additionally ASANC would be identified as a Co-Sponsor of the conference .