

**Environmental Scan¹ – Relevant News on Disability Issues
(Nov-Dec, 2009)**

International Issues

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
12/25/09	http://7thspace.com/headlines/329981/de_institutionalisation_and_trans_institutionalisation_changing_trends_of_inpatient_care_in_norwegian_mental_health_institutions_1950_2007.html	<p>De-institutionalisation and trans-institutionalisation - changing trends of inpatient care in Norwegian mental health institutions 1950-2007</p> <p>Over the last decades mental health services in most industrialised countries have been characterised by de-institutionalisation and different kinds of redistribution of patients. This article will examine the historical trends in Norway over the period 1950-2007, identify the patterns of change in service settings and discuss why the mental health services have been dramatically transformed in less than sixty years.</p> <p>Methods: The presentation of the trends in the Norwegian mental health services and the outline of the major changes in the patterns of inpatient care over the period 1950-2007 is founded on five indicators: The average inpatient population, the number of discharges during a year, the average length of stay, the number of beds or places, and the occupancy rate (average inpatient population/beds).</p> <p>Data are reported by institutional setting. Multiple sources of data are used.</p> <p>In some cases it has been necessary to interpolate data due to missing data.</p> <p>Results: New categories of institutions were established and closed during the 57 years period. De-hospitalisation started in Norway in the early 1970s, de-institutionalisation in general 15 years later.</p> <p>Six distinct periods are identified: The asylum period (-1955), institutionalisation and trans-institutionalisation (1955-65), stabilisation and onset of de-hospitalisation (1965-75), de-hospitalisation (1975-87), from nursing homes to community-based services (1988-98), and the national mental health program (1999-2007). There has been a significant reduction in the number of beds and in the average in-patient population.</p> <p>The average length of stay in institutions has been continuously reduced since 1955. The number of patients actually treated in psychiatric institutions has increased significantly.</p> <p>Accessibility, quality of care and treatment for most patients has improved during the period. The mental health system in Norway has recently been evaluated as better than the systems in USA, England and Canada.</p> <p>Conclusions: De-institutionalisation means fewer beds but not fewer patients treated, neither in institutions in general nor in psychiatric hospitals.</p> <p>The periods represent different kinds of de-, trans-, and even re-institutionalisation. Expansion of the welfare state, increased professional focus on active treatment and increased focus on patients' preferences are the factors that best explain de-institutionalisation in Norway.</p>

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		<p>Author: Per Bernhard Pedersen Arnulf Kolstad Credits/Source: International Journal of Mental Health Systems 2009, 3:28 http://www.ijmhs.com/ http://www.ijmhs.com/content/3/1/28 http://www.ijmhs.com/content/pdf/1752-4458-3-28.pdf</p>
12/31/09	http://www1.voanews.com/a-23-2009-12-27-voa4-84659542.html	<p>A new study* says the leading cause of disability in older people in low and middle income countries is dementia. The researchers disagree with the World Health Organization which says blindness and other vision problems are the leading cause... Renata Sousa from the Institute of Psychiatry at King's College London and other researchers wrote the new report. Their study looked at the causes of disability among fifteen thousand people age sixty-five or older in seven countries. The countries were China, India, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Mexico and Peru.</p> <p>The team found that dementia was the largest cause of disability in the elderly in areas other than rural India and Venezuela. Other major causes were stroke, loss of use of arms or legs, arthritis, depression, eyesight problems and gastrointestinal problems... The study says the elderly are nine percent of the total population of low and middle income countries today. But their numbers are growing quickly. They are expected to reach twenty percent of the total population by the middle of the century.</p> <p>The study appeared in the Lancet medical journal which published a special issue on disability. A separate study** of eighteen low and middle income countries dealt with children. It found that in almost half the countries, children who were not breastfed were much more likely to have a disability than those who were. The same was true of those who did not receive vitamin A supplements and those who were underweight. Children who did not take part in early learning activities or attend school were also more likely to be disabled than those who did.</p> <p>Researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the United States and UNICEF did the study. http://www.thelancet.com *http://download.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140673609618298.pdf **http://download.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140673609618717.pdf (for free access, register with Lancet)</p>
12/31/09	http://www.widernet.org/eGranary/whatsinside/gdrl	<p>In collaboration with the United States International Council on Disability (USICD), the WiderNet Project's Global Disability Rights Library will bring a wealth of information to organizations that serve people with disabilities in developing countries but lack adequate Internet access... The WiderNet Project, which has already deployed more than 300 eGranary Digital Libraries worldwide, will develop, and provide technical support for hardware and software, training in</p>

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		<p>the use of the various software tools, and assistance in processing resources shared by hundreds of organizations worldwide.</p> <p>The library’s collection will include resources such as information on independent living, advocacy, education, transportation, public policy, employment, vocational rehabilitation, and other topics.</p> <p>How it works</p> <p>The GDRL comes in two formats - as a stand-alone two-terabyte USB drive, or as a server. Installed within an existing local area (LAN) or wide area (WAN) network, an unlimited number of users may share the library without needing Internet access.</p> <p>The information is easily searchable, using an interface similar to popular search engines. It's also accessible via portals that organize selected materials by dozens of thematic topics.</p> <p>People around the world who have web capability can also utilize the Global Disability Rights Library via the web...</p> <p>http://www.widernet.org/eGranary/ http://www.widernet.org/</p> <p>United States International Council on Disabilities: http://www.usicd.org/template/index.cfm http://www.usicd.org/template/page.cfm?id=163</p>
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Canada

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
11/12/09	email	<p>announcing the launch of our first issue of Critical Disability Discourse, our online academic journal. CDD is a bilingual, interdisciplinary journal, publishing articles that focus on experiences of disability. The journal’s review board consists in over thirty students and faculty members from York University, the University of Toronto, Laval University, McMaster University, and the University of Cambridge. This past year, we have been working tirelessly on our first issue, reviewing thirty articles submitted from across North America.</p> <p>You can access the journal by using the following link: https://pi.library.yorku.ca/ojs/index.php/cdd/index</p>
11/24/09	<p>http://topnews.us/content/28522-mental-health-commission-began-its-5-year-project-help-homeless-canadian</p> <p>http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/English/Pages/homelessness.aspx</p>	<p>The Mental Health Commission of Canada* in its first effort of this kind has initiated a research project in five cities which takes homeless people with mental illness off the streets in five cities and provides them with a safe place to live.</p> <p>The study is called, ‘At Home/Chez Soi’** project, involving 2,285 people who are homeless and living with a mental illness in five cities namely, Moncton, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver.</p> <p>*http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/</p> <p>**http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/English/Pages/homelessness.aspx</p>

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		<p>http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/SiteCollectionDocument/s/AtHome-ChezSoi/At%20Home%20%20National%20and%20Toronto%20launch%20release.pdf</p> <p>http://www.opdi.org/images/uploads/ProjectUpdateATHOME_Oct7-09.pdf</p> <p>http://www.jetvision.tv/video.aspx?playerID=14&videoID=52920</p>
11/30/09	<p>email</p> <p>http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/November2009/30/c6281.html</p>	<p>The Mental Health Commission of Canada Announces a Framework for a Mental Health Strategy for Canada:</p> <p>The framework is truly the product of a remarkable amount of input from all corners of Canada over the past year and half. It draws on the wide diversity of experiences, voices and thinking of thousands of people like you or your organization for what a mental health strategy for Canada must achieve. It has also built on the efforts undertaken by so many over the years to champion the importance of a mental health strategy for Canada.</p> <p>Seven interconnected goals are presented to point the way to a comprehensive and person-centred mental health system for our country: one that both promotes the recovery of people living with mental health problems and illnesses, and fosters the mental health and well-being of everyone living in Canada.</p> <p>This document is not yet a strategy - it is the framework to help us create one. The ongoing input from people like you from every part of the country will be essential to the success of the next phase of developing a Mental Health Strategy for Canada. We are confident that working together we will be able to define practical solutions and develop action plans to achieve our shared vision for the long awaited mental health strategy for Canada.</p> <p>http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/Pages/index.html http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/SiteCollectionDocument/s/boarddocs/15507_MHCC_EN_final.pdf</p>
12/1/09	<p>Read more: http://www.cbc.ca/health/story/2009/12/01/brain-disorders-developmental-research-bc.html</p>	<p>Funds to fuel study into child brain disorders</p> <p>A Canada-wide research network aimed at finding treatments for children with developmental brain disorders was one of three funding announcements made by the federal government on Tuesday...</p> <p>NeuroDevNet*, led by Daniel Goldowitz from the University of British Columbia. Under a five-year research plan, investigators will study ways to reduce costs to the health-care system through early intervention and treatment of children with developmental brain disorders. These include autism spectrum disorder, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and cerebral palsy. Researchers will explore how the brain develops, how to detect abnormalities and how to repair the damaged brain...</p> <p>The NeuroDevNet researchers share a passion for understanding brain development, said Goldowitz, a senior scientist at the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics and a professor in UBC's department of medical genetics.</p>

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		<p>"The group has unparalleled expertise in brain imaging, the interaction of genetics and environment and modelling neurodevelopmental disorders, skills that will help create preventative and therapeutic measures for Canadian children," he said in a release.</p> <p>* http://www.neurodevnet.ca/</p>
12/9/09	http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/December2009/09/c9667.html	<p>Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), National supports several of the recommendations of "In From The Margins: A Call to Action on Poverty, Housing and Homelessness", Report of the Subcommittee on Cities of the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology tabled yesterday in Ottawa. "We are very pleased that the Senate Sub-Committee recognized CMHA's contributions to the report", says Dr. Taylor Alexander, CEO, CMHA National Office. "Income support and other measures to reduce poverty can play several roles with regard to those persons living with a disability associated with mental illness. Many of these measures were identified in the report." CMHA, National believes that many of the report's options apply to persons struggling with mental health issues, and recommended several that would benefit persons living with a mental illness. These include recommendations to extend Employment Insurance benefits to 50 weeks, as well as the institution of a national Pharmacare program which would ease the burden of cost for and access to psychoactive medication. Especially pertinent to persons with lived experience of mental illness who are not attached to the labour market are recommendations for the Federal Government to work with provinces to increase provincial assistance rates to after-tax LICO (low income cut-off) levels, as well as investigating opportunities for a basic annual income for Canadians with disabilities. The report also addresses barriers for persons with mental illness accessing disability supports, as well as the importance of a refundable disability tax credit. CMHA, National is pleased that the report also focuses on proactive policies, such as increasing the National Child Benefit to \$5,000 by 2012. "Policies which focus on healthy children and healthy families yield life-long benefits in decreasing the incidence of mental illness and mental health problems," says Ruth-Anne Craig, Executive Director of the Manitoba Division of CMHA. "We know that poverty is both a cause and result of mental illness, so we welcome preventative policies that can alleviate stressful situations that raise the potential for mental health problems for children and families, as well as for persons with other disability types." Canadian Mental Health Association is Canada's only voluntary charitable organization that exists to promote the mental health of all people and support the resilience and recovery of persons experiencing mental illness. Because poverty affects so many persons living with mental illness, and is one of the causal factors that produce mental illness, income equity has become a primary</p>

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		<p>advocacy issue for CMHA. The "In From The Margins: A Call to Action on Poverty, Housing and Homelessness", Report of the Subcommittee on Cities of the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology can be accessed at: http://www.parl.gc.ca/40/2/parlbus/commbus/senate/com-e/citi-e/subsite-dec09-e/reports-e.htm</p> <p>About CMHA, National The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), founded in 1918, is one of the oldest voluntary health organizations in Canada. Each year, it provides direct service to more than 100,000 Canadians through the combined efforts of more than 10,000 volunteers and staff across Canada in some 135 communities. As a nation-wide voluntary organization, the Canadian Mental Health Association promotes the mental health of all Canadians and supports the resilience and recovery of people experiencing mental illness. CMHA accomplishes this mission through advocacy, education, research, and service delivery. For further information, please visit www.cmha.ca</p>
12/10/09	http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/most-antidepressants-miss-key-target-of-clinical-depression-78959877.html	<p>people often feel well after six weeks of antidepressants but a new study published in the Archives of General Psychiatry shows why it is hazardous to stop treatment at this point. A key brain protein called monoamine oxidase A (MAO-A) is highly elevated during clinical depression and does not normalize after six weeks of treatment with commonly used antidepressants called SSRIs (serotonin reuptake inhibitors). This is not the time to stop taking the antidepressant because MAO-A digests brain chemicals including serotonin, that help maintain healthy mood. High MAO-A levels remove too much serotonin. The study also showed that when people are not taking antidepressants, high levels of MAO-A lead to getting ill again. According to Dr. Jeffrey Meyer, the lead investigator, "Since most antidepressants do not target MAO-A, we have to wait for the brain to heal this process. The future is to make treatments that tell the brain to make less MAO-A so as to shorten the period of time antidepressants are needed. In the meantime it is important to follow standard recommendations of continuing treatment for at least a minimum of six months to a year." Researchers at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health used an advanced brain imaging method to measure levels of the brain protein MAO-A. VP of Research Bruce Pollock highlights the study's use of complex technology, "CAMH has the only positron emission tomography (PET) centre in the world that is dedicated solely to mental health and addiction treatment and research. As a result, we were able to develop this new technology to measure MAO-A levels." Dr. Meyer is the Head of Neurochemical Imaging Program in Mood Disorders, and a Canada Research Chair in the Neurochemistry of Depression.</p>

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		<p>The study (Brain Monoamine Oxidase A Binding in Depressive Disorder: Relationship to Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor Treatment, Recovery, and Recurrence) was funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Ontario Mental Health Foundation, and the Canadian Foundation for Innovation. The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) is Canada's largest mental health and addiction teaching hospital. CAMH combines clinical care, research, education, policy, development, prevention and health promotion to transform the lives of people affected by mental health and addiction issues. SOURCE CAMH Foundation http://www.camh.net/</p>
12/15/09	www.optimumonline.ca	<p>A new issue of Optimum Online is now available by clicking on the link below: http://www.optimumonline.ca/frontpage.phtml? To get complete access to ALL areas of Optimum Online site, you must be a registered user. However, registration will take you less than 30 seconds to do, and best of all, REGISTRATION IS FREE! Visit our registration page or click on the link below to register: http://www.optimumonline.ca/register.phtml?</p> <hr/> <p>Relevant articles: Vol. 39, Issue 4, Dec 2009</p> <p>Multi-level collaborative governance: the Canadian Heart Health Initiative Claude Rocan http://www.optimumonline.ca/article.phtml?id=351</p> <p>A Primer on Horizontal Management Tom Fitzpatrick http://www.optimumonline.ca/article.phtml?id=347</p> <p>When the machinery of government breaks down Paul G.Thomas http://www.optimumonline.ca/article.phtml?id=346</p>
12/16/09	<p>Council of Canadians with Disabilities Chairperson's Update - November-December 2009 – email http://www.ccdonline.ca/en/publications/chairpersons-update/2009/november-december%20</p>	<p>On 3 December 2009, when the Government of Canada introduced the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) into the House of Commons, the Canadian disability community passed another milestone on its human rights journey... In summary, the document tabled in the House of Commons makes it clear that: ... Canada is not currently considering becoming a party to the CRPD's Optional Protocol... There is strong support in Canada for the CRPD and this was expressed during the consultations which the Government of Canada undertook with the general public and organizations of people with disabilities, and First Nations, Métis, and Inuit</p>

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		<p>organizations...</p> <p>Canada has entered two reservation and declarations, regarding Articles 12 (Equal recognition before the law) and 33(2) (relating to the creation or designation of a domestic framework to promote, protect and monitor implementation of the rights as set out in the Convention)...</p> <p>With respect to Article 12 Canada states, "Canada would enter an interpretive declaration to Article 12(2) and (3), to clarify its understanding that Article 12 reflects a presumption of legal capacity and permits supported and substitute decision-making arrangements, such as guardianship and powers of attorney..."</p>
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Provinces

British Columbia

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
		<i>no relevant news alerts for this time period</i>

Alberta

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
		<i>no relevant news alerts for this time period</i>

Saskatchewan

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
11/3/09	http://www.swbooster.com/News/2009-11-03/article-177815/People_with_long-term_disabilities_have_new_income_program_open_to_them_/1	<p>Following the launch of the province's new Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability program (SAID)*, people with significant, long-term disabilities no longer have to rely on social assistance. There are more than 3,000 people who are eligible for the new program and they have been invited to enroll by the Ministry of Social Services with the first benefits to be paid for the month of December. More than 2,000 people have already enrolled in the new program."For the first time, Saskatchewan people with long-term disabilities have their own separate income program," Social Services Minister Donna Harpauer said that the program will be less intrusive than social assistance and it has fewer reporting requirements. The SAID program will provide an income for people with significant, long-term disabilities that is separate from the Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP)...</p> <p>* http://www.socialservices.gov.sk.ca/SAID</p>
11/26/09	http://www.canadaviews.ca/2009/11/26/yorkton-pilot-project-aims-to-enhance-services-to-people-with-disabilities/	<p>People with intellectual disabilities who live in approved private-service homes in southeast Saskatchewan will soon have access to enhanced services thanks to a new pilot project announced today.</p> <p>The goal of the \$171,000 project – a partnership of the Yorkton branch of the Saskatchewan Abilities Council and the Ministry of Social Services – is to strengthen the services provided to people with intellectual disabilities by approved private-service homes...</p>

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		<p>The pilot project will provide approved private-service home operators in the Yorkton area with respite, training and education, behavioural and after-hour crisis supports and networking opportunities...</p> <p>The pilot project will conclude in September 2010. It includes an evaluation component, as well as a strategy to address recruitment and retention of approved private-service homes in the Yorkton area. There are currently 15 approved private-service operators in the southeast region, supporting 37 people with intellectual disabilities.</p> <p>The pilot project is part of the province's four-year, \$76.9 million commitment to eliminate the waitlist of 440 people with intellectual disabilities across Saskatchewan who require residential, day and specialized programs that meet their assessed needs. The waitlist initiative, announced by Harpauer in October 2008, is the largest investment in Saskatchewan history in support of people with intellectual disabilities.</p>
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Manitoba

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
		<i>no relevant news alerts for this time period</i>

Ontario

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
11/17/09	http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/November2009/17/c2291.html	<p>On November 17, the eve of National Day of the Child, Kinark Child and Family Services will introduce a new website, www.speakingofkidsmentalhealth.ca, which provides mental health resources and support to parents, educators and professionals...</p> <p>Using an online marketing approach, the site shares stories of children and youth as well as the latest mental health news for those looking for information, opinions, professional and peer support. Blogs and support forums will feature current and relevant information to assist the growing needs of parents, teachers, professionals and youth.</p>
12/16/09	http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/12/091215112051.htm	<p>A gene involved in some forms of intellectual disability has been identified by scientists at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), as published this month in The American Journal of Human Genetics. The gene is called TRAPPC9. In the same journal two other international research teams independently confirm the findings of Dr. John B. Vincent, a scientist at CAMH, and his team. "This spotlights the intense interest that genetics is bringing to types of inherited intellectual disability that, to date, have been poorly understood," says Dr. Vincent.</p> <p>"Now that we have identified TRAPPC9 as a gene that may be associated with hundreds of thousands of cases of intellectual disability world-wide, we can build on that knowledge with research to help individuals and their families," says Dr. Vincent.</p>

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		<p>Unlike intellectual disabilities that are part of a syndrome with other medical conditions or physical abnormalities, TRAPPC9 is associated with non-syndromic types of intellectual disability; these cause up to 50 per cent of intellectual disability worldwide. "The discovery announced today sheds light on a gene for intellectual disability on one of the non-sex chromosomes," says Dr. Vincent, "just the seventh such gene that we know of." The mutation in the TRAPPC9 gene identified by Dr. Vincent's team causes the production of a truncated version of a protein and results in faulty cell function.</p> <p>Because there are no highly recognizable physical differences that are associated with the non-syndromic intellectual disabilities, it is more difficult to tease out the genetic mutations that may cause them. But researchers and families themselves have long suspected an inherited factor, based on patterns observed in extended families. Families with many affected individuals, and particular families from cultures where cousin-cousin marriages are common, have become invaluable in the search for such genes, and with recent advances in technology it is now possible to map disease-causing genes in a single family...</p> <p>Intellectual disabilities, also known as developmental delay or mental retardation, are a group of disorders defined by diminished cognitive and adaptive development. Affecting more males than females, they are diagnosed in between one and three percent of the population.</p> <p>The study was funded by grants from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and (US) NARSAD.</p> <p>Adapted from materials provided by Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.</p> <p>http://www.camh.net/</p> <p>Journal Reference: . Identification of Mutations in TRAPPC9, which Encodes the NIK- and IKK-Beta-Binding Protein in Nonsyndromic Autosomal-Recessive Mental Retardation. The American Journal of Human Genetics, December 2009</p> <hr/> <p>Related Stories</p> <p>New Gene Discovered For New Form Of Intellectual Disability (Apr. 25, 2008) — The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health has discovered a new form of intellectual disability involving mental retardation along with the eye defect retinitis pigmentosa. CAMH also discovered the ... > read more http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/04/080424092752.htm</p> <p>Fragile X Syndrome May Be Caused By Two Duplicated Genes Producing Excess Protein (Feb. 1, 2008) — Scientists have achieved a major breakthrough in discovering the causes of intellectual disability from fragile X syndrome. Intellectual disability affects 1-3% of the world's population, with 30% ... > read more http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/01/080131091343.htm</p>
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12/17/09	http://7thspace.com/headlines/329141/innovations_on_a_shoestring_a_study_of_a_collaborative_community_based_aboriginal_mental_health_service_model_in_rural_canada.html	<p>Collaborative, culturally safe services that integrate clinical approaches with traditional Aboriginal healing have been hailed as promising approaches to ameliorate the high rates of mental health problems in Aboriginal communities in Canada.</p> <p>Overcoming significant financial and human resources barriers, a mental health team in northern Ontario is beginning to realize this ideal.</p> <p>We studied the strategies, strengths and challenges related to collaborative Aboriginal mental health care.</p> <p>Methods: A participatory action research approach was employed to evaluate the Knaw Chi Ge Win services and their place in the broader mental health system. Qualitative methods were used as the primary source of data collection and included document review, ethnographic interviews with 15 providers and 23 clients; and 3 focus groups with community workers and managers.</p> <p>Results: The Knaw Chi Ge Win model is an innovative, community-based Aboriginal mental health care model that has led to improvements in care in a challenging rural, high needs environment.</p> <p>Formal opportunities to share information, shared protocols and ongoing education support this model of collaborative care. Positive outcomes associated with this model include improved quality of care, cultural safety, and integration of traditional Aboriginal healing with clinical approaches.</p> <p>Ongoing challenges include chronic lack of resources, health information and the still cursory understanding of Aboriginal healing and outcomes.</p> <p>Conclusions: This model can serve to inform collaborative care in other rural and indigenous mental health systems. Further research into traditional Aboriginal approaches to mental health is needed to continue advances in collaborative practice in a clinical setting.</p> <p>Author: Marion MaarBarbara ErskineLorrilee McGregorTricia LaroseMariette SutherlandDouglas GrahamMarjory ShawandeTammy Gordon</p> <p>Credits/Source: International Journal of Mental Health Systems 2009, 3:27</p> <p>Innovations on a shoestring: a study of a collaborative community-based Aboriginal mental health service model in rural Canada</p> <p>http://www.ijmhs.com/content/3/1/27</p> <p>Full article available for free at:</p> <p>http://www.ijmhs.com/content/pdf/1752-4458-3-27.pdf</p>
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Quebec

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12/7/09	http://www.medpagetoday.com/Psychiatry/Depression/17369 http://www.eht-forum.org/news.html?fileId=news091207055841&from=home&id=0	<p>Greater environmental lead exposure in adults -- even at levels generally considered to pose little or no risk -- was associated with an increased likelihood of depression and panic disorder, a cross-sectional survey found.</p> <p>Logistic regression analyses showed that patients whose blood levels of lead were in the highest quintile had 2.3 times the odds of major depressive disorder (95% CI 1.13 to 4.75) and 4.9 times the odds of panic disorder (95% CI 1.32 to 18.48) compared with those in the lowest quintile, according to Maryse F. Bouchard, PhD, of the University of Montreal in Quebec, and colleagues. However, higher blood levels were not associated with a greater likelihood of generalized anxiety disorder, the researchers reported in the December issue of Archives of General Psychiatry.</p> <p>Lead is a ubiquitous neurotoxicant, and despite marked declines in blood levels over the past three decades -- largely because of the removal of lead from gasoline -- significant sources of exposure remain, such as in industry and in deteriorating water pipes.</p> <p>Most research into the neurotoxic effects of lead have focused on prenatal and early-life exposures, and on very high level occupational exposures, where workers have reported neuromotor, cognitive, and mood disorders.</p> <p>But little is known about the effects of lead exposure at levels commonly experienced by adults, so the researchers analyzed data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (1999 to 2004) to investigate the relationship between blood levels of lead and psychological disorders...</p> <p>Source reference: Bouchard M, et al "Blood lead levels and major depressive disorder, panic disorder, and generalized anxiety disorder in US young adults" Arch Gen Psychiatry 2009; 66: 1313-19. http://archpsyc.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/66/12/1313</p>

New Brunswick

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
11/26/09	http://dailygleaner.canadaeast.com/cityregion/article/869745	<p>... Human rights officer Francis Young spoke about the Guideline on Accommodating Students With a Disability*, adopted by the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission** in 2007.</p> <p>The guideline is only the second of its kind in Canada, Young said...</p> <p>"It covers physical and mental disability and it also applies to parents of students who have a disability. It applies to the actual academic aspect of school, but also the extracurricular activities at school."...</p> <p>"Discipline policies cannot simply be applied blindly, irrespective of the cause of the problem," he said. "If the</p>

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		behaviour problem is simply the acting out of a disability, that has to be considered. The same applies for absenteeism. If the absenteeism is due to a disability, the school cannot simply have a uniform, blanket policy."... * http://www.gnb.ca/hrc-cdp/e/g/Guideline-Accommodating-Students-Disability-New-Brunswick.pdf http://www.gnb.ca/hrc-cdp/PDF/pamphlet-accommodating-students-disability.pdf ** http://www.gnb.ca/hrc-cdp/index-e.asp
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Nova Scotia

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
		<i>no relevant news alerts for this time period</i>

Newfoundland

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
		<i>no relevant news alerts for this time period</i>

Prince Edward Island

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
		<i>no relevant news alerts for this time period</i>

Territories

Nunavut

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
		<i>no relevant news alerts for this time period</i>

NWT

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
		<i>no relevant news alerts for this time period</i>

Yukon

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
		<i>no relevant news alerts for this time period</i>

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Other Countries

Australia

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
11/2/09	http://www.theage.com.au/national/education/enduring-bonds-20091030-hp6d.html http://www.ozteacher.com.au/html/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=443:school-bonding-plays-key-role-in-tough-transition-into-adulthood&catid=5:the-hard-word&Itemid=6	<p>School bonding, or how a teen feels about school, is the most important predictor in becoming a successful young adult, according to a landmark study of temperament.</p> <p>The finding from one of Australia's largest investigations into human development provides new insight into the crucial role schools play in the nation's social fabric.</p> <p>Teenagers' connection to school — whether they value school, hard work and their teachers — was found to be more important than their personality or their relationship with parents or peers in predicting whether they would become competent young adults.</p> <p>Researchers from the Australian Temperament Project surveyed the same group of 1158 Victorians in their late teens (15-18) and again when they were aged 19-20. Those doing well in early adulthood had much higher levels of school bonding in their late teens than the young adults who were not faring well.</p> <p>The study examined whether the young adults aged 19-20 were "doing well" according to five main factors: social competence, satisfaction with life, civic engagement, ability to trust and tolerate others, and trust in authorities and public organisations such as the courts and government.</p> <p>The survey results surprised the researchers. School bonding trumped every other factor in predicting whether teenagers developed into positive, well-adjusted young adults, regardless of their gender or social background.</p> <p>"When we were looking at the five dimensions of doing well, school bonding was the only factor that predicted all five of those dimensions," says study co-author Meredith O'Connor, who is completing her doctorate of educational psychology at Melbourne University's graduate school of education...</p> <p>Research in psychology has traditionally focused on development problems such as learning difficulties, anti-social behaviour, substance abuse or mental illness. But research scientists are increasingly turning their attention to how people learn positive behaviour and are able to function successfully.</p> <p>Ms O'Connor says the study focused on the pathways teenagers take to emerging adulthood — the years between 18 and 25 — because little is known about how they successfully navigate the journey. Young people entering adulthood face an abundance of freedom and lifestyle choices, unlike those experienced by previous generations...</p> <p>"That means young people really need to have their own competencies because the abundance of choice can make it very difficult to negotiate the next steps in life after school. If a person feels good about school and invested in their schoolwork, they're much more likely to be able to negotiate emerging adulthood than people who feel disconnected from school."</p>

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		<p>The Australian Temperament Project* is run by the Australian Institute of Family Studies** and university researchers. The longitudinal study has been tracking the lives of the same group of children since they were babies in 1983. Survey data on the group and their families is collected every few years.</p> <p>Ms O'Connor and her fellow authors, Professor Ann Sanson and Professor Erica Frydenberg, will present their study results at a conference this month.</p> <p>Ms O'Connor says the findings show the importance of fostering a student's connection with school. Schools could encourage such bonding by giving students more opportunities for leadership and involvement in school decision-making.</p> <p>At Toorak College in Mount Eliza, school psychologist Kelly O'Brien has introduced a strategy to strengthen the bonds between the school, students and neighbourhood. The school is the first outside Western Australia to adopt the Act, Belong, Commit scheme***, devised by researchers at Curtin University to help people improve their mental health. The researchers found that keeping physically and socially active (Act), being involved in family and community activities (Belong) and supporting a good cause and helping others (Commit) protected and promoted well-being.</p> <p>Under Ms O'Brien's guidance, the school has begun several initiatives including a parents book club, a community kitchen where parents cook a meal together at school, and a partnership with a kindergarten in Robinvale to send toys, clothes and other resources to disadvantaged preschoolers...</p> <p>* http://www.aifs.gov.au/atp/ ** http://www.aifs.gov.au/ http://www.aifs.gov.au/growingup/index.html *** http://www.actbelongcommit.org.au/-Our-Partners-.html</p>
11/5/09	<p>Infoxchange Australia's Community Infocast http://www.communitynews.infoxchange.net.au/infocast http://www.infoxchange.net.au/</p>	<p>The Health Issues Centre is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that promotes consumer perspectives in the Australian health system, especially for consumers who are disadvantaged. The Centre conducts policy analysis, collaborates to improve consumer participation strategies and disseminates information through the Health Issues Journal and the eNews bulletin.</p> <p>The Health Issues Centre website contains a list of current and completed projects, campaigns, policy positions and information about how you can 'participate in health'. There's also a comprehensive resource library with reports, articles, case studies, and other publications available for download. Visit www.healthissuescentre.org.au to learn more.</p>
11/21/09	<p>http://ca.linexlegal.com/index.php?cid=135885</p>	<p>Disability in Australia: multiple disabilities and need for assistance Publish Date 07 Nov 2009 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) The number and type of disabilities a person has is highly related to the severity of disability and need for assistance. This report</p>

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		<p>examines the severity of disability and complex support needs of people with multiple disabilities in Australia. The analysis examines people with multiple disabilities in different age groups: children (0-14 years), people of working age (15-64 years) and older people (aged 65 years or over). http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/dis/dis-55-10788/dis-55-10788.pdf http://www.aihw.gov.au/</p>
11/23/09	http://www.treasurer.gov.au/DisplayDocs.aspx?doc=pressreleases/2009/093.htm&pageID=003&min=njsa&Year=&DocType=	<p>AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER NEW APPROACHES TO DISABILITY</p> <p>The Productivity Commission will investigate the feasibility of new approaches for funding and delivering long-term disability care and support*...</p> <p>The inquiry forms part of the Australian Government's ten year National Disability Strategy being developed with State and Territory Governments and in consultation with the National People with Disabilities and Carer Council.</p> <p>The Productivity Commission inquiry will examine the feasibility, costs and benefits of replacing the current system of disability services with a new approach which provides long-term essential care and support for people with severe or profound disabilities however acquired.</p> <p>The inquiry will examine a range of options for long-term care and support including consideration of whether a no-fault social insurance approach to disability is appropriate in Australia. It will also examine if a scheme would fit with Australia's health, aged care, income support and injury insurance systems.</p> <p>These are complex issues that require rigorous analysis, design and costing. The feasibility study will assess whether a long-term care and support scheme would be appropriate, practical and economically responsible in the Australian context.</p> <p>The Productivity Commission will consult widely and will be assisted by an associate commissioner with specialist disability expertise. An independent panel of experts will also be established to advise the Productivity Commission and Government during the Inquiry. The Australian Government will appoint the associate commissioner and the independent panel of experts shortly.</p> <p>The Productivity Commission will report to Government in July 2011.</p> <p>Figures released last week by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare showed that around 2.3 million Australians will have a high level of disability by 2030.</p> <p>This inquiry is an opportunity to rethink how we support people with disabilities so that they can engage with their community, get a job where possible, and live a happy and meaningful life.</p> <p>The Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments have adopted a bold vision for the National Disability Strategy - an inclusive Australian society that enables people with disability to fulfil their potential as equal citizens...</p> <p>The Government has also allocated substantial new funding</p>

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		<p>under the new National Disability Agreement**, with more than \$5 billion in funding over five years to the states for specialist disability services, including supported accommodation, respite and in-home care.</p> <p>This includes the highest ever level of indexation and means that in 2013 the Australian Government's contribution will exceed \$1.2 billion, compared to \$620 million in 2007 under the previous government.</p> <p>*http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/govtint/Pages/feasibility_study.aspx</p> <p>**http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/govtint/Pages/nds.aspx</p>
11/30/09	http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/drugs-not-best-option-for-adhd-report-20091201-klx.html	<p>Australian children with hyperactivity disorders shouldn't be medicated unless their symptoms are "pervasive" and affect all aspects of life, doctors and parents have been told.</p> <p>And drugs should never be a first-line treatment for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in pre-school aged children...</p> <p>Draft treatment guidelines were released on Monday by the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP)* and the National Health and Medical Research Council**...</p> <p>The guidelines*** state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * not all people with ADHD require pharmacological management, * non-pharmacological approaches should be considered first, * medications should only be used when symptoms are pervasive across settings (school and home) and cause significant impairment, and * medication should not be used as first-line treatment for ADHD in preschool-aged children... <p>* http://www.racp.edu.au/</p> <p>** http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/</p> <p>*** http://www.racp.edu.au/index.cfm?objectid=C264B2D4-E60D-FE8E-2D6B2982854DD4BD</p> <p>http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/adhd_draft.htm</p>
12/18/09	Infoxchange Australia email	<p>Infoxchange service coordination tools are used by over 15,000 community workers</p> <p>http://www.links.infoxchange.net.au/</p> <p>Wired Community @ Collingwood is an Infoxchange Australia project to address the issue of the digital divide that is experienced by some communities. The digital divide is the gap between people with access to information and communication technology and those without. Lack of access isn't always due to economic reasons, but also because the skills needed to participate as a digital citizen just may not exist. Visit www.collingwood.vic.au/ to learn more.</p> <p>ICT Services can supply new PCs, laptops, computer components or peripheral devices, and at competitive prices. ICT</p>

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		<p>Services has relationships with some of Australia's largest computer wholesalers and can provide items ranging from high-end brand-name servers to additional RAM for notebooks, inkjet or laser printers, digital cameras, external hard drives and PDAs. ICT Services can also supply standard operating systems and software packages within 24 hours, and procure licences for major products, or provide full, boxed versions of upgraded software, complete with a CD and user manual. Considerable savings are available for not-for-profit organisations. For more information on managed support and all other services, visit www.ixa.net.au</p> <p>S2S Wait List is a convenient and affordable answer to coordinating demand for health, welfare and community services. As a centralised online database, S2S Wait List enable straightforward and equitable responses to client need across the full range of service sectors. Client demand for services is lodged centrally on S2S Wait List. Requests are then prioritised and made accessible to service networks according to categories of need. S2S Wait List saves time and effort, and ensures that the distribution of sought-after services is fair and efficient. For more information about S2S Wait List and the full range of service coordination programs, visit www.s2s.org.au</p> <p>Infoxchange Service Seeker is Australia's most extensive directory of community services, currently containing more than 240,000 records. Service Seeker is freely available online 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The directory is readily searchable by agency name, keyword and free text search and can be refined by geographic area. The information can also be provided in hardcopy & CD-ROM directories and is the basis for the S2S electronic referral system. The records provide not only contact and address information, but also detailed and precise descriptions of the services offered by the organisations providing those services. For more information about Infoxchange Service Seeker, visit www.serviceseeker.com.au</p>
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Ireland (includes Northern Ireland)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
11/5/09	http://www.insideireland.ie/index.cfm/section/news/ext/mentalhealth002/category/1095	<p>A new web-based mental health service for young people has been launched at the Science Gallery in Trinity College Dublin. ReachOut.Com is aimed at young people aged between 16-25 experiencing difficulties and can be accessed anonymously and at no charge...</p> <p>The site has established partnerships with leading Irish Non Governmental Organisations such as Headstrong and will be integrated with existing support services for young people.</p>

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		Inspire Ireland Foundation say that the link is crucial to ensuring that young people can use ReachOut.com as a starting point and seek further assistance. http://ie.reachout.com/
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New Zealand

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
		<i>no relevant news alerts for this time period</i>

Scotland

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
11/11/09	http://www.medindia.net/news/Early-Symptoms-Of-Alzheimers-And-Depression-Can-Be-Diagnosed-Using-New-Test-60691-1.htm	<p>Researchers in Scotland have developed a novel diagnostic test that can help distinguish between symptoms of depression and early Alzheimer's.</p> <p>People developing Alzheimer's face mild levels of impaired reasoning and memory that are easily mistaken for signs of depression, which in turn can lead to many patients with dementia being misdiagnosed and missing out on early treatment that could make a difference.</p> <p>Now, researchers at the University of Edinburgh found that asking patients to perform two mental tasks at the same time can help tell the conditions apart.</p> <p>Led by Professor Sergio Della Sala, the researchers compared the "dual-tasking" ability of 89 Alzheimer's patients, sufferers of chronic depression and healthy elderly individuals with no memory impairment...</p> <p>The dual task experiment consists of five stages.</p> <p>First the subject's short-term memory capacity is determined, the outcome called the "digit span".</p> <p>Then lists of digits are read to the subject who is asked to repeat the lists, which produces a "task list score".</p> <p>Stage three involves using a pencil to trace a path through a maze, giving a third score.</p> <p>In stage four, the subject repeats digit lists while tracing a path, the dual task. The final stage is a retest of stage four.</p> <p>The study has been published in the Journal of Neurology. http://www.springer.com/medicine/neurology/journal/415</p>
12/16/09	http://icperthshire.icnetwork.co.uk/tm_headline=new-guidelines-for-adult-support-launched&method=full&objectid=25405639&siteid=113960-name_page.html	<p>A NEW multi-agency set of guidelines on adult support and protection were published in Perth and Kinross on Wednesday last week (December 9).</p> <p>The guidelines have been updated to take account of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 which was implemented on October 29, 2008.</p> <p>They are designed to ensure that there is common practice across all agencies, and will be supported by joint training to develop understanding and increase awareness of adult protection issues and effective intervention...</p> <p>Adult Protection web pages http://www.pkc.gov.uk/Social+care+and+health/Help+for+Adults/ Adult Support and Protection Multi-Agency Guidelines [PDF:</p>

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		1.22MB] http://www.pkc.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/44560006-1AEF-4D9F-989B-88D794BEF567/0/ASAPguidelinesFINAL.pdf Adult Support and Protection - public leaflet [PDF: 576Kb] http://www.pkc.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/DF58349F-3A93-4145-875D-65B85E639362/0/ASAPpublicleafletFINAL.pdf
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UK

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
11/4/09	http://eatdrinkbetter.com/2009/11/04/uk-study-links-processed-foods-to-depression/ http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8334353.stm http://www.nhs.uk/news/2009/11/november/pages/processed-food-and-low-mood.aspx (Note that the NHS provides a balanced report of this study.)	<p>A study* that followed 3500 participants over five years found that subjects who ate the “UK Diet” were more likely to develop depression...</p> <p>The UK Diet has a lot in common with the Standard American Diet - it’s high in fried, processed foods and high fat dairy products. Researchers found that participants who ate a diet rich in fresh fruits, vegetables, and fish had a much lower risk for depression at the end of the five years...</p> <p>* Akbaraly TN, Brunner EJ, Ferrie JE et al. Dietary pattern and depressive symptoms in middle age. The British Journal of Psychiatry 2009, 195: 408-413 http://bjp.rcpsych.org/cgi/content/abstract/195/5/408</p>
11/4/09	http://www.disabilitycoop.com/2009/11/04/uk-survey/6050/	<p>In a survey* of over 1,250 adults with disabilities, the advocacy group Leonard Cheshire Disability found that 42 percent of British people with disabilities are struggling to live on their current income. That’s a 9 percent rise since the group did a similar study in 2007.</p> <p>“Disabled people are twice as likely to live in poverty as non-disabled people,” says John Knight, director of policy and campaigns at Leonard Cheshire Disability. “With disabled people entering the recession on a profoundly unequal footing to non-disabled people, the need for a government strategy to tackle disability poverty is now more urgent than ever.”</p> <p>Meanwhile, discrimination also appears to be increasing. Nearly 1 in 10 survey respondents said they had been a victim of a crime committed based on their disability. And, 43 percent reported that they lost out on job opportunities because of an employer’s attitude about their disability.</p> <p>*Disability Review 2009 http://www.lcdisability.org/?lid=11009</p>
11/4/09	http://www.hc2d.co.uk/content.php?contentId=13140	<p>A new website aimed at the nation’s stressed out workforce is being launched today, on National Stress Awareness Day.</p> <p>The new resource, produced by the national anti-stigma programme Time to Change, http://www.time-to-change.org.uk/employment , provides practical advice on how mental distress can be managed professionally at work. It uses a wide-range of inspiring films to show how line managers and employees can work together by being more flexible and supportive.</p> <p>The website’s launch comes as new research from the Chartered</p>

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		<p>Institute of Personnel and Development shows a quarter of UK workers describe their mental health as moderate or poor, yet 98% continue to work regularly, showing that there is a real need for all workplaces to be better equipped to manage mental health problems...</p> <p>One organisation that is leading the way on mental health is the NHS. At their annual conference 'Leading Workforce Thinking', NHS Employers today announced that it will be launching a campaign this winter to help NHS organisations support staff with mental health problems and encourage trusts to employ more staff from this vulnerable group. The Open Your Mind* campaign on mental health and employment aims to reduce mental health stigma and help employers to create a better working environment for staff with mental health problems...</p> <p>Also, later this week NICE is launching public health guidance** for employers aimed at promoting mental wellbeing at work through the development of productive and healthy working conditions. The guidance will recommend how employers can help reduce the estimated 13.7 million working days lost each year due to work related mental health conditions including stress, depression and anxiety.</p> <p>* http://www.nhsemployers.org/Aboutus/latest-news/Pages/Open-your-mind-mental-health-campaign.aspx ** http://www.nice.org.uk/ Mental health and behavioural conditions http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byTopic&o=7281&set=true Promoting mental wellbeing at work http://www.nice.org.uk/PH22</p>
11/30/09	UK Health and Learning Disability Network email	<p>A Summary of Change to Direct Payments http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_107271 Alternatively try: http://snipurl.com/thtjv</p>
12/18/09	<p>http://www.healthcanal.com/life-style-fitness/4442.html http://insciences.org/article.php?article_id=7932 http://www.otago.ac.nz/news/news/otago006366.html</p>	<p>According to a major international study across 15 countries and 34,493 people, getting married is positive for the mental health of both men and women, resulting in reduced risks of the likelihood of most mental disorders such as depression, anxiety and substance abuse.</p> <p>By contrast, ending marriage through separation, divorce or being widowed, is associated with substantially increased risk of mental health disorders in both genders; particularly substance abuse for women and depression for men.</p> <p>The wide-ranging study led by clinical psychologist Dr Kate Scott from the University of Otago Wellington is based on the WHO World Mental Health (WMH) surveys across developing and developed countries in the past decade. This world first study has been recently published in the UK journal Psychological Medicine...</p> <p>This study has been funded in New Zealand by the Ministry of</p>

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		<p>Health, the Health Research Council and the Alcohol Advisory Council and carried out in association with the WHO, Harvard University and a number of other organizations internationally.</p> <p>For further information contact Dr Kate Scott Department of Psychological Medicine University of Otago, Wellington Tel 64 6 379 7805 (Tuesday only), 64 4 385 5999 ext 6584 Email kate.scott@otago.ac.nz http://www.uow.otago.ac.nz/</p>
5/20/10	http://www.odi.gov.uk/	<p>New statistics on living standards published The latest statistics showing the living standards of disabled people are published today (20 May 2010) http://www.odi.gov.uk/research/indicators.php</p> <p>The government is working towards achieving equality for disabled people by 2025. http://www.odi.gov.uk/roadmap2025/index.php</p>

USA

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
11/4/09	http://www.reuters.com/article/idUS137544+04-Nov-2009+PRN20091104	<p>Is nutrition a feasible cure for mental health? The 1st Annual Micronutrients for Mental Health Conference, held in San Francisco at Hotel Monaco December 4th and 5th, 2009, will specifically explore this shifting paradigm...</p> <p>Peer-reviewed authors and experts from Harvard, Mt. Sinai Hospital, The University of California, and The Oakland Research Institute will discuss the vital role of vitamins, minerals, amino acids, and essential fatty acids in mental health as well as various protocols of nutrients currently being used to maximize mental health far beyond what they had previously seen using only medication.</p> <p>These researchers have discovered a powerful compound of nutrients that have effectively treated symptoms of bipolar disorder and depression with a success rate exceeding that of medication at 80%. They have also proven effective treating OCD and schizophrenia.</p> <p>First created in Canada, the unprecedented efficacy of the micronutrient compounds caught the attention of Harvard psychiatrist Charles Popper who brought the treatment to hundreds of patients. Today, thousands of documented Canadians and Americans are well on their path to freedom of mental illnesses.</p> <p>Currently micronutrients for the treatment of mental health are also being formally studied at the University of Calgary and the University of California. Several peer-reviewed articles have already been published to date...</p> <p>For more information, please visit the Micronutrients for Mental</p>

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		Health website at http://www.mmhforum.org
11/5/09	HCBS E-CLIPS CLEARINGHOUSE CLIPS http://www.hcbs.org	Arizona Links Options Counselor Online Tool Summary: Looking for ways to help consumers start planning their futures? Review this self-guided program. The Arizona ADRC has completed and implemented an online Options Counselor module, as part of the state's main ADRC web site. The Options Counselor content was crafted through the cooperation of a multi-organization committee. The site function and design was developed and implemented by the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Aging and Adult Services. See http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/2719 https://www.azdes.gov/main.aspx?menu=311&id=3670
11/5/09	HCBS E-CLIPS CLEARINGHOUSE CLIPS http://www.hcbs.org	Personal Assistance Services Curriculum Summary: The purpose of a personal assistant is to help perform tasks that a person has difficulty doing due to a disability. This curriculum, developed by Boston University's Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation, delivers training to prepare individuals to become providers for those with psychiatric disabilities. Included are three skill building components each with a trainer guide and participant workbook. See http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/2720 http://www.bu.edu/cpr/resources/pas-curriculum/
11/5/09	HCBS E-CLIPS CLEARINGHOUSE CLIPS http://www.hcbs.org	Transforming Disability Policy for Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities Summary: Transition to adulthood can be difficult for young people with disabilities, and changes in public policy are needed to give them the support to find meaningful work, stay employed, and reduce their dependency on federal and state benefits. This brief highlights the importance of improving policy, reviews lessons from research, and considers transformative policies and why such changes might be tested. It also discusses an example of the Transition to Economic Self-Sufficiency (TESS) program. See http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/2724 http://www.hcbs.org/files/161/8031/transformdisabilitybr09-01.pdf http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/pdfs/disability/transformdisabilitybr09-01.pdf http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/
11/6/09	Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities September/October 2009 Updates www.disabilitypreparedness.gov www.dhs.gov/disabilitypreparedness	Effective October 1, 2009, a new Employment and Disability Resource Page will be available at the Workforce3One website. The purposes of this page are to disseminate promising practices to promote the positive employment outcomes of people with disabilities and expand the capacity of the One-Stop Career Center system to serve customers and disabilities. The page will compile information related to disability and employment in one location on Workforce3One and along with the addition of a new “Disability” super search category will make it easier for users to find information. This new Employment and Disability Resource

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		<p>Page can be found at http://www.workforce3one.org/page/communities</p> <p><i>June 20-23, 2010</i> <i>World Conference on Disaster Management (WCDM) 2010</i> <i>Metro Toronto Convention Center</i> Toronto, Canada The World Conference on Disaster Management (WCDM) is the pre-eminent conference of its kind—providing the opportunity to gain valuable education, training and best practices. The WCDM brings together experts and practitioners, certifying bodies, service and product suppliers for Emergency Management, Business Continuity, and other Disaster Management disciplines. For more information, see http://www.wcdm.org/Toronto/aboutwcdm.html or http://www.wcdm.org/.</p> <p><i>July 12-15, 2010</i> <i>Rebuilding Sustainable Communities with Elderly & Disabled People After Disasters</i> University of Massachusetts Boston, Massachusetts This conference will bring together specialists and stakeholders from around the globe to share information and experiences and to develop strategies around some of the core issues concerning the place of the elderly, and people with disabilities in local, regional, national, and international post-disaster reconstruction policies, plans and programs. The conference will seek to contribute to, and recommend, future policy formulation and implementation processes by local, regional, and national governments as well as multilateral agencies and grass-roots organizations. For more information, see http://www.rebuilding.umb.edu/rscepd</p> <p><i>About the Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities</i> The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties oversees the implementation of Executive Order 13347, Individuals with Disabilities in Emergency Preparedness, which was signed by President Bush in July 2004. This Executive Order is designed to ensure the safety and security of individuals with disabilities in all-hazard emergency and disaster situations. To this end, the Executive Order created an Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities. The ICC is comprised of senior leadership from more than 25 Federal departments and agencies. Its mission is to ensure that people with disabilities and their specific needs are fully integrated into all aspects of our nation's emergency management system; including mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The Secretary of Homeland Security is the Chair of the ICC, and this</p>
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		<p>role has been delegated to the DHS Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. The Council has concentrated its work in nine major areas:</p> <p>(1) Emergency Communications; (6) Housing; (2) Emergency Preparedness in the Workplace; (7) Nongovernmental Outreach; (3) Emergency Transportation; (8) Research; and (4) Health and Human Services; (9) State, Local, and Tribal Government Outreach (5) Homeland Security Policy and Operations;</p> <p>For more information about the ICC, see www.disabilitypreparedness.gov</p>
11/9/09	<p>http://www.pcworld.com/article/181800/intel_makes_a_n_ereader_for_the_visually_impaired.html</p> <p>http://blogs.wsj.com/digits/2009/11/10/intel-offers-an-e-reader-with-a-difference/</p> <p>http://www.product-reviews.net/2009/11/11/intel-reader-for-users-with-learning-disabilities/</p>	<p>Intel Makes an E-reader for the Visually Impaired Intel will start selling a nifty new e-reader that can snap pictures of books and newspapers and then read them back to people who have a hard time reading the printed page. Called the Intel Reader, the US\$1,499 device assists people who are blind, dyslexic or have weak vision, said Ben Foss, the director of access technology with Intel's Digital Health Group, who came up with the idea for the reader. "It's designed to give them independence and access to reading." ... The device can play back scanned items, but it also supports MP3s, WAV files, text files and the DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) format, used to publish books for people with reading problems. The battery can power about four hours of playback between charges. The reader has a special user interface designed for people who have a hard time reading, and it can play back audio at varying speeds. Foss likes to hear playback at the almost comically high-pitched speed of 200 words per minutes, which he likens to speed-reading. http://www.intel.com/healthcare/reader/index.htm</p>
11/19/09	<p>HCBS E-CLIPS CLEARINGHOUSE CLIPS http://www.hcbs.org</p>	<p>Analysis of Risk Communication Strategies and Approaches With At-risk Populations to Enhance Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery: Final Report Summary: In this report, the authors present the results of an assessment that involved review of the literature on emergency preparedness risk communication and public health messaging strategies; the compilation of educational and outreach materials for emergency preparedness communication with vulnerable populations; and site visits in three states and the Washington DC area to identify gaps in the practice of risk communication with vulnerable populations. http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/2729 http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/reports/2008/emergfres.htm http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/reports/2008/emergfr.pdf</p>
11/19/09	<p>HCBS E-CLIPS CLEARINGHOUSE CLIPS http://www.hcbs.org</p>	<p>Pathways to Success, 2008: The Stories of Real People - Connecticut</p>

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		<p>Summary: Connect-Ability’s goal of enhancing and supporting employment for people with disabilities is informed in large part by the experiences of people with disabilities themselves. The Pathways to Success project collects information on individual experiences, on an ongoing basis through periodic in-person interviews. With this information, the findings will be used to inform not only state agency policy, but also potential employers, so that they may better assist job seekers with disabilities.</p> <p>http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/2737 http://www.hcbs.org/files/162/8058/MIG_Report.pdf</p>
11/23/09	Disability.gov <disability@dol.gov>	<p>Subject: Disability.gov Civil Rights News & Events Update: Title II of Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act Takes Effect</p> <p>On November 21, 2009 Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) took effect. GINA prohibits discrimination by health insurers and employers based on individuals' genetic information. Genetic information includes the results of genetic tests to determine whether someone is at increased risk of acquiring a condition (such as some forms of breast cancer) in the future, as well as a person's family medical history. For more information about Title I provisions of the law relating to health coverage read The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008: Information for Researchers and Health Care Professionals.</p> <p>http://www.genome.gov/ http://www.genome.gov/Pages/PolicyEthics/GeneticDiscrimination/GINAInfoDoc.pdf</p>
11/23/09	http://www.disability.gov/education/educator_resource/instructional_strategies	<p>Professional Development in UDL http://www.cast.org/pd/ Guided by the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL)*, the Center for Applied Special Technology's (CAST) professional development courses offer educators flexible instructional materials, methods and assessments to meet the varied needs of all students, especially students with disabilities.</p> <p>http://www.cast.org/index.html * http://www.udlcenter.org/aboutudl/udlguidelines</p> <p>CAST UDL online modules http://udlonline.cast.org/home</p>
11/23/09	http://www.disability.gov/technology/accessable_technology	<p>An Introduction to the Screen Reader A 6-minute video that demonstrates how screen readers assist people who are blind navigate the web, access the electronic page and more. A transcript of this video is also available</p> <p>http://www.doit.wisc.edu/accessibility/video/intro.asp</p>
11/23/09	http://www.disability.gov/employment/jobs_&_career_planning/vocational_rehabilitation	<p>Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Success Stories http://www.rehabnetwork.org/success_stories/success_stories.htm Success stories describing how people with disabilities in several states have been able to return to school and work by working with their state VR department. Find your state's vocational rehabilitation agency.</p> <p>http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/Programs/EROD/org_list.cfm?category_ID=SVR</p>

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11/30/09	http://www.cnn.com/2009/HEALTH/conditions/11/30/autism.study/index.html	<p>Researchers have shown for the first time that if a child is diagnosed with autism as early as 18 months of age, offering the toddler age-appropriate, effective therapy can lead to raised IQ levels and improved language skills and behavior...</p> <p>While [Geraldine] Dawson was at the University of Washington, she and co-study author Sally Rogers from the University of California-Davis M.I.N.D. Institute devised the trial involving 48 children with autism.</p> <p>All the children in the trial were between 1 1/2 and 2 1/2 years old at the beginning of the study. Half of the children were given community-based interventions or therapies and the other half were enrolled in a 20-hour per week intervention program called "Early Start Denver Model" (ESDM), developed by Rogers...</p> <p>"It's a very pleasing kind of therapy, kids are happy. It is play, and it can happen everywhere," Rogers explains. Dawson adds that this type of intervention builds on a fun, positive relationship with the therapist. This is a contrast to traditional Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA), which is delivered at a desk, with the child sitting next to the teacher or therapist, who breaks down complex tasks into small components and then gives tangible reinforcements.</p> <p>At the end of two years, all of the children showed improvements. But children in the ESDM group had increased their IQ by nearly 18 points -- 10 points higher than the children getting the standard autism therapy offered in the community. Scores for listening and understanding as well as motor skills and self-care skills were all higher in the ESDM group.</p> <p>"Many of the children had virtually caught up to the typical kids their age," says Dawson.</p> <p>Rogers says parents can pick up the ESDM therapy methods quite easily...</p> <p>The study's authors also noted that the children in the ESDM group required only 15 hours of weekly intervention with a therapist, compared with the usual 40 recommended hours...</p> <p>"This is a good-news story" says Dr. Fred Volkmar, director of Yale University's Child Study Center and an autism expert...</p> <p>Volkmar says this is a "well-done study, an important study." He says it shows that by effectively intervening at this young age, it is possible to prevent some of the early problems autism causes. Rogers acknowledges that this study is only the first step. "Every piece of science needs to be replicated before it becomes fact, so we are currently doing a replication study," she said.</p> <p>For more information on how to recognize autism, EDMS and other possible therapies, go to http://www.autismspeaks.org/ and http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/mindinstitute/.</p>
12/2/09	http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/besttreatments/2009/dec/02/toddlers-with-autism-may-benefit-from-early-treatment	<p>Intensive early treatment and education can improve the abilities of toddlers with autism to communicate and raise their IQ, new research suggests. The study is the first of its kind to look properly at treatment for children this young...</p> <p>Children who'd had the intensive treatment programme had improved IQ scores, were able to communicate better, and got on</p>

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		<p>better in everyday life.</p> <p>The children's IQ scores went up fastest in the first year of treatment, then stabilised. Their scores on questionnaires measuring 'adaptive behaviour' (how they communicate and manage in everyday life) stayed stable for their age-group during the study. This means they were keeping up with the changes in behaviour expected as children get older.</p> <p>The adaptive behaviour scores of children who'd not had intensive treatment got worse. They had a small improvement in IQ, but much less than the children with intensive treatment. Seven of the 24 children who'd had intensive treatment improved to the point that they were no longer categorised as having autism by the end of the study (although they still had pervasive developmental disorder). Only one of the children not given intensive treatment was recategorised in this way...</p> <p>The study was carried out by doctors and researchers from several universities in the US. It was published in the medical journal Pediatrics. It was funded by a grant from the US government's National Institute of Mental Health...</p> <p>From: Dawson D, Rogers S, Munson J, et al. Randomized, controlled trial of an intervention for toddlers with autism: the Early Start Denver Model. Pediatrics. Published online 30 November 2009.</p>
12/9/09	http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/carnegie-mellon-scientists-discover-first-evidence-of-brain-rewiring-in-children-78880442.html	<p>Carnegie Mellon University scientists Timothy Keller and Marcel Just have uncovered the first evidence that intensive instruction to improve reading skills in young children causes the brain to physically rewire itself, creating new white matter that improves communication within the brain.</p> <p>As the researchers report today in the journal Neuron, brain imaging of children between the ages of 8 and 10 showed that the quality of white matter -- the brain tissue that carries signals between areas of grey matter, where information is processed -- improved substantially after the children received 100 hours of remedial training. After the training, imaging indicated that the capability of the white matter to transmit signals efficiently had increased, and testing showed the children could read better.</p> <p>"Showing that it's possible to rewire a brain's white matter has important implications for treating reading disabilities and other developmental disorders, including autism," said Just, the D.O. Hebb Professor of Psychology and director of Carnegie Mellon's Center for Cognitive Brain Imaging (CCBI).</p> <p>Dr. Thomas R. Insel, director of the National Institute of Mental Health, agreed. "We have known that behavioral training can enhance brain function. The exciting breakthrough here is detecting changes in brain connectivity with behavioral treatment. This finding with reading deficits suggests an exciting new approach to be tested in the treatment of mental disorders, which increasingly appear to be due to problems in specific brain circuits," Insel said.</p> <p>Keller and Just's study was designed to discover what physically changes in the brains of poor readers who make the transition to</p>

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		<p>good reading. They scanned the brains of 72 children before and after they went through a six-month remedial instruction program. Using diffusion tensor imaging (DTI), a new brain imaging technique that tracks water movement in order to reveal the microscopic structure of white matter, Keller and Just found a brain change involving the white matter cabling that wires different parts of the brain together.</p> <p>"Water molecules that are inside nerve fibers tend to move or diffuse parallel to the nerve fibers," explained Keller, a CCBI research scientist and author of the first developmental study of compromised white matter in autism. "To track the nerve fibers, the scanner senses areas in which many water molecules are moving along in the same direction and produces a road-map of the brain's wiring."</p> <p>Previous DTI studies had shown that both children and adults with reading difficulty displayed areas of compromised white matter. This new study shows that 100 hours of intensive reading instruction improved children's reading skills and also increased the quality of the compromised white matter to normal levels. More precisely, the DTI imaging illustrated that the consistency of water diffusion had increased in this region, indicating an improvement in the integrity of the white matter tracts.</p> <p>"The improved integrity essentially increases communication bandwidth between the two brain areas that the white matter connects, by a factor of 10," Just said. "This opens a new era of being able to see the brain wiring change when an effective instructional treatment is applied. It lets us see educational interventions from a new perspective."</p> <p>Out of the 72 children, 47 were poor readers and 25 were reading at a normal level. The good readers and a group of 12 poor readers did not receive the remedial instruction, and their brain scans did not show any changes. "The lack of change in the control groups demonstrates that the change in the treated group cannot be attributed to naturally occurring maturation during the study," Keller said.</p> <p>Keller and Just also found that the amount of change in diffusion among the treated group was directly related to the amount of increase in phonological decoding ability. The children who showed the most white matter change also showed the most improvement in reading ability, confirming the link between the brain tissue alteration and reading progress.</p> <p>Additional analyses indicated that the change resulted from a decrease in the movement of water perpendicular to the main axes of the underlying white matter fibers, a finding consistent with increased myelin content in the region. Although the authors caution that further research will be necessary to uncover the precise mechanism for the change in white matter, some previous findings indicate a role for electrical activity along axons in promoting the formation of myelin around them, providing a plausible physiological basis for intensive practice and instruction increasing the efficiency of communication among</p>
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		<p>brain areas. "We're excited about these results," Just said. "The indication that behavioral intervention can improve both cognitive performance and the microstructure of white matter tracts is a breakthrough for treating and understanding development problems." The research was funded by grants from the Richard King Mellon Foundation and the National Institute of Mental Health. For more information on Just, a pioneer in brain science discoveries, Keller and Carnegie Mellon's Center for Cognitive Brain Imaging, visit www.ccbi.cmu.edu Carnegie Mellon (www.cmu.edu)</p>
FYI	http://www.archive.org	<p>http://www.archive.org/about/about.php The Internet Archive is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that was founded to build an Internet library. Its purposes include offering permanent access for researchers, historians, scholars, people with disabilities, and the general public to historical collections that exist in digital format. Founded in 1996 and located in San Francisco, the Archive has been receiving data donations from Alexa Internet and others. In late 1999, the organization started to grow to include more well-rounded collections. Now the Internet Archive includes texts, audio, moving images, and software as well as archived web pages in our collections, and provides specialized services for adaptive reading and information access for the blind and other persons with disabilities.</p>
12/22/09	<p>HCBS E-CLIPS CLEARINGHOUSE CLIPS http://www.hcbs.org</p>	<p>Collaborating and Coordinating with Employers Summary: The National Technical Assistance and Research Center to Promote Leadership for Increasing the Employment and Economic Independence of Adults with Disabilities has released Collaborating and Coordinating with Employers, a brief that illustrates key research findings, outlines existing strategies and practices that are advancing the concept of disability and business collaboration, and provides resources that further illuminate effective strategies and examples of these collaborations. http://www.hcbs.org/files/164/8157/NTAR_Issue_Brief_3_Collaborating_Coordinating.pdf http://www.ntarcenter.org/files/NTAR_Issue_Brief_3_Collaborating_Coordinating.pdf http://www.ntarcenter.org/ The National Technical Assistance and Research Center to Promote Leadership for Increasing Employment and Economic Independence of Adults with Disabilities (NTAR Leadership Center) is a collaboration of partners with expertise in workforce development, disability employment, economic development, financial education, benefits planning, and leadership development.</p>

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12/22/09	HCBS E-CLIPS CLEARINGHOUSE CLIPS http://www.hcbs.org	<p>Consumer Satisfaction with Self-Direction West Virginia Personal Options</p> <p>Summary: Interested in how self-directed options in the 1915(c) Medicaid Aged and Disabled Waiver program are succeeding? In June of 2008 PPL, a nationwide company that provides financial management and supports for self-directed programs, conducted a survey of all 241 participants enrolled in Personal Options for the West Virginia Bureau for Medical Services. The attached report, includes results and summary. http://www.hcbs.org/files/164/8168/WV_survey_results_brief.pdf</p>
12/22/09	HCBS E-CLIPS CLEARINGHOUSE CLIPS http://www.hcbs.org	<p>Helping You to Be An Employer: Community Residence Brochure</p> <p>Summary: Developed by an FMS provider, this handout offers guidance to participants on becoming employers, through fiscal intermediary services, as determined in their Person Centered Plan. http://www.hcbs.org/files/164/8161/CLN_brochure_080519.pdf http://www.communityresidence.org/</p>
12/22/09	HCBS E-CLIPS CLEARINGHOUSE CLIPS http://www.hcbs.org	<p>Improving Direct Care Work: Integrating Theory, Research and Practice</p> <p>Summary: This paper presents a broad overview of the direct-care workforce. The authors examine issues such as wages, benefits, training, worker retention rates, staff satisfaction, and the importance of worker-focused "culture change" initiatives in long-term care settings. They conclude that the quality of direct-care jobs must be increased in order to attract a "stable and competent" workforce, and point to research that suggests ways to create more collaborative, effective, and satisfying jobs. Source: Alfred P. Sloan Foundation http://www.sloan.org/ http://www.hcbs.org/files/163/8120/ochsner-leana-appelbaum-improving-direct-care-work-2009.pdf http://www.directcareclearinghouse.org/l_art_det.jsp?res_id=297710 http://healthcare-ic.lerablog.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/ochsner-leana-appelbaum-improving-direct-care-work-2009.pdf</p> <p>America's premier online library for materials related to the direct-care workforce. PHI's National Clearinghouse on the Direct Care Workforce is a national online library for people in search of solutions to the direct-care staffing crisis in long-term care. http://www.directcareclearinghouse.org/index.jsp</p>
12/22/09	HCBS E-CLIPS CLEARINGHOUSE CLIPS http://www.hcbs.org	<p>Innovations Clearinghouse on Family Caregiving</p> <p>Summary: FCA launched this online community promoting professional knowledge around families in their caregiving role is now available. The site offers resources to help policymakers, professionals and family caregivers develop caregiver-friendly legislation or initiatives, implement caregiver support programs or services, and access information to enhance the delivery of quality care. Interactive site features include an online forum and</p>

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		<p>user submissions. http://caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content_node.jsp?nodeid=2319 http://caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/home.jsp</p>
12/22/09	<p>HCBS E-CLIPS CLEARINGHOUSE CLIPS http://www.hcbs.org</p>	<p>Self-Determination: The Fierce Urgency of Now An Invitational State of the Science Summit Summary: The SAMHSA and NIDRR-funded UIC National Research and Training Center on Psychiatric Disability has recently posted a series of podcasts and slides from their 2009 Summit on Self-Determination: The Fierce Urgency of Now. A range of leading national experts present on such topics as: self-directed care, eliminating disparities, microenterprises, asset building, WRAP, peer specialists, and many more. Source: Center on Mental Health Services Research and Policy http://www.psych.uic.edu/MHSRP/ http://www.cmhsrp.uic.edu/nrtc/summit2009/summit-products.asp</p>
12/22/09	<p>HCBS E-CLIPS CLEARINGHOUSE CLIPS http://www.hcbs.org</p>	<p>Workforce3 Website - New Disability And Employment Resource Summary: Workforce3 One, an online resource sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, has a new Disability and Employment Resource Page to provide employment-related resources for the workforce system. This page outlines promising practices and expands the capacity of the One-Stop Career Center system to serve customers disabilities. The resource page includes videos and podcasts, toolkits and training materials, promising practices, and other materials. http://www.workforce3one.org/</p>
12/22/09	<p>HCBS E-CLIPS CLEARINGHOUSE CLIPS http://www.hcbs.org</p>	<p>Workplace Accommodations: Low Cost, High Impact - Fact Sheet Summary: What is the cost of providing job accommodation? Recent amendments to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) refocused attention on workplace accommodations by broadening the definition of disability. This increased attention has some employers concerned about the costs of providing job accommodations. However, a study conducted by the Job Accommodation Network (JAN), shows that workplace accommodations not only are low cost, but also positively impact the workplace in many ways. http://www.hcbs.org/files/164/8171/LowCostHighImpact.pdf http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/2768 http://askjan.org/</p>
12/18/09	<p>http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/article_2e2ad898-ec2d-11de-8119-001cc4c002e0.html</p>	<p>Nebraska's three major waiver programs, which allow federal funds to be spent on community programs for people with developmental disabilities, got the highest rating possible by federal reviewers. The federal team found Nebraska "substantially meets" all review areas, said Jodi Fenner, director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities in the Department of Health and Human Services...</p>

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		<p>The federal inspection program assures the state has systems in place so people receive quality services from qualified providers. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services* reviews how often division staff go into communities where people live and work to observe and monitor the services being provided; whether those individuals are getting training and supports in safe environments; and how division staff review provider files to ensure provider staff are trained, treat people with dignity and respect, and bill the state accurately...</p> <p>The Nov. 30 final report** is a testament to the hard work of the people involved, including those in the Public Health and Medicaid divisions, she said...</p> <p>* http://www.cms.gov/</p> <p>** http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/developmental_disabilities/</p>
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