

**Environmental Scan¹ – Relevant News on Disability Issues
(April, 2010) (Note: Contains excerpts of copyrighted material.)**

Canada

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

Provinces – Eastern Canada

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
4/8/10	http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/April2010/07/c8295.html	<p>Recently, a team of Canadian scientists led by Dr. Tom Kovesi, a pediatric respirologist at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario in Ottawa, Canada, performed a randomized double-blind, placebo controlled trial(1) to determine whether use of heat recovery ventilators (HRV) would increase home ventilation and therefore reduce the risk of lower respiratory tract illness in young children. The team's verdict? Use of HRVs was associated with an improvement in air quality and reductions in reported respiratory symptoms in children.</p> <p>The study represents one of the most important conclusions made to this day on indoor air quality in single family dwellings. It was performed in the polar region of Qikiqtaaluk, Nunavut, which has the highest reported rate of hospitalization for a severe respiratory viral infection in infants in the world. Many of these infants need to be flown to Children's hospitals in Ottawa for treatment and serious long-term pulmonary complications may follow these infections. In collaboration with the local Nunavut Housing Corporation, researchers studied homes in 4 communities. After a search for HRVs capable of performing under extreme cold (-40 C), and appropriate consents were granted, housing units were retrofitted with Constructo(TM) 1.0 HRV units made by Venmar Ventilation...</p> <p>Dr. Kovesi's study concluded that improving ventilation through the use of HRV devices was associated with an improvement in indoor air quality and significantly reduced the incidence of important respiratory symptoms in young Inuit children. "Many elements got our attention," says Dr Kovesi. "First, the mean indoor CO2 level in homes with active HRVs was 33% lower than in homes with placebo ventilators (disconnected). Indoor CO2 concentration is important as it reflects home ventilation, and our previous research has shown that increased indoor CO2 (or reduced ventilation) is associated with higher risk of lower respiratory tract infections in children. Rates of reported wheezing and rhinitis were significantly lower in the active HRV group". Dr Kovesi also points out that "the HRVs also significantly reduced relative humidity...</p> <p>Visit www.healthyairstudy.com to learn how HRVs work...</p>

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Provinces – Western Canada

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Other Countries

Australia

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
4/1/10	http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life/relationships/work/Preteenteeism--a-new-workplace-problem/articleshow/5731917.cms	<p>Presenteeism is emerging as the new workplace scourge, which is eating away at company profits and costing Australian businesses almost 6 billion dollars in lost productivity each year, according to a new study.</p> <p>The opposite of absenteeism, when workers take sick days for being unwell, presenteeism is when employees continue turning up to work but their productivity and effectiveness is reduced. Depression, anxiety and other psychological stresses have been found to be the biggest contributors to lost productivity among workers.</p> <p>In the study, researchers monitored the work productivity of more than 60,000 full-time employees for chronic and acute physical and mental health conditions. Out of 20 different physical and mental conditions, the research found mental health was the single largest contributor to lost productivity, followed by musculoskeletal problems.</p> <p>University of Queensland professor of psychiatry and population health Harvey Whiteford, who helped conduct the research, said 9.6 per cent of employees had moderate psychological distress and a further 4.5 per cent had high psychological distress...</p> <p>"A significant number of people respond to short-term face-to-face or telephone counselling when you get to them early," the Courier Mail quoted him as saying.</p> <p>The study has been published in the Australia and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry .</p> <p>http://www.ranzcp.org/latest-news/new-australian-new-zealand-journal-of-psychiatry.html</p>

Ireland (includes Northern Ireland)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
4/16/10	http://www.smh.com.au/digital-life/smartphone-apps/autism-iphone-breakthrough-from-tantrums-to-appy-days-20100416-sjil.html	<p>Few can legitimately boast that an iPhone app changed their life but for 10-year-old Grace Domican, unable to speak due to autism, the touchscreen phone has given her a voice for the first time.</p> <p>Her mother, Lisa Domican, created a picture-based iPhone application to help her communicate and the tool was so successful she is now trialling it in a school for autistic children in Ireland.</p> <p>Domican, who was born in Australia and lived here until she moved to Ireland in 2001, is also planning to provide it to</p>

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		<p>schools in Australia and is selling both iPhone and iPad versions on the iTunes App Store.</p> <p>Aspect*, Australia's largest non-profit organisation providing support for people with autism, has expressed interest in trialling the app with its clients, while Domican said she had also been in contact with the Woodbury School in Baulkham Hills.</p> <p>The Grace app** is essentially a digital version of the Picture Exchange Communications System - a book of laminated pictures attached to a board by velcro that allows children with autism to build sentences and communicate.</p> <p>Children with autism are often unable to use and understand expressive language because the developmental disability means those parts of the brain don't work. Some children with autism go on to develop speech, while others never do.</p> <p>As the child learns new words via pictures they are added to the PECS book, a system that quickly becomes unwieldy, particularly outside the home setting...</p> <p>Last year, Domican tracked down an iPhone developer, Steve Troughton Smith, who helped her make the app. Since the pictures used by Grace were owned by a company, Domican had to draw sketches of each image she would need for a basic vocabulary and then contracted an artist to make professional, digital versions...</p> <p>* http://www.autismspectrum.org.au/a2i1i114451487/welcome.htm ** http://hammie-hammiesays.blogspot.com/2010/04/grace-app-itouch-iphone-and-therefore.html http://blog.steventroughtonsmith.com/2010/03/grace-picture-exchange-for-non-verbal.html</p>
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New Zealand

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Scotland

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UK

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4/1/10	http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/183980.php	<p>Launch Of Children And Young People's Mental Health Coalition*</p> <p>In response to concern about the high level of mental and emotional distress experienced by children and young people living in the UK, a coalition of charities will today - at the House of Lords - launch their plans to protect and improve the mental health of those up to the age of 25...</p> <p>The Children and Young People's Mental Health Coalition will seek to influence policy and practice on a range of issues and in the first year will focus on four streams:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Early Years - to include equipping parents with the knowledge and tools to improve their children's mental wellbeing as well as their own. 2. Building Emotional Resilience - to resource children with self awareness and resilience to meet the challenges of growing up and enjoy good mental health. 3. Reaching Adulthood - to ensure adequate provision of care and flexible services for those entering into and adjusting to adulthood. 4. Seldom Heard Voices - to ensure that minority groups are able to access good quality support from services. <p>The coalition's core members are Action for Children, Children England, Family Action, the Mental Health Foundation, Mind, the National Children's Bureau, Place2Be, Right Here, Rethink, The Prince's Trust, YoungMinds, Young Scotland in Mind, Youth Access, Youth Action and YouthNet...</p> <p>* http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/children-and-young-people-coalition/ http://www.youngminds.org.uk/</p>
4/7/10	http://www.gamasutra.com/view/news/28011/UK_Students_Develop_Eye_MovementSensing_Pong_for_Disabled_Gamers.php	<p>Students from Imperial College London have modified an open source version of the 1972 arcade game Pong to allow physically disabled players to control in-game paddles using eye movements.</p> <p>Players wear special glasses that use infrared light and a webcam to track the motion of one eye. A laptop linked to the webcam processes eye movement and maps it to one of two player-controlled paddles in Pong.</p> <p>The student developers note that the technology could be adapted for use in more advanced games and other applications, including eye-controlled wheelchair movement and computer cursors...</p> <p>(note from a comment:)</p> <p>There are tons of games people can play with existing eye-tracker technology, long detailed by the likes of COGAIN and SpecialEffect.</p> <p>GameBase reviews of eye-gaze games: http://www.gamebase.info/magazine/category/18531</p> <p>OneSwitch Blog info on eye-gaze games: http://switchgaming.blogspot.com/search/label/eye%20trackers -</p>

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		<p>...</p> <p>And you can get a free web-cam based eye-tracker here: http://switchgaming.blogspot.com/2009/03/myeye-project-free-eye-tracker.html</p>
10/25/10	<p>http://www.pierprofessional.com/jldobflyer/sample.htm 1</p>	<p>People with learning disabilities placed out of area: the South London experience Eddie Chaplin, Katerina Kelesidi, Heidi Emery, Jean O’Hara, Jill Lockett and Jane McCarthy Behavioural and Developmental Clinical Academic Group, Institute of Psychiatry King’s College London and Estia Centre, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, Kings’ Health Partners, UK</p> <p>Abstract The closure of long-stay National Health Service (NHS) hospitals has seen the placement of people with learning disabilities who offend or have offending-type behaviours placed ‘out of area’ many miles from local services. This move of people out of area has made it difficult in many localities to develop local services and to monitor the quality of care for this group. This paper describes the start of an exercise to examine potential local care pathways for those who present with offending behaviours and to look at differences between the out of area group, and another receiving treatment locally. Within the two groups we found no significant differences regarding rates of psychiatric disorder, quality of life or levels of unmet need. The main difference was that the out of area group was largely characterised by a range of aggressive and challenging behaviour, necessitating the additional structure and securities provided by out of area placements. http://www.pierprofessional.com/jldobflyer/downloads/JLDOB-1.3.pdf [I have a copy of the article – Duncan]</p>

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USA

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4/1/10	Training Resource Network (TRN) Disability Update - April, 2010 http://www.trninc.com/	Works for Me Employment Campaign in Pennsylvania Since launching the “Works for me” campaign in mid-October, the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare announces that nearly 1,000 inquiries have been fielded via phone and email, and nearly 15,000 visits have been made to the Works for me web site. The site is a free resource that directs individuals to agencies and programs that help people with disabilities in Pennsylvania get a job. http://www.WorksForMe-PA.org
4/1/10	Training Resource Network (TRN) Disability Update - April, 2010 http://www.trninc.com/	Autism and Employment Mentoring System Piloted Special education professor Ann X. Huang at Duquesne University has developed a mentor system for workers with autism and Asperger Syndrome on the job. The mentors stay with the employees throughout the work shift and coach them on how to interact with bosses, co-workers and customers. http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/10088/1046417-114.stm
4/1/10	e-clips@hcbs.org Clearinghouse clips	ArkWrkDisabilities' YouTube Channel - Arkansas http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/3060 Summary: Personal stories of successful employment speak volumes of a Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) program's success and are a great marketing tool. Arkansas created a YouTube channel called ArkWrkDisabilities where it showcases inspiring video clips of Arkansans with disabilities who are successfully employed. This approach could be useful to other states trying to find ways to get the word out about their MIG programs. http://www.youtube.com/user/ArkWrkDisabilities
4/1/10	e-clips@hcbs.org Clearinghouse clips	Community Innovations for Aging in Place (CIAIP) http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/3043 Summary: CIAIP was authorized by Congress to assist communities in their efforts to enable older adults to sustain their independence and age in their homes and communities. Grantees are striving to assess their communities to identify barriers to aging in place and collaborate with other community organizations to identify innovative strategies for linking older individuals to programs that provide comprehensive and coordinated health and social services. Visit this website for more information. http://www.ciaip.org/index.php
4/1/10	e-clips@hcbs.org Clearinghouse clips	Do Participant-Directed Workers Require The Same Training As Agency Workers? Using Research To Inform Policy http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/3070 Summary: While intended to assist new participant direction partners, a wider audience may benefit from this review of directly-hired workers' characteristics, experiences, and training

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		<p>needs compared to agency-hired workers. This policy brief draws on research from two large scale participant-directed options for people with diverse disabilities: the Cash & Counseling Demonstration and Evaluation (CCDE) and the California In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program.</p> <p>http://www.hcbs.org/files/180/8989/IssueBriefTraining.pdf National Resource Center for Participant-Directed Services http://www.bc.edu/schools/gssw/nrcpds/</p>
4/1/10	e-clips@hcbs.org Clearinghouse clips	<p>National Legal Resource Center (NLRC) Website http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/3045 Summary: Visit this website, launched by the HHS Assistant Secretary for Aging. The Center was created to empower legal and aging services advocates with resources necessary to provide high quality legal help to seniors who are facing threats to their ability to live independently in their homes and communities. Website features include best practices, tools for finding legal service providers, news stories, upcoming events, case consultation, technical assistance and more. http://www.nlrc.aoa.gov/</p>
4/1/10	e-clips@hcbs.org Clearinghouse clips	<p>Strategies for Improving DSW Recruitment, Retention, and Quality: What We Know about What Works, What Doesn't, and Research Gaps http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/3044 Summary: Review strategies states can adopt to increase recruitment and retention of direct-care workers and to improve the quality of the care those workers provide. Reported strategies include increasing wages and benefits, introducing peer mentoring programs, and giving workers a greater say in decision-making. The findings also suggest a targeted approach to recruitment, focusing on groups currently underrepresented in the direct-care workforce, such as men, immigrants, and older workers. http://www.hcbs.org/files/179/8930/Strategies_Improving_Recruitment_Retention.pdf CMS National Direct Service Workforce Resource Center www.dswresourcecenter.org/</p>
4/1/10	e-clips@hcbs.org Clearinghouse clips	<p>The Best and Worst State Practices in Medicaid Long-Term Care http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/3058 Summary: Explore how Medicaid policies have been used in some states to expand the range and availability of services. Third in a series, this brief explains why these policies lead to so much variation in current state Medicaid long-term care programs. It also draws lessons from innovative states to suggest reforms in national Medicaid policies that would make home and community based services accessible to more program participants. http://www.hcbs.org/files/180/8982/HowesMedicaidPolicyBrief.pdf Direct Care Alliance www.directcarealliance.org/</p>

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4/1/10	e-clips@hcbs.org Clearinghouse clips	<p>Training for Physicians-Clinical Decision-Making - Arizona http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/3057 Summary: Can physicians help prevent needless work disability? Evidence-based clinical decision-making that helps patients start, stay at, or return to work, is the topic of this presentation. Given to the medical community, it outlines work related issues that may not seem to be a medical issue, but should be, and how to assess this. This presentation is focused on preventing needless work disability, providing resources and takeaway tools, and includes a survey. http://www.hcbs.org/files/180/8956/Training_for_Physicians-Clinical_Decision-Making.pdf Webility Corporation http://www.webility.md/</p>
4/1/10	e-clips@hcbs.org Clearinghouse clips	<p>Village to Village Network (VtV) http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/3048 Summary: Network with 'Villages' that are sprouting up in communities across the country. These initiatives allow people affordable options for staying in their own homes, and to remain active, independent, and civically connected to their communities. The Village to Village Network is an informal association of these groups, a national peer to peer network to help communities establish and continuously improve their Villages whether in large metropolitan areas, rural towns, or suburban settings. http://vtvnetwork.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=0&club_id=691012</p>
4/1/10	e-clips@hcbs.org Clearinghouse clips	<p>Workforce Infrastructure in Support of People with Disabilities: Matching Human Resources to Service Needs http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/3050 Summary: Review national trends, gaps and barriers that threaten both the availability and quality of future services for people with disabilities. Research in this report has been aimed at better positioning the human resources sector for the future. Recommendations include identifying opportunities for public-private sector partnerships, promoting opportunities to encourage new entrants into critical occupations, and to establish systematic efforts to acquire information on worker supply. http://www.hcbs.org/files/180/8985/NCDWorkforce508.pdf National Council on Disability http://www.ncd.gov/</p>
4/8/10	RRTCADD_NEWS	<p>"Impact: Feature Issue on Aging and People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities" (Winter 2010) offers fresh, practical, and challenging perspectives on supporting aging individuals with disabilities and their families. Published by the Institute on Community Integration, University of Minnesota, it includes articles from individuals with disabilities, service providers, advocates, family members, and researchers. Covering topics ranging from family relationships, spirituality, and health to community inclusion, futures planning, and "what growing older</p>

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		<p>means to me," this issue of Impact is an important resource for readers as they journey with the aging adults with disabilities who are in their lives.</p> <p>Special Issue Editors include Tamar Heller, Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Aging with Developmental Disabilities, University of Illinois at Chicago; Philip B. Stafford, Center on Aging and Community, Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, Indiana University, Bloomington; Leigh Ann Davis, The Arc of the United States; and Lori Sedlezky and Vicki Gaylord, Research and Training Center on Community Living, University of Minnesota.</p> <p>Impact is available online at no cost at http://ici.umn.edu/products/impact/231</p>
4/12/10	<p>Intersection: Navigating the Road to Work, the electronic newsletter of the National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth) http://www.ncwd-youth.info/</p>	<p>Office of Disability Employment Policy-Funded Website Features Resources on Disability Employment http://www.whatcanyoudocampaign.org</p> <p>The Campaign for Disability Employment is a collaborative effort between several disability and business organizations that seek to promote positive employment outcomes for people with disabilities by encouraging employers and others to recognize the value and talent they bring to the workplace, as well as the dividend to be realized by fully including people with disabilities at work.</p> <p>The web site offers a range of education and outreach tools, all designed to engage employers, people with disabilities, family and educators, and the general public. The site features on-line forums, grassroots tools, links to trusted resources that provide disability employment-related information, and more.</p>
4/12/10	<p>Intersection: Navigating the Road to Work, the electronic newsletter of the National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth) http://www.ncwd-youth.info/</p>	<p>NAMI Launches Social Networking Site for Young Adults http://www.strengthofus.org</p> <p>The National Alliance on Mental Illness has launched StrengthofUs.org, a new online community where young adults living with mental health concerns can provide mutual support in navigating unique challenges and opportunities during the critical transition years from ages 18 to 25. Developed by young adults, StrengthofUs.org is a user-driven social networking community where members can connect with peers; share personal stories, creativity, and helpful resources; write and respond to blog entries; engage in discussion groups; and share videos, photos, and other news.</p>
4/12/10	<p>Intersection: Navigating the Road to Work, the electronic newsletter of the National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth) http://www.ncwd-youth.info/</p>	<p>Finance Project Issues Brief on Financing Strategies for Youth-Serving Organizations in a Difficult Economy http://www.financeproject.org/publications/CuttingCostKeepingQuality.pdf</p> <p>The Finance Project released "Cutting Cost, Keeping Quality: Financing Strategies for Youth-Serving Organizations in a Difficult Economy." This brief highlights financing strategies that successful youth-serving organizations are using to maintain quality services despite difficult economic times. Drawing on interviews with leaders of 17 successful youth programs, the</p>

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		brief illustrates how organizations have aggressively managed costs, creatively generated new revenues, and created partnerships to mitigate the effects of funding cuts. In-depth examples help leaders understand how to implement and adapt these strategies to their unique context.
4/13/10	http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/apr/13/eating-salads-fish-could-help-prevent-alzheimers/	<p>A team of medical researchers from Columbia University Medical Center has identified a "protective diet" that lowers the risk of Alzheimer's disease, according to research released Monday in the Archives of Neurology, a publication of the American Medical Association.</p> <p>"We identified a dietary pattern that was strongly protective against the development of Alzheimer's disease," the researchers said.</p> <p>"The results of the current study indicate that higher consumption of certain foods (salad dressing, nuts, fish, tomatoes, poultry, cruciferous vegetables, fruits, dark and green, leafy vegetables), and lower of others (high-fat dairy, red meat, organ meat and butter) may be associated with a decreased risk of developing Alzheimer's." For the veggie-challenged, the "cruciferous" variety includes kale, broccoli, cauliflower, brussels sprouts and cabbage. "Dark and green" means just that: Romaine lettuce, spinach, watercress and collard greens.</p> <p>The Columbia research team, which consisted of neuroscientists, epidemiologists and physicians, based its conclusions on a study of 2,141 adults 65 and older.</p> <p>The participants — along with their diets — were closely monitored for four years. Each reported what items they regularly ate in 30 different food groups, and received a physical and neurological evaluation every 18 months. The researchers honed in on seven specific nutrients that have been consistently reported to either prompt or prevent mental decline.</p> <p>Saturated fats "have negative effects of cognitive functions" while poly- or mono-unsaturated fats, vitamin B-12, folate and vitamin E were associated with "better cognitive function and a lower risk of Alzheimer's disease in elderly individuals."</p>
4/21/10	http://ac360.blogs.cnn.com/2010/04/21/resources-for-parents-with-disabilities/	<p>... In the meantime, we found a wealth of information and resources about parenting with disabilities. The National National Center for Parents with Disabilities and their Families (also known as Through the Looking Glass) is a non-profit agency that provides services, information and referrals, consultation, training, materials, and research programs concerning families in which a parent, grandparent, or child has a disability or medical issue...</p> <p>http://www.lookingglass.org/home</p>
4/22/10	http://www.michiganpolicy.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=764:co-occurring-mental-health-and-substance-abuse-disorders&catid=43:health-care-policy-briefs&Itemid=159	<p>Co-occurring Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorders</p> <p>In the mental health arena the presence of two or more disorders at the same time is referred to as co-occurring disorders. The National Survey on Drug Use and Health, a project of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) within the Federal Department of Health and Human</p>

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		<p>Services, predicted that in 2008 25.2% or 2.5 million people with severe mental illness were also associated with past year substance dependence or abuse (compared with 8.3% of adults associated with past year substance dependence or abuse without severe mental illness). Within the 2.5 million adults with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders, 60.5 percent received mental health care or substance use treatment at a specialty facility; 11.4% received both mental health care and specialty abuse treatment, 45.2% received outpatient services, and 7.5% received inpatient services for a mental health problem. According to SAMHSA, people with mental and substance use disorders are largely excluded from the current health care system and are forced to rely on public safety net programs...</p> <p>Sources: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/4702_05_01_09_276415_7.pdf http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/4702_5_1_08_246082_7.pdf http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/4702_05_01_07_209085_7.pdf http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2009-2010/publicact/pdf/2009-PA-0131.pdf http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/Encounter_Code_Modifier_Memo_197870_7.pdf http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2941_49697-139522--,00.html http://www.samhsa.gov/About/background.aspx http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/nsduh/2k8nsduh/2k8Results.pdf http://www.samhsa.gov/</p>
4/25/10	Disability.gov Weekly Digest Bulletin http://www.disability.gov/	<p>Transition Update: Assessment - A Quick Reference Guide Describes formal and informal assessments, standardized testing and the process of collecting information that can be used in decision-making, career-planning and service plan development for a young person.</p> <p>http://www.disability.gov/employment/youth_programs/school_to_work http://www.ncwd-youth.info/assets/guides/quick_reference_guides/assessment.pdf http://www.ncwd-youth.info/</p>
4/25/10	Disability.gov Weekly Digest Bulletin http://www.disability.gov/	<p>An Employer's Guide to Child & Adolescent Mental Health The effects of child and adolescent mental health disorders can have a significant impact on family members, caregivers and the workplace, and parent caregivers are much more likely to experience work absences and even loss of a job as a result. This guide was developed to help employers improve the delivery of child and adolescent behavioral health services, as well as provide services for family caregivers.</p> <p>http://www.disability.gov/employment/employing_people_with_disabilities/hr_tools_&_resources http://www.businessgrouphealth.org/pdfs/CAMH_Guide_LoRes.pdf</p>

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Other International

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
4/7/10	http://www.newsinferno.com/archive/antipsychotics-linked-to-pneumonia-in-elderly/	<p>An emerging study of nearly 2,000 patients has revealed that using antipsychotic medications in elderly patients doubles the risk for fatal pneumonia, wrote the BBC, citing Dutch researchers. The increased risk appears soon after commencement of treatment and calls for increased monitoring of elderly patients requiring this type of treatment, said the BBC. Citing an expert review published last year, the BBC said the study found that antipsychotics are often over used and blamed for up to 1,800 deaths in the United Kingdom annually, said the BBC. The most recent research was published in the Annals of Internal Medicine* and looked at the health records of 258 over-65-year-old patients with pneumonia and 1,686 patients without pneumonia, said the BBC, which added that 25 percent of those diagnosed with pneumonia died within one month...</p> <p>On a number of occasions we have written about the dangerous issue surrounding the dosing of medications to the elderly, specifically antidepressants, antipsychotics, and sedatives. Sometimes these medications are given for seemingly pointless reasons and, on occasion, these medications appear to be linked to falls and other accidents in the elderly. Science Daily just reported that such accidents among the elderly are “significantly” linked with these drugs—sedatives to help patients sleep and drugs used to treat mood disorders—citing a study conducted by an expert in “pharmaceutical outcomes research” out of the University of British Columbia...</p> <p>* http://www.annals.org/</p>
4/27/10	http://234next.com/csp/cms/sites/Next/News/Metro/5558579-146/factsheet_on_persons_with_disabilities_csp	<p>Factsheet on persons with disabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> >Around 10 percent of the world’s population, or 650 million people, live with a disability. They are the world’s largest minority... >Eighty percent of persons with disabilities live in developing countries, according to the UN Development Programme (UNDP). >Disability rates are significantly higher among groups with lower educational attainment in the countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), says the OECD Secretariat. >The World Bank estimates that 20 percent of the world’s poorest people have some kind of disability, and tend to be regarded in their own communities as the most disadvantaged... >According to UNICEF, 30 percent of street youths have some kind of disability... >Comparative studies on disability legislation shows that only 45 countries have anti-discrimination and other disability-specific laws...

**Environmental Scan¹ – Relevant News on Disability Issues
(April, 2010) (Note: Contains excerpts of copyrighted material.)**

		<p>>Unemployment among the persons with disabilities is as high as 80 percent in some countries. Often, employers assume that persons with disabilities are unable to work...</p> <p>>In some countries, up to a quarter of disabilities result from injuries and violence, says WHO.</p> <p>>Persons with disabilities are more likely to be victims of violence or rape, according to a 2004 British study, and less likely to obtain police intervention, legal protection, or preventive care...</p> <p>(Source: www.un.org)</p>
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