

**Environmental Scan¹ – Relevant News on Disability Issues
(Jan-Feb, 2011) (Note: Contains excerpts of copyrighted material.)**

Canada

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
1/6/11	Caledon Institute of Social Policy	Caledon Institute: Provincial/Territorial Policy Index December 2010 The Caledon Institute of Social Policy (www.caledoninst.org) regularly scans provincial and territorial government websites in order to follow policy developments related to our core work and interests. This tracking is intended to inform our analysis of policy trends. http://www.caledoninst.org/Publications/PDF/918ENG.pdf
1/19/11	http://gamefwd.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=385:fwd-news-virtual-reality-a-key-asset-in-psychology-and-rehabilitation&catid=53:virtual-worlds&Itemid=57	Virtual reality is a field where researchers are only beginning to explore the full possibilities. A world where anything is possible could theoretically be a tool in an unlimited number of situations. Several active studies in virtual reality are making some significant findings, showing that immersive computer simulations have the potential to help in the treatment of certain psychological problems, assist patients in physical and neurological rehabilitation and even serve as a pain reliever. Experts at the Cyberpsychology Lab* of the University of Quebec in Outaouais, in Gatineau, Canada, have been studying various psychology applications to virtual reality since 2000. Led by Dr. Stéphane Bouchard, the Lab is currently working on a series of projects evaluating the power of immersive technology in such areas as gambling prevention, anxiety and panic disorders. As part of an ongoing study on social anxiety, the Lab is studying the effectiveness of practicing virtual interactions in addition to traditional talk therapy. "I just think it's a fantastic idea to be able to experience situations where you know that the worst cannot happen," said Gary, a 47-year-old public servant who participated in the pilot project. "You know that it's controlled and gradual and yet feels somehow real." The variety of emulated situations in which patients can see themselves is growing in depth and breadth, thanks to constantly improving virtual intelligence and graphics modelling. But the accuracy is not essential for the immersive experience to take place. The University of Quebec in Outaouais will be the host the 16th Annual CyberTherapy and CyberPsychology Conference** from June 19 to 22, 2011, organized in collaboration with the Interactive Media Institute... * http://w3.uqo.ca/cyberpsy/en/index_en.htm ** http://www.interactivemediainstitute.com/CT16/
1/26/11	http://www.stockhouse.com/News/USReleasesDetail.aspx?n=8030692	Research and Markets (http://www.researchandmarkets.com/research/70d8ed/fetal_alcohol_spec) has announced the addition of John Wiley and Sons Ltd's new book "Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: Management and Policy Perspectives of FASD" to their offering. Reflecting the recent increased public awareness of the topic, this

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		<p>is the first and most comprehensive resource for over a decade on the molecular basis, prevalence, treatment options, socioeconomic impact and prevention strategies of FASD. Edited by world-renowned experts, this compendium includes the latest research results to provide new insights and realistic estimations of FASD frequencies in Western communities... Key Topics Covered: <i>[excerpts only]</i> ... 3. Frequency of FASD in Canada and What This Means for Prevention Efforts ... 13. The Manitoba FASD Youth Justice Program: Addressing Criminal Justice Issues ... 16. The Impact of FASD: Children with FASD Involved with the Manitoba Child Welfare System... 17. British Columbia's Key Worker and Parent Support Program: Evaluation Highlights and Implications for Practice and Policy... 21. A Cross-Ministry Approach to FASD Across the Lifespan in Alberta... Author: EDWARD P. RILEY is a Distinguished Professor in Psychology and Director of the Center for Behavioral Teratology, San Diego State University... STERLING CLARREN is CEO and Scientific Director of the Canada Northwest FASD Research Network and Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the University of British Columbia, Canada, and the University of Washington, Seattle.... OANNE WEINBERG is Professor and Distinguished University Scholar in the Department of Cellular & Physiological Sciences at the University of British Columbia.... EGON JONSSON is Executive Director and CEO of the Institute of Health Economics, and Adjunct Professor at the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary, public health services.... http://www.researchandmarkets.com/research/70d8ed/fetal_alcohol_spectrum_disorder_management_and</p>
2/18/11	<p>http://www.canadaviews.ca/2011/02/18/5-4-million-advances-progress-on-waitlist/</p> <p>http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=04adf486-164d-417d-8364-76643bbcc6a7</p>	<p>The Government of Saskatchewan continues to deliver on its four-year, \$76.9 million commitment to eliminate the waitlist of 440 Saskatchewan people with intellectual disabilities who require programs and services, following approval of the latest instalment of \$5.4 million in funding under this initiative. To date, services for 316 individuals – or 72 per cent of the waitlist – have been initiated or are under development with community-based organizations across Saskatchewan. With this new \$5.4 million capital investment, a minimum of 343 people – or 78 per cent of individuals on the waitlist – will be served in 2011-12... The October 2008 announcement of the \$76.9 million initiative included \$27.8 million in funding for capital projects. It is the largest investment in Saskatchewan history to support people with intellectual disabilities... http://www.gov.sk.ca/ http://www.socialservices.gov.sk.ca/community-living/</p>

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Other Countries

Australia

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
2/16/11	<p>http://au.ibtimes.com/article/s/112734/20110216/coag-endorses-australia-s-first-national-disability-strategy.htm</p> <p>http://www.probonoaustralia.com.au/news/2011/02/coag-endorses-road-map-disability-reform</p>	<p>The first national strategy to provide a long term road map for improving the lives of Australians with disability, their families and carers has been endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG)*...</p> <p>The strategy is the product of extensive consultation across the country – more than 2,500 people with disability and their carers had their say in its development. . .</p> <p>“Agreement of the National Disability Strategy** by Commonwealth, state and territory Governments is a major step forward. It will result in real improvements in the lives of people with disability.”</p> <p>“It is the first time in our history that all governments have committed to a unified, national approach to improving the lives of people with disability, their families and carers,” Senator McLucas said.</p> <p>“The strategy sets a 10-year reform plan for all governments to address the barriers faced by Australians with disability and will ensure that mainstream services and programs including healthcare, housing, transport and education, address the needs of people with disability... .</p> <p>Six community participation initiatives to remove barriers and expand opportunities for people with disability and their carers support the strategy.</p> <p>These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$5 million to support Local Governments to make public spaces more accessible; - \$3 million to support leadership development for people with disability; - \$1 million to promote liveable housing design; - \$1 million to provide digital playback devices and improved access to digital content in public libraries; - \$500,000 to improve cinema access for people with hearing and vision impairment; - \$500,000 for the disability website, Ramp Up*** ... <p>* http://www.coag.gov.au/</p> <p>**</p> <p>http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/govtint/Pages/nds.aspx</p> <p>http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/govtint/nds_2010_2020/Documents/National_Disability_Strategy_2010_2020.pdf</p> <p>*** http://www.abc.net.au/rampup/</p>

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Ireland (includes Northern Ireland)

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2/3/11	http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/community-telegraph/sport/new-sports-guidelines-aim-to-address-disability-issues-15072727.html	<p>Disability Sports NI and Sport Northern Ireland launched their new sports facility access guidelines at the House of Sport last week, with the help of two local up and coming athletes. Paralympic Ireland swimmer Johnny Cummings and Team GB wheelchair basketball player Paul McKillop launched the guidelines, entitled ‘Access To Sports Facilities For People With Disabilities: Design & Management Guidelines’ (2010 Edition), which aim to help ensure that all new, extended and altered sports facilities in Northern Ireland meet the best possible levels of good practice in terms of access for people with disabilities. The guidelines which are also endorsed by Northern Ireland’s main disability rights organisation, Disability Action, are based on optimum levels of best practice in relation to the design and management of facilities which fully meet the needs of disabled sports people...</p> <p>The guidelines are available free of charge from www.dsni.co.uk and www.sportni.net</p>
2/5/11	http://www.craegmoor.co.uk/industry-news/article/800383639/new-mental-health-initiative-launched-in-northern-ireland/ http://news.ulster.ac.uk/releases/2011/5616.html	<p>A major mental health research initiative has been launched at the University of Ulster's McGee campus in Northern Ireland. Researchers from the university revealed fresh evidence regarding the problems of Northern Ireland's mental health problems at the launch.</p> <p>A study carried out by the new Bamford Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing found Northern Ireland's rates of mental health disorders were among the highest in a survey of 17 regions and countries.</p> <p>A booklet has also been published to mark the launch of the Bamford Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing...</p> <p>http://www.ulster.ac.uk/campus/magee/ http://www.mindwisenv.websolutionsni.com/index.php/MindWise/bamford-centre-for-mental-health-and-wellbeing-university-of-ulster-magee.html http://www.mindwisenv.websolutionsni.com/index.php</p>
2/17/11	http://www.llm-guide.com/article/569/nui-galway-announces-disability-law-llm-program	<p>The School of Law of the National University of Ireland (NUI)*, Galway has announced it will launch an new LL.M. program in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy** in September.</p> <p>The new, one-year program will draw on the expertise of the law school's Centre for Disability Law and Policy (CDLP)***.</p> <p>According to the university, this area of law "is experiencing significant growth, with the introduction of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which in turn has resulted in the development of disability strategies at international, regional and national level."</p> <p>* http://www.nuigalway.ie/ ** http://www.nuigalway.ie/cdlp/llm.html *** http://www.nuigalway.ie/cdlp/index.html</p>

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New Zealand

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		<i>nothing relevant for this time period</i>

Scotland

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
1/27/11	http://gpstrackinginfo.com/gps-enables-disabled-students-to-travel-alone/1862	<p>GPS Enables Disabled Students to Travel Alone</p> <p>Students with special needs have historically been forced to deal with the stigma and inconvenience of being chaperoned whenever they traveled to and from school. Now the BBC News has reported that this may, at least in the UK city of Edingburgh, be coming to a long-awaited halt in the near future. GPS tracking devices, educators in that well-known city have found, have been remarkably effective at allowing these youth to make the journey to and from school unattended. School officials have used the personal tracking technology to follow the movements of these adolescents with disabilities as they move about the sidewalks and streets of Scotland's capital.</p> <p>What kind of technologies are being used here? The Scottish children are being outfitted with GPS units that feature a real time tracking capability. A perfect example of such a device is the Quantum Mini-Q, a massively popular personal tracking piece of hardware that uses an excellent web-based software platform. The tracking systems use both satellites and cell phone networks to transmit the student's current location back to the web. Parents, teachers and other authorized individuals can retrieve this tracking information from any web-enabled device, such as smartphones and laptops.</p> <p>GPS has been so useful for tracking these young people that the Scottish city is seriously considering outfitting all pupils in special needs schools with real time tracking devices. Hopefully public officials in other cities and nations will realize the benefits that employing GPS tracking devices can have on the dignity of these special children.</p>

UK

<i>Date</i>	<i>Link (location)</i>	<i>Summary (Excerpts)</i>
1/30/11	http://www.kingstonpeople.co.uk/groups/kingstonuniversity/Kingston-Prof-Developing-Handheld-Device-Elderly/story-10634867-detail/story.html	<p>Kingston University Professor Nigel Walford* is developing a handheld device to allow elderly and disabled people to find their way around town and city centres.</p> <p>After 2 years in development the professor of Applied Geographical Information Systems is developing a prototype and looking for industry backers.</p> <p>While the device allows people to map their journeys using GPS it differs from other satellite navigation systems as it indicates such things as where items of street furniture are, where pavements are narrow or where stairs are. This allows those with limited mobility to avoid streets that are physically difficult for them to navigate...</p>

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		<p>Professor Walford was one of the principle investigators on the Older People's Use of Unfamiliar Space or OPUS project**. The OPUS project is a multi-disciplinary research programme backed by 7 different research councils into improving older people's quality of life. It is the most ambitious research into ageing in the UK...</p> <p>* http://science.kingston.ac.uk/faculty/staff-directory/view_profile.php?id=48</p> <p>** http://www.fastuk.org/research/projview.php?id=1323 http://www.esrc.ac.uk/my-esrc/grants/RES-352-25-0003/readpdf report: http://www.esrc.ac.uk/my-esrc/grants/RES-352-25-0003/outputs/Download/18348cce-3513-4a48-a78e-538d9563fb5e http://www.esrc.ac.uk/my-esrc/grants/RES-352-25-0003/outputs/ConferencePaper/Read/9e9e15b2-5195-433e-a293-3e2a55ef3679</p>
2/2/11	http://www.nursingtimes.net/nursing-practice/clinical-specialisms/learning-disability/website-offers-top-tips-on-caring-for-people-with-learning-disabilities/5025015_article	<p>A new website, offering practical tips on supporting people with learning disabilities, is proving popular with healthcare providers for its hands-on approach.</p> <p>www.Netbuddy.org.uk provides solutions to issues many learning disability nurses will recognise, such as: how to administer medicines comfortably, how to manage constipation, how to communicate with someone who is non-verbal and how to cope with challenging behaviour.</p> <p>All the tips are contributed by people with first-hand experience of learning disability...</p> <p>Nursingtimes.net - http://www.nursingtimes.net - is partnering with Netbuddy to update nurses with the latest helpful tips on caring for people with learning disabilities. Over the coming months, we'll be publishing tips on nursingtimes.net and encouraging you to share your ideas on www.Netbuddy.org.uk.</p> <p>For more on learning disability nursing, see www.nursingtimes.net/nursing-practice/clinical-specialisms/learning-disability</p>
4/7/11	<p>LDHealthNetwork http://www.learningdisabilities.org.uk/</p>	<p>Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives: The Strategy for Adults with Autism – Evaluating Progress http://www.ldhealthnetwork.org.uk/docs/full.pdf</p> <p>This guidance and self-assessment framework is to help support Local Authorities and NHS organisations and their partners to implement the statutory guidance 'Implementing 'Fulfilling and rewarding lives' in their localities.</p> <p>UK Department of Health Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives: Evaluating progress http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_125703 Best Practice Guidance http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_125724.pdf</p>

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USA

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1/10/11	http://www.stuff.co.nz/life-style/wellbeing/4525354/Shortland-Streets-eating-disorder-link	<p>A link between television viewing and teenage girl eating disorders is so strong that even girls that do not have access to TV can pick up problems through friends who do, a major Harvard Medical School study of Fiji girls reveals.</p> <p>If a girl's friends watched television she had a 60 per cent increase in the odds of having a high level of eating disorder symptoms, independent of her own viewing.</p> <p>Boston based researchers have been studying the link between TV viewing and eating disorders in Fiji for over a decade. According to a Harvard press release, the study shows that turning off television is not enough.</p> <p>"It turns out indirect media exposure, ie, having friends who watch a lot of TV, might be even more damaging to a teenager's body image," the university says.</p> <p>Lead author Anne Becker, vice chair of the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School, says Fiji was an ideal location for the research because of the recent arrival of television, in the 1990s, and the significant regional variations in exposure to TV, the internet and print media...</p> <p>"If you are going to think about interventions, it would have to be at a community or peer-based level."...</p>
1/11/11	http://www.necn.com/01/11/11/New-agreement-reached-on-developmentally/landing_health.html?&blockID=3&apID=2ed0f5e751f54e92adf092f538273b2e	<p>A new settlement in a civil rights case could affect nearly 10,000 adults with developmental disabilities in Illinois, giving more independence to some and allowing others to stay in large institutions.</p> <p>The compromise agreement, filed Tuesday in federal court in Chicago, takes into account the objections of families who worried a prior version would have forced their family members out of residential facilities. A federal judge rejected the earlier version in 2009 after receiving 2,500 written objections.</p> <p>This time, it's more clearly spelled out that the state can't divert money from large private facilities to pay for community services and that residents who are happy living in the institutions could stay where they are.</p> <p>But institution residents instead could choose to move to smaller homes and get support services, such as help learning to cook, shop and apply for jobs.</p> <p>The agreement affects 6,000 adults who receive state aid and live in privately operated care facilities. Residents of state-operated facilities aren't affected by the agreement.</p> <p>Illinois' Medicaid program also would be required to offer services to an additional 3,000 adults living at home with aging parents or other family members...</p> <p>he agreement sets a six-year timetable for Illinois to offer community-based housing to adults who want to move out of licensed facilities with nine beds or more. There are about 240 such facilities throughout Illinois.</p>

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		<p>The state also must maintain a waiting list of people who want community-based services but don't currently live in institutions. Within six years, the state must provide services to 3,000 of those adults, including 1,000 during the first two years... Adults with developmental disabilities would have six years to decide whether to join the class represented in the settlement, said Barry Taylor, legal advocacy director for Chicago-based Equip for Equality, one of the groups that filed the original lawsuit in 2005...</p> <p>_____</p> <p>The case is <i>Ligas v. Hamos</i>.</p>
1/20/11	e-clips@hcbs.org Clearinghouse clips	<p>Supporting the Supervisor: Helpful Information for Information & Assistance Supervisors - Toolkit http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/3435 Summary: The information and assistance (I&A) service is a cornerstone of the ADRC. This guide provides tools that I&A supervisors can use to cultivate, mentor and maintain a top-notch team of professionals. It incorporates tools developed and used by two ADRC's in Wisconsin, and includes tools for recruitment and hiring, ongoing communication, training, and performance feedback and appraisal. A number of sample forms are provided. http://www.hcbs.org/files/199/9911/SupportingSupervisors.pdf</p>
2/3/11	e-clips@hcbs.org Clearinghouse clips	<p>Weathering the Storm: The Impact of the Great Recession on Long-Term Services and Supports http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/3475 Summary: The recession continues to affect state programs for older individuals and adults with physical disabilities. Demand for publicly funded services has grown, and resources, including staff, are stretched thin, according to this new 50-state study. 31 states have cut non-Medicaid aging and disability services programs in FY 2010, and 28 states were expecting to cut these programs in FY 2011. Find the research report, brief, video and compiled State profiles. Source: AARP Public Policy Institute, Health Management Associates, National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) http://www.aarp.org/health/health-care-reform/info-10-2010/health-panel-10201.html http://www.aarp.org/ http://www.hcbs.org/files/201/10003/StateProfiles.pdf http://www.hcbs.org/files/201/10002/Brief.pdf http://www.hcbs.org/files/201/10001/ResearchReport.pdf</p>
2/3/11	e-clips@hcbs.org Clearinghouse clips	<p>Briefing on State Medicaid Programs, the Recession and Health Reform – Archived Resources http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/3451 Summary: The Kaiser Family Foundation's Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured (KCMU) held a briefing to examine the challenges facing states as they continue to struggle with the lingering impacts of the recession and begin preparing to implement health reform. Find links to three reports released at</p>

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		<p>the event, archived presentations, video, podcast, transcript, agenda and more. http://www.kff.org/medicaid/Briefing-on-State-Medicaid-Programs-Recession-Health-Reform.cfm http://www.kff.org/</p>
2/3/11	e-clips@hcbs.org Clearinghouse clips	<p>Funding & Sustainability – NCOA Website http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/3434 Summary: Explore unique approaches to help your nonprofit achieve "organizational abundance", including ideas, strategies, and the latest information about how to get more resources. Check out this site which offers “12 Sources of Millions & Billions for Aging Services & Programs” including tapping into self-pay, strategic partnerships and alliances, in-kind support, health insurance and third-party pay options and more. Source: National Council on Aging http://www.ncoa.org/strengthening-community-organizations/funding-sustainability/ http://www.ncoa.org/</p>
2/3/11	e-clips@hcbs.org Clearinghouse clips	<p>Status and Trends in the Direct Support Workforce in Consumer-Directed Supports – Journal Abstract http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/3455 Summary: Self-directed programs that allow individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to exercise greater control over their finances have become increasingly common, however challenges in the recruitment, retention and training of direct support workers have grown more acute. In this article, the authors investigate the status of the Direct Support workforce for people using self-directed supports in one Midwestern state, based on the results of a statewide survey of service users. Source: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) http://www.aaid.org/ http://www.aaidjournals.org/doi/abs/10.1352/1934-9556-48.5.345?journalCode=mere Article Citation: Matthew Bogenschutz*, Amy Hewitt, Jennifer Hall-Lande and Traci LaLiberte (2010) Status and Trends in the Direct Support Workforce in Self-Directed Supports. Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: October 2010, Vol. 48, No. 5, pp. 345-360. * contact boge0021@umn.edu for reprints</p>
2/3/11	e-clips@hcbs.org Clearinghouse clips	<p>Transition to Adult Life for Students with Disabilities http://www.hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/nb/doc/3457 Summary: This guidebook explains what schools need to do when providing transition services to youth with disabilities. It is written to parents with a primary emphasis on the legal rights of students with disabilities during the transition years. Although developed for residents of Pennsylvania, much of the information can be useful for assisting individuals in other states as well.</p>

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		<p>Source: Education Law Center http://www.hcbs.org/files/200/9964/Transition.pdf http://www.elc-pa.org/pubs/downloads/english/dis-Transition%20to%20Adult%20Life%20Students%20w-Disabilites%208-07.pdf http://www.elc-pa.org/</p>
2/11/11	<p>http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/national-council-on-disability-to-present-developmental-disabilities-act-report-findings-at-disability-policy-seminar-115869804.html</p>	<p>... at the 2011 Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C., to present major findings and recommendations from NCD's newest report regarding the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) and the programs the law created... he report, titled Rising Expectations: The Developmental Disabilities Act Revisited, is the culmination of a study NCD contracted for in 2009 that researched how well the programs established by the DD Act are meeting the needs of people with developmental disabilities and their families. The report presents findings of the research and offers several recommendations to develop a more uniform national policy and improve program supports and services for people with developmental disabilities..</p> <p>http://www.ncd.gov/ http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2010/rising_expectations_02-15-11.pdf http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2010/rising_expectations_02-15-11.html</p>
22/28/11	<p>Training Resource Network Disability Update https://trn-store.com/ http://www.trninc.com/</p>	<p>Report: Services Fragmented and Wait Lists Hurting People with Disabilities</p> <p>In a newly released US report by the National Council on Disability, people with developmental disabilities are found to lack access to supports in the community to ensure adequate access to health care, housing, and employment. Significant issues remain in some areas, including transitions from school age to adulthood, use of assistive technology, and support for children with disabilities in foster care. Most of the current challenges can be reduced to four underlying issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the system is complex and fragmented; 2. services vary dramatically by state; 3. long waiting lists restrict access to services; 4. and attitudes of the public are outdated. <p>http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2010/rising_expectations_02-15-11.pdf http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2010/rising_expectations_02-15-11.html http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/</p>

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Other International

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2/3/11	http://www.balkans.com/op-en-news.php?uniquenumber=92060	<p>Bacteria living in the gut appear to influence brain development and adult behaviour, according to new EU-funded research published in the journal the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*. The findings** suggest that the colonisation of our guts by microbes in early life may be key to healthy brain development. The research may also have implications for our understanding of psychiatric disorders.</p> <p>EU support for the work comes from the TORNADO ('Molecular targets open for regulation by the gut flora - new avenues for improved diet to optimize European health') project, which has been allocated EUR 5.9 million under the 'Food, agriculture and fisheries, and biotechnology' Theme of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). The aim of TORNADO is to shed light on the influence of diet on the gut microbes and in turn the influence of these microbes on the immune system and other organ systems. TORNADO started in 2009 and is slated to end in 2013...</p> <p>In this study, scientists from the Karolinska Institute and Stockholm Brain Institute in Sweden, together with colleagues from the Genome Institute of Singapore, set out to investigate the influence of 'normal' gut microbes on brain development and function.</p> <p>The team compared the behaviour of mice that had been raised with normal microorganisms with mice that had been raised in a microorganism-free environment ('germ-free' mice). Experiments showed that the germ-free mice were more active than their microbe-bearing counterparts and also engaged in more 'risky' behaviour. Exposing germ-free mice to microbes early on in life resulted in adults that behaved in a similar way to mice that had been exposed to bacteria from birth. However, colonising adult germ-free mice with bacteria did not affect their behaviour; they continued to act like germ-free mice.</p> <p>'The data suggests that there is a critical period early in life when gut microorganisms affect the brain and change the behaviour in later life,' commented the lead author of the paper, Dr Rochellys Diaz Heijtz of the Karolinska Institute and the Stockholm Brain Institute.</p> <p>An analysis of gene activity in the brains of the two groups of mice revealed differences in the activity levels of genes involved in learning, memory and motor control...</p> <p>* http://www.pnas.org/ ** http://www.pnas.org/content/108/7/3047.abstract?sid=046f4d1a-6b07-47e4-8e5a-562e071b290c</p>

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2/8/11	http://www.drcutler.com/news/adults-who-have-adhd-may-have-higher-risk-of-developing-dementia-800390623/	<p>A new study published in the European Journal of Neurology* has found that adults who suffer from attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) have three times the risk of developing dementia, compared to peers without this behavioral condition.</p> <p>Argentinian researchers evaluated a total of 360 patients with degenerative dementia and compared them to 140 healthy control subjects. Approximately 48 percent of the patients with neurodegenerative symptoms – such as memory loss – had previously suffered from adult ADHD...</p> <p>* http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1468-1331/issues</p> <p>Article: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1468-1331.2010.03064.x/abstract</p>
2/22/11	http://www.independent.com.mt/news.asp?newsitemid=120446	<p>Disability: Towards a barrier-free Europe by 2020 ... Persons with disabilities are entitled to the full respect of their human dignity, right to equal treatment, independent living and full participation in society. Enabling persons with disabilities to enjoy these rights is the main purpose of the European Union's new 10-year strategy entitled 'European Disability Strategy 2010-2020: A renewed Commitment to a Barrier-Free Europe', an ambitious document adopted by the European Commission last November. This strategy clearly reflects the commitment of the EU in the disability field, especially since the EU's ratification of the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, a legally binding Human Rights treaty. This Convention sets out minimum standards for protecting and safeguarding a full range of civil, political, social, and economic rights for persons with disabilities.</p> <p>The new strategy identifies eight areas of action: Accessibility, participation, equality, employment, education and training, social protection, health, and the EU's external action. It outlines how the EU and national governments can tackle existing obstacles and empower persons with disabilities to enjoy their full rights in society and benefit fully from participating in society and in the European economy, notably through the EU's Single Market and the possibilities it offers to move freely from one Member State to another to study, work and live. This participation will not only enhance their quality of life but also contribute towards achieving the goals of the 'Europe 2020' strategy which aims at creating smart, sustainable and inclusive social and economic growth...</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=933&furtherNews=yes</p> <p>http://www.inclusion-europe.org/uploads/doc/Include%202010.pdf</p>

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		<p>Disability: Towards a barrier-free Europe by 2020 (cont)</p> <p>http://e-include.eu/en/articles/677-inclusion-europe-welcomes-european-disability-strategy-2010-2020</p> <p>http://www.e-include.eu/en/news/</p> <p>http://www.e-include.eu/en/news/789-easy-to-read-version-of-the-european-disability-strategy-available-in-19-languages</p> <p>http://www.inclusion-europe.org/uploads/EN%20-%20ETR%20disability%20strategy.pdf</p> <p>http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/10/578&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en</p>
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