



# MAKING CONNECTIONS

DISABILITY RESOURCES FOR ALL AGES

## Welcome!

# 2024 Making Connections North Tarrant Disability Resource Fair

### Schedule:

8:00 AM ..... Exhibitor Hall Check-in/Set-up

9:00 AM ..... Exhibitor Hall Opens

9:30- 10:15 AM ..... Breakout Sessions #1

- Guardianship: Rush to the Courthouse or Last Resort?
- Accessing Services through My Health My Resources of Tarrant County

10:45- 11:30 PM ..... Breakout Sessions #2

- Life Planning Nuts and Bolts
- Self-Determination: The Counterpart of Self-Advocacy

12:00- 12:45 PM ..... Breakout Session #3

- Bring the Fun! Summer Camps for all ages
- ABLE Accounts: Tax Free Saving for Your Child's Future

1:00 PM..... Exhibitor Hall Closes

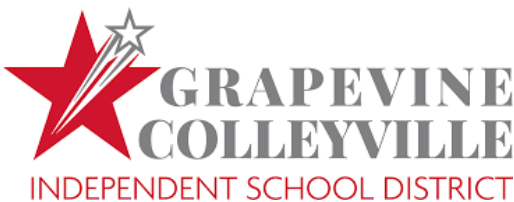
*Complete and Return Survey before leaving to receive door prize entry*



Scan to access digital copy of Directory

The IDD Council’s Making Connections Disability Resource Fairs bring together the disability resources in our community to one, easily accessed location for families and caregivers to collect information and learn about benefits and services each provide. Making Connections Disability Resource Fairs are held each year in various locations throughout Tarrant County.

*The IDD Council of Tarrant County is proud to partner with the following ISD’s to host “MAKING CONNECTIONS” NORTH TARRANT DISABILITY RESOURCE FAIR*



# BREAKOUT SESSIONS

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## 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

### **Guardianship: Rush to the Courthouse or Last Resort?**

An overview of the laws applicable to guardianship in Texas, the evidence and standard of proof needed to obtain guardianship and the many alternatives to guardianship. *By Associate Judge Patricia Burns, Tarrant County Probate 2 Court.*

### **Accessing Services through My Health My Resources**

As the State's Local IDD Authority (LIDDA), MHMR is the first point of contact for families looking for services. Learn about Texas' interest lists, options and benefits, and the criteria for services. *By Stephanie Morris & Natasha Sankey, My Health My Resources of Tarrant County.*

## 10:45 - 11:30 a.m.

### **Life Planning Nuts and Bolts**

Caregivers have many concerns and responsibilities in the care of their loved one. How does one plan for their finances, daily physical care, emotional support, medical and education needs, housing and transportation needs, or attendants for legal matters? Learn the many steps in preparing for your child's future. *By TJ Kroehle, Texas Life Planning*

### **Self-Determination: The Counterpart of Self-Advocacy**

The Self-Determination group was established in 2014 by Carissa Oaschall & Jamie Butler to amplify the voices of people with disabilities to live a self-determined life. Hear members of the group share about the importance of voice and choice for individuals with disabilities.

## 12:00 - 12:45 p.m.

### **Bring the Fun! Summer Camps for all ages**

Summer is quickly approaching, learn about some of the summer programs designed for individuals with IDD that are available in our area. Programs included: Camp Summit - overnight camp in Paradise, TX, Ability Connection - Day Camp in Irving, TX, Puzzles DFW - Day Camp in Irving, TX, and Bridges to Success Camps - various overnight camps in DFW.

### **ABLE Accounts: Tax Free Saving for Your Child's Future**

ABLE accounts have become a valuable and flexible resource for individuals with disabilities to save money in a tax-advantaged account in their own names, including wages, and still remain eligible for Medicaid, Learn how you can save money and protect your benefits. *By: Vanessa Goodson, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Educational Opportunities and Investment Division*

# EXHIBITOR DIRECTORY:

*We appreciate the sponsorship contributions from organizations marked with a star (★) who are underwriters for today's event. Please stop by their table and say thank you!*

## **29 ACRES**

**214-550-8831**

29 Acres is a safe and dynamic supported living community where adults with autism and other neurodiversity can live and be supported. In addition to our living community, we also offer a two year Transition Academy in partnership with Texas Woman's University, a Day Program and Employment services to help better serve the adult neurodiverse population  
[29acres.org](http://29acres.org)

## **A FAIR CHOICE, INC**

**817-320-6836**

A Fair Choice is a special needs organization. We service clients ALL over Texas!! We have a Licensed Individualized Skills and Socialization ( functional life skills) day program. We have group and residential homes! We have clients as young as 10 yrs old all the way to 65+!! We are passionate about getting our clients out into the community to learn and grow! We are here for the transitional and long term care of our special needs clients! [afairchoice.com](http://afairchoice.com)

## **ABA INTERACTIVE**

**214-903-9116**

We service individuals with autism and special needs. Providing in center, in home, in community, and in school support.  
[www.abainteractive.org](http://www.abainteractive.org)

## **ABILITY CONNECTION**

**214-351-2500**

Founded in 1953, Ability Connection is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that serves more than 1,000 Texans with all types of intellectual or other developmental disabilities through programs for adults AND youth. Our adult programs range from living assistance and support, to residential services and life-changing training, helping individuals optimize their health and fitness; social, academic and life skills; use of helpful technologies; self-expression through hands-on recreational activities, and much more. Our Youth Services offer monthly weekend respite, school holiday respite, in-home respite vouchers for families, full day 8-week summer camp, our online CORE learning curriculum, afterschool programs, and free seasonal events. We serve ages 10-17 for all programs. Vouchers apply to those under 18 in Dallas County. Events are for all ages. Youth services and fee discounts are made possible by a generous grant from The Crystal Charity Ball. [abilityconnection.org](http://abilityconnection.org)

## **★ ACES ABA**

**855-223-7123**

ACES is a leading provider of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services to individuals of all ages with developmental disabilities including autism spectrum disorder (ASD). We are committed to providing comprehensive, integrated care to support the overall well-being of our clients. ACES has been providing high-quality care for almost 30 years and has locations in Hawaii, Washington, California, Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Texas, Oklahoma, and North Carolina. At ACES, we believe that every individual has the potential to learn and grow, and we are dedicated to helping our clients achieve their full potential. We have a team of highly trained and experienced Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) who work closely with families, schools, and other healthcare providers to develop individualized treatment plans that meet the unique needs of each client. Our ABA services are evidence-based and follow the best practices outlined by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB). We use data-driven strategies and regularly monitor outcomes to ensure that each client is making meaningful progress towards their goals. <https://www.acesaba.com/>

## **ACUMEN FISCAL AGENT**

**214-531-1495**

A financial management services agency for those who choose self directed services

## **★ AETNA BETTER HEALTH OF TX - STAR KIDS, STAR AND CHIP MEDICAID**

**800-306-8612**

Aetna Better Health of TX, Star Kids, Star an Chip Medicaid for children, newborns, pregnant women. Star Kids for children and adults ages 20 and younger who have disabilities. Chip perinatal coverage for pregnant women. Tarrant service areas: Denton, Hood, Johnson, Parker, Tarrant and Wise [WWW.AetnaBetterHealthofTX](http://WWW.AetnaBetterHealthofTX)

**AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC)****855-937-2372**

ADRC staff can provide options and education to people with disabilities and their caregivers regarding long term services and supports with Health and Human Services and other partner agencies in Tarrant County. [tarrantcountyadrc.org](http://tarrantcountyadrc.org)

**CAMP SUMMIT****972-484-8900**

Camp Summit is a one-of-a-kind camp for individuals with disabilities where the emphasis is on each campers' abilities rather than their disabilities. Traditional camp activities are adapted to each individual, provided in our barrier-free facilities, and implemented by trained, caring staff. Our campers are grouped by age, providing the opportunity to make friends within peer groups while having fun and experiencing new adventures. [www.campsummittx.org](http://www.campsummittx.org)

**★CAPTEL OUTREACH****877-473-4005**

CapTel® Captioned Telephone - See captions of your telephone conversations with CapTel Captioned Telephone. CapTel shows word-for-word captions of everything a caller says, letting you enjoy phone calls with confidence. Includes a large display screen, adjustable font sizes / colors, and a built-in answering machine that displays captions of your messages. Several models available – including mobile apps. [www.oelius.org](http://www.oelius.org)

**COOK CHILDREN'S HEALTH PLAN****800-964-2247**

Cook Children's Health Plan has been serving the Tarrant Service Area Medicaid and CHIP families since 2000, ensuring our members receive the physical and behavioral health, pharmacy and social support services you need, when and where you need them. We are affiliated with Cook Children's Health Care System, an integrated pediatric delivery system that has over a century of service to North Texas Residents. We have staff that speaks English and Spanish. We can also help you if you need assistance in understanding or reading any of our handbooks or directories. Please let us know if you require any of our materials in larger print, Braille, or audio. Cook Children's offers interpreter services at no cost to you if the provider does not have someone to interpret for you. Call our Member Services Department at 1-800-964-2247 (TTY/TDD for hearing impaired: 7-1-1 or 1-800-735-2988) to schedule an interpreter and we will let your provider know who that person will be. Our website, [www.cookchp.org](http://www.cookchp.org), also contains several different resources for our members.

**ENGAGE EMPLOYMENT SOLUTIONS, LLC****817-239-7449**

Engage Employment Solutions is a Vocational Rehabilitation and Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) provider for Texas Workforce Solutions (TWS). As a company founded by Special Educators and Transition Specialists, we are dedicated to providing exemplary education, vocational training, and employment services focusing on individual needs of transition age students. [www.engageemploymentsolutions.com](http://www.engageemploymentsolutions.com)

**GOODWILL NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS****817-332-7866**

As a not-for-profit leader, Goodwill offers job training and other services to help people with disabilities and disadvantages achieve their maximum independence. Through Goodwill, job seekers, individuals with special needs, families, and other members of our community gain self-esteem and become independent, self-sufficient citizens.

LIVES ARE CHANGED THROUGH THE POWER OF WORK <https://goodwillnorthcentraltexas.org>

**GREATER FORT WORTH AREA COUNCIL OF THE BLIND****817-507-3964**

We provide peer support, resource information and advocacy/legislative information for and to individuals in the Fort Worth area who are blind, visually impaired or new to vision loss. We hold monthly meetings that are both in-person and by conference call plus members of our organization are available anytime by phone and/or email. We are also open to sighted individuals who are interested in blindness issues. All are welcome.

**GREEN OAKS EDUCATION AND SUPPORT, INC.****817-861-5000**

Green Oaks Education and Support, Inc. is a unique Christian educational program for children and adults with intellectual disabilities in the North Texas area. Green Oaks Education and Support, Inc. consists of three programs, Green Oaks School, Green Oaks Adult Learning, and Green Oaks Life Prep (a three-year college-like program on the campus of Arlington Baptist University). Our classes are determined using age, developmental level, and social considerations. We also offer summer programs open to students who attend other programs during the school year. Green Oaks School is accredited by Cognia. [www.greenoaksinc.org](http://www.greenoaksinc.org) [www.greenoaksinc.org](http://www.greenoaksinc.org)

**KINETIC KIDS - FORT WORTH****817-937-4073**

Our mission is to enrich the lives of children with special needs and their families through sports, fine arts and educational programs to foster the development of courage, confidence, fitness, pride, joy and community.

We envision Kinetic Kids as the premier and recognized leader for adaptive sports, fine arts and educational programming, serving children with intellectual and physical challenges, in our community and beyond, so that all children can achieve new possibilities previously unimaginable. Currently, Kinetic Kids - Fort Worth holds programs in North Ft Worth/Alliance, Keller, Southlake, Watauga, Roanoke, and Haslet, rotating each season throughout the year. [www.kineticidstx.org](http://www.kineticidstx.org)

**LINDA BONNER STUDIOS****214-491-8508**

Blessed with Extraordinary: Support and resources for families of children with Down Syndrome, is a heartfelt book and guide to aid families in building the very best life for their children with Down Syndrome and other disabilities. This Amazon international bestseller is a story about one parents journey from despair to joy. Author, Linda Bonner, shares her personal story, resources that parents need and tools and tips to guide parents on this extraordinary journey. This book is the resource for families at any phase of their parenting journey. [www.lindabonnerstudios.com](http://www.lindabonnerstudios.com)

**MHMR OF TARRANT COUNTY****817-569-4300**

For over 50 years, My Health My Resources (MHMR) of Tarrant County Child and Family services has provided community-based services for youth and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), mental health conditions, and substance use disorders, as well as babies and young children with developmental delays. MHMR employees use a person-centered approach to fulfill the mission: We Change Lives! Using innovative approaches, MHMR partners with community organizations to provide services and a hopeful future. [www.MHMRTC.org](http://www.MHMRTC.org)

**NORTH TEXAS JOB CORPS****469-343-6576**

North Job Texas Corps serves Region 2 of Dallas. [sanford.nanette@jobcorps.org](mailto:sanford.nanette@jobcorps.org)

**PARTNERS RESOURCE NETWORK****469-712-8409**

Partners Resource Network is the Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) for Texas. Partners Resource Network (PRN) is a non-profit agency that operates the Texas statewide network of PTI Centers serving parents of children and youth with disabilities ages of 0-26 as well as youth self-advocates ages 14-26. We can help you understand your child's disability, understand your rights and responsibilities under IDEA, obtain and evaluate resources and services for your child, and fully participate as a team member with professionals in planning services for your child. We are funded by the Department of Education – Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to provide free resources and training for parents of children with disabilities and self-advocates. [www.prntexas.org](http://www.prntexas.org)

**PLATICAS AZULESFW****682-323-9225**

La misión de Pláticas AzulesFW es brindar apoyo a mamás y familias de niños con autismo y/u otras discapacidades en la comunidad hispana en el área del condado de Tarrant. Organizamos eventos para estas familias y la comunidad con la misión de difundir conciencia y aceptación. Tendremos oportunidades sociales y recursos educativos de organizaciones locales así como de nuestro propio grupo. [linktr.ee/platicasazulesfw](http://linktr.ee/platicasazulesfw)

The mission of Platicas AzulesFW is to provide support to moms and families of children with autism and/or other disabilities in the Hispanic community in the Tarrant county area. We organize events for these families and the community with the mission to spread awareness and acceptance. We will have social opportunities and educational resources from local organizations as well as our own group. [linktr.ee/platicasazulesfw](http://linktr.ee/platicasazulesfw)

**PUZZLES LIFE-SKILLS CENTER****214-972-7184**

At Puzzles, we are a year-round training facility for young adults with special needs. We serve as a transitional program to prepare those that are between aging out of high school and full adult living status, like a day habilitation program or home living. We function on a schedule that is similar in structure as school to make the transition easier, with a camp style setting in the summer. What sets us apart from other day programs, is that we specialize in regression and with those sudden unexplained behaviors. We strive on creating individual attention in a group setting and keep our student to trainer ratio low. <https://puzzlesdfw.com>

**★ SENIOR ASSIST TEXAS**

**214-914-5902**

Senior Assist Texas is a vendor to the Specialized Telecommunications Assistance Program (STAP) which provides FREE iPads, tablets or smartphones to anyone who has hearing loss, vision impairment, upper mobility loss OR speech impairment. Must live in Texas and be at least 5 years old. seniorassisttexas.com

**★ SPECIAL STRONG OF NORTHEAST TARRANT COUNTY**

**317-457-4802**

Special Strong designs specialized adaptive fitness programs for people with cognitive, mental and physical disabilities. Our work is designed to help people with special needs to live more abundant lives. We offer private, semi-private, group, aquatic, virtual and in-home training programs. www.specialstrong.com

**TEXAS ABLE**

**1-844-4TX-ABLE (1-844-489-2253)**

The Texas ABLE Program: the state’s new savings program for Texans with disabilities. Come learn about the Texas Achieving A Better Life Experience (Texas ABLE®) program and how Texans with disabilities and their families can save for disability - related expenses in a tax-advantaged ABLE account without losing eligibility for certain public benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid. Texas ABLE is based on federal and state legislation and is maintained by the state through the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. Funds in an ABLE account can be used to pay for qualified disability expenses that relate to the beneficiary’s blindness or disability and are used to maintain or improve his or her health, independence or quality of life. This exhibit booth will cover all the basics of ABLE and give you details on how to open an ABLE account in Texas. Learn more and enroll online at TexasABLE.org.

**TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

**512-569-4258**

The Texas Workforce Commission will be providing resources in career/education exploration, planning, and readiness. twc.texas.gov

**THE INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF TARRANT COUNTY**

**817-725-7258**

The Intellectual and Development Disabilities Council of Tarrant County (IDD Council) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose purpose is to transform the region into an inclusive community where persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) thrive. We bring stakeholders, agencies providing services to people with IDD, self-advocates, and families together, to create an environment for an efficient and accessible system of support for people with IDD. The IDD Council hosts numerous educational events, family fun activities, and Making Connections Disability Resources Fairs throughout Tarrant County. Open for all to attend, the IDD Council meets the first Thursday of each month from 9 – 10:30 a.m. Join us and help to advocate and spread awareness of IDD! Visit [www.IDDCouncil.org/partners](http://www.IDDCouncil.org/partners) for more information about activities, events, volunteer opportunities, membership, sponsorship, and resources. 📍 “Follow” and “Like” us on social media. [www.Facebook.com/IDDCouncil](https://www.Facebook.com/IDDCouncil) 📍 [www.twitter.com/IDDCouncil](https://www.twitter.com/IDDCouncil)

**VTO PRIMARY HOME CARE**

**214-405-8523**

VTO Primary Home care is a Texas home living provider serving Tarrant County and Dallas metroplex

# SAVE THE DATES!

 <p><b>SPECIAL EDUCATION SAFETY FAIR</b> MARCH 7, 2024</p> <p>COME LEARN HOW TO PROVIDE A SAFER WAY FOR YOUR CHILD AT HOME &amp; IN THE COMMUNITY</p> <p><b>THURSDAY, MARCH 7</b> SPECIAL EDUCATION SAFETY FAIR</p>	 <p>guidance monthly idd advocacy council ideas networking meeting knowledge help support fun presentation community training impact assistance</p> <p><b>THURSDAY, MARCH 7</b> IDD COUNCIL MONTHLY MEETING, PRESENTATION &amp; NETWORKING</p>	 <p><b>Egg My House!</b></p> <p>Fundraiser supporting The Intellectual &amp; Developmental Disabilities Council of Tarrant County</p> <p>Let us 'egg' your house with candy and toy filled eggs. or surprise your neighbors and friends and spread Easter joy! Plastic filled eggs will be placed in the yard (or left in a basket) the evening of your choice the Thursday, Friday or Saturday before Easter. (Eggs can be hidden for an additional fee)</p> <p><b>ORDERS DUE BY MONDAY, MARCH 25</b></p> <p>Delivery is limited to Tarrant and Johnson Counties. Contact <a href="mailto:Rite@IDDCouncil.org">Rite@IDDCouncil.org</a> for other County or special request considerations.</p> <p><b>EASTER COMES EARLY THIS YEAR</b> SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2024</p> <p><b>THURSDAY-SATURDAY, MARCH 27-29</b> EGG MY HOUSE ORDERS DUE MARCH 25</p>
 <p><b>MAKING CONNECTIONS CENTRAL TARRANT</b> DISABILITY RESOURCES FOR ALL AGES</p> <p><b>MAKING CONNECTIONS CENTRAL TARRANT</b> DISABILITY RESOURCE FAIR</p>	 <p><b>MAKING CONNECTIONS SOUTH TARRANT</b> DISABILITY RESOURCES FOR ALL AGES</p> <p><b>MAKING CONNECTIONS SOUTH TARRANT</b> DISABILITY RESOURCE FAIR</p>	 <p><b>CAPEabilities Job Fair</b> Connecting All People with Employment</p> <p><b>FRIDAY, MAY 10</b> CAPEABILITIES JOB FAIR CONNECTING ALL PEOPLE WITH EMPLOYMENT</p>

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THE IDD COUNCIL NEWSLETTER. <https://www.iddcouncil.org/iddevents>

# SPECIAL THANKS!

## Additional contributors:



Bark Avenue Market & Bakery  
5615 Colleyville Blvd  
Colleyville, TX 76034  
817-656-2275



Chicken N Pickle – Grapevine  
4600 Merlot Ave  
Grapevine, TX 76051  
817-766-6320



Cinépolis Luxury Cinemas  
2601 Brazos Blvd.  
Euless, TX 76039  
817-508-4927



NRH2O Family Water Park  
9001 Blvd 26  
North Richland Hills, TX 76180  
817-427-6500



Einstein Bros. Bagels  
4725 Colleyville Blvd.  
Colleyville, TX 76034  
817-576-5303



McAlister's Deli  
5615 Colleyville Blvd Ste 200  
Colleyville, TX 76034  
817-485-5191



Costa Vida  
5615 Colleyville Blvd, Ste 390  
Colleyville, TX 76034  
817-656-1700



Sweet Spot Donuts  
3105 Ira E. Wds Ave #130,  
Grapevine, TX 76051  
682-223-1008



Scooter's Coffee  
7171 Colleyville Blvd #110,  
Colleyville, TX 76034  
817-416-6800



Market Street #560  
5605 Colleyville Blvd.  
Colleyville Tx 76034  
817-577-5039