



National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the ADA

July 20, 2010

Dear NASHIA Member,

As the nation celebrates the **20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act**, the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) acknowledges the achievements of the brain injury community in promoting policies and funding to increase access to integrated and accessible rehabilitation, community supports and services for individuals with brain injury to return to work or school and to live independently. In the 20 years since enactment of this historic legislation, a number of significant achievements have taken place both nationally and within the States to eliminate service barriers to community integration in order for individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI) to live meaningful lives. Among these milestones include the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 1996, which Congress reauthorized in 2000 and again in 2008, to authorize federal funding to the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to assist States in increasing and expanding access to service delivery.

In addition, a significant number of States have implemented Brain Injury Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waivers, trust fund programs using dedicated funding for needed services, and federal grants through the Federal HRSA TBI State Grant Program to expand access to services. These accomplishments have been achieved through partnerships with the state affiliates of the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) and other advocates.

With the increasing number of Americans living with disabilities as the result of TBI, NASHIA reinforces its commitment to work collaboratively with all federal, State, local, private agencies and organizations to increase accessibility to rehabilitation, community supports, employment, education and community living. We look forward to many more accomplishments over the next 20 years!

Celebration Events

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) was signed into law July 26, 1990, to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities in private employment, public accommodations, telecommunications, and public transportation and services. To celebrate this historic piece of legislation a number of events are planned in the States and nationally, including, those sponsored by the White House, Members of Congress, and the National Organization on Disability (NOD). Some of these events are listed below (all times are Eastern Standard Time).

July 19-22	<p>National Centers for Independent Living Annual Conference 2010 20 Years of ADA: The Fight Goes On! Grand Hyatt Washington 1000 H Street NW Washington, D.C.</p>
July 20	<p>Gala: The Spirit of the ADA ... Lead On! Grand Hyatt Washington 1000 H Street NW, Washington, D.C. 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm</p>
July 22	<p>National Organization on Disability: Webinar and Press Conference to Announce Findings of Kessler/NOD Survey of ADA by Harris Interactive Results presented by NOD Director Humphrey Taylor with Discussion by NOD and Kessler Foundation Presidents 12:00 noon</p> <p>Celebrating the Americans with Disabilities Act: Looking Back, Moving Forward US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) EEOC Conference Center 131 M Street, N.E. Washington, D.C. 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm http://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/history/45th/ada20th.cfm</p>
July 23	<p>National Organization on Disability: NOD/Kessler Survey of ADA Rayburn House Office Building Room, B-339 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Speakers will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative Jim Langevin, Co-Chair Bipartisan Disabilities Caucus • House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer • Governor Tom Ridge, Chairman, NOD • Rodger DeRose, President and CEO, Kessler Foundation • Carol Glazer, President, NOD • Humphrey Taylor, Chairman, Harris Poll
July 26	<p>NBC's "Today Show" features NOD Director Bonnie St. John about the ADA and Harris Poll results</p> <p>Looking Back, Looking Ahead, Hosted by Senator Tom Harkin Russell Caucus Room (SR-325) 10:00 am to 12 noon</p> <p>Reception, Hosted by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi Statutory Hall, US Capitol 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm</p> <p>White House 20th Anniversary Celebration 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm</p> <p>Disability Power and Pride Gala</p>

National Press Club
Washington, DC
7:00 pm -11:00 pm

This Announcement was sent by Susan L. Vaughn, Director of Public Policy, publicpolicy@nashia.org. Lorraine Wargo, RN, is the NASHIA Executive Director, and may be reached at execdirector@nashia.org.

The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators assists State government in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs of individuals with brain injuries and their families.

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