

93 Twitter, Acumen, Waiting Lists Petition, DBHDD Board Mtg and More.

Dearest Advocates:

I finally did it - I have a Twitter Account! I plan in the coming weeks to start “twitting” regarding time sensitive issues in the disability world. I do **not** plan on this becoming a replacement to my newsletters but I do think in order for us to be timely and advocate quickly (especially during the legislative session), we need to know information quickly and act. If you are interesting in becoming a member of my group (I will be pre-approving everyone due to the nature of the advocacy posts going out to members), please go to: www.twitter.com/UniteOurVoices . I hope you take this opportunity to “Unite Our Voices” as one and make a difference for our children!

Acumen (fiscal agent for those families that are self directed under the NOW/COMP disability waivers) are making some significant changes to their organization and wanted us to know about them. I agree with most of you that in the last few months, things have been very difficult for families to get answers to their questions from Acumen **BUT** the good news is they recognize the issues and are actively making changes to their system. Once again- uniting our voices does make a difference! See below their official announcement. I also know they are looking to come to Georgia in the next few weeks to meet with families. Positive step in the right direction! Keep you posted as I have more information.

I know this is last minute- I just got the announcement two days ago. The new Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities is having its first Board meeting this Friday, August 28 at 1:00pm. Unfortunately (like many of us), I need more notice of meetings in order to attend so I will not be there. If you do attend, please send me an email with what you found out so I can pass along to others.

I was contacted by a friend that a nanny that has vast experience with children with disabilities is looking for work starting September 1st. If interested, see below her contact information.

If you have concerns (like most of us do) regarding the VERY long waiting lists for home and community based waivers in Georgia, please take a moment to sign a petition:

<http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/noewait.html>

In addition, I am making changes to my website so please go there for more information. In addition, please visit <http://www.heidijmoore.com/infohelp/index.asp> for updated information regarding waivers, general information and more.

As always, I hope you find this information helpful. I will be making additional announcements regarding changes in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,
Heidi

“UNITED – WE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!”

Sincerely,

Heidi

(Proud Mother to Jacob - 9 yrs old with Down syndrome and Jared - 7 yrs old)

“Help the Children Now, So They Can Help Themselves Later!”

www.heidijmoore.com

Official Announcement from:
Carvin Wilson
Chief Operations Officer
Acumen, Inc.

Acumen Fiscal Agent is excited to announce several new improvements that will allow us to work better with the people of Georgia. First we have made some significant staffing changes with the recent hires of Carvin Wilson and Katrina Simisnean.

Carvin has been serving as our new Chief of Operations. Carvin has extensive experience in the payroll and staffing industry and has been working hard over the past several weeks to streamline processes and most importantly improve the quality of customer service and accuracy of payroll. Carvin help start a new customer call center staffed, beginning immediately this team of experienced customer service agents will be available to answer calls at 8AM Eastern Time. You can reach Carvin directly at 480.295.3313 or by e-mail at carvin@acumen2.net.

Katrina is our new Georgia State Coordinator. She comes to us with experience in Waiver services most recently working for the State of Pennsylvania's Office of Long Term Living. We are most excited as Katrina is based in Lawrenceville, Georgia, giving us a local presence who can meet with local families and case managers/support coordinators at their convenience. Katrina will also be spearheading our new Peer Supporters program. Peer Supporters will provide Acumen a more efficient way of exchanging information with families and ensuring that new consumers have the most reliable information available before they begin the program.

In addition to these changes, Acumen is working to make more information available via the web and providing pay cards to all employees. Pay Cards will allow Acumen to transfer funds to employees accounts overnight. Look for more information to come on all of these improvements. If there are other changes that can help serve you better, please don't hesitate to let us know by calling or emailing us at customerservice@acumen2.net.

Nanny available for families of children with disabilities:

Patricia (Ms. Pat) Dyer

pdyer53@yahoo.com

(770) 309-5699

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) will hold its first board meeting on Friday, August 28, 2009 at 1 p.m. (see attached Press Release). The meeting will be held at 2 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia in suite 29-250.

Agency to Discuss 2010 Budget Priorities and roll-out the new Logo.

Thanks

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