

42 Tropic Thunder Updates and Various Disability Information throughout Georgia!

Dearest Advocates:

Many thanks to those that participated in the protest of Tropic Thunder last week. There was a great turn out at many locations all over Georgia. Below are web links that I have put together from many emails showing the media coverage that was expressed on the issue, as well as, updates from various organizations.

Many people have asked if it was a successful campaign/protest. My thoughts- **YES**, it was. For the first time in a long time, various disability organizations united as one to express our concerns of using the R-word in that movie. I do think that in many ways, the disability world is very fragmented and only advocates for their particular issue. This was the first time that many organizations came together to advocate for one cause. I just hope that the momentum has started and we will all continue to work together for the greater good of individuals with disabilities.

If you have not already done so, please go to the www.r-word.org and sign the petition to show your support.

In addition in this issue you will find updates on advocacy efforts needed for Unlock the Waiting Lists! Campaign Update, an Autism 101 Seminar and Resource Fair information and Katie Beckett / Deeming Waiver and Champions for Children Informational Sessions being scheduled throughout Georgia.

I hope you find this information helpful.

United... We Will Make A Difference!

Sincerely, Heidi

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**Media and Other Various Updates on the movie Tropic Thunder:**

National Attention from “The Morning Show with Mike and Juliet”:

<http://www.mandjshow.com/videos/tropic-blunder/>

From Savannah, <http://www.wtoc.com/global/story.asp?s=8843937>

R-word PSA by Will Schermerhorn: <http://blueberryshoes.com/psa/arc/>

<http://r-word.org>

<http://www.thearc.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=1800&srcid=183>

<http://www.aapd.com/News/disability/080813aapd.htm> )

From Blogger Patricia Bauer, <http://www.patriciaebauer.com/>

From Special Olympics: <http://www.specialolympics.org/Special+Olympics+Public>  
<http://jfactivist.typepad.com/jfactivist/selfadvocacy/>

UCLA Daily Bruin: <http://www.dailybruin.ucla.edu/news/2008/aug/12/Protest/>

### **Unlock the Waiting Lists! Campaign Update:**

Right now, the Board of the Department of Human Resources is reviewing the budget.

We need your help to ensure that they do not make cuts to supports for people with disabilities.

To help, go to: <http://www.unlockthewaitinglists.com/advocate.html>

On Monday, the news wasn't good for Georgia's state revenues. Governor Sonny Perdue, struggling to deal with an expected \$1.6 billion budget shortfall, has ordered agencies to cut their budgets by 6 percent for this year and has told them to offer budget proposals for midyear adjustments in January and for the year that begins next July 1 that show how they could achieve cuts of 6, 8 and 10 percent if necessary.

We must be unified in saying simply, "No Cuts to Services for People with Disabilities"

By going to <http://www.unlockthewaitinglists.com/advocate.html>, please let the Governor and the DHR Board know how critical these supports are for people with disabilities. Ask them to do no harm!

Georgia has over 6,160 people with developmental disabilities currently on community waiting lists. The waiting lists grow every year by 1,000 people because individuals and families fall into crisis, or caregivers pass away. Over 700 students age out of the school system every year needing supports. The multi-year funding plan called for 2,500 services last year, and we received only 500. This year the plan also calls for 2,500, and the current budget proposal includes only the 150 MRWP services we need to meet the requirement of the Money Follows Person initiative.

### **Unlock Mission Statement**

The mission of this campaign is to reduce and/or eliminate waiting lists for the over six thousand people with disabilities and their families who need home and community-based services. To learn more, go to [www.unlockthewaitinglists.com](http://www.unlockthewaitinglists.com)

Please forward this email on to your friends and family.

Dave Blanchard  
Unlock the Waiting Lists! Campaign  
<http://www.unlockthewaitinglists.com/>

**Autism 101- Seminar and Resource Fair for Newly Diagnosed Families**

Saturday, September 6, 2008  
Northstar Church  
3413 Blue Springs Road  
Kennesaw, Georgia 30144

"Autism 101" is a seminar and resource fair sponsored by the Autism Society of America - Greater Georgia Chapter for families of newly diagnosed children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The seminar provides information that educates, enables and empowers these families as they begin the journey of caring for, planning for, and treating their child. Additionally, there is a resource fair for families to meet and interact with local providers of autism related goods and services.

Pre-registration Required

\$10 per person

Please visit the ASA-GGC website at [www.asaga.com](http://www.asaga.com) or call (770)904-4474 to register or for additional information.

Vendor space available

Autism 101 Schedule

8:00am-8:30am

Check in and receive materials

8:30am-9:00am

What is autism and how is it diagnosed?

Dr. Steve Hobbs, Pediatric Psychology Associates

9:00am-9:30am

Services, Funding, and Advocacy

Stacey Ramirez, University Center on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

9:30am-10:00am

The Basics of Applied Behavioral Analysis

Drs. Coby & Janet Lund, Integrated Behavioral Solutions

10:00am-10:30am

The Sensory Connection

Margaret Kuneyl, OTR/L, Peach State Pediatric Therapy

10:30am-11:00am

Behavior Strategies and Positive Behavior Supports

Dr. Robert Montgomery, Reinforcement Unlimited

11:00am-11:30am

Promoting Language Skills

Charlie Coleman, Emory Autism Center

11:30am-Noon  
Enhancing Social and Play Skills  
Charlie Coleman, Emory Autism Center

Noon-1:30pm  
Lunch and Resource Fair

1:30pm-2:00pm  
Sleeping, Feeding, and Toileting Issues  
Jason Cavin, Marcus Institute

2:00pm-2:30pm  
Using Visual Supports  
Karen Barineau, Dekalb County Schools

2:30pm-3:00pm  
Biomedical and Diet Interventions  
Stefanie Smith, Eating Away Autism

3:00pm-3:30pm  
Music & Autism: Therapeutic Possibilities  
Beth Hampshire-Coyle, NMT, MT-BC, Music Therapy Services of Greater Atlanta

3:30pm-4:00pm  
Accessing Educational Services  
Mary O'Connell & Nan Britt, SPECTRUM

4:00pm-5:00pm  
Autism's impact on the family  
Elizabeth Newman, Living the Mosaic

5pm-6pm  
Resource Fair

Topics and/or presenters subject to change without notice.

**Katie Beckett / Deeming Waiver and Champions for Children Informational Sessions:**

Parent to Parent of Georgia, in conjunction with local community partners, will sponsor community health forums on Katie Beckett/Deeming Waiver and the new Champions for Children health care financing option. Brian Dowd, Director of the Member Services and Policy Unit at Georgia's Department of Community Health (DCH), will provide a Katie Beckett/Deeming Waiver overview, and Easter Seal's regional Champions for Children Coordinators will provide details of their new program. Easter Seals Southern, North, East, Middle and West Georgia will be represented at the forums.

Beginning August 19<sup>th</sup>, and continuing through October, five informational sessions will allow families and professionals to learn more about the Katie Beckett/Deeming Waiver and Champions for Children Programs. The forums will take place in Albany, Augusta, Columbus,

Dublin, and Fulton/Dekalb (Metro Atlanta). The basic eligibility requirements for the Champions for Children Program are as follows:

*Children must be 21 and under with a physical, cognitive, developmental or medical disability. The child must currently live at home, and must not be eligible for Medicaid.*

**Albany, GA (Dougherty County)**

**Tuesday, August 19, 2008 - 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**

**Easter Seals of Southern Georgia**

**3000 Palmyra Road Albany, GA 31701**

**Nicki Wilson - [enwilson@swga-easterseals.com](mailto:enwilson@swga-easterseals.com), Teresa Heard - [theard@swga-easterseals.com](mailto:theard@swga-easterseals.com), Kathy Sutton [Kathy@parenttoparentofga.org](mailto:Kathy@parenttoparentofga.org) or (229) 439-7061**

**Dublin, GA (Laurens County)**

**Saturday, September 6, 2008**

**TBD – To Be Determined**

**Decatur, GA (Metro - Dekalb County)**

**Thursday, September 25, 2008 - 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**

**The Frazer Center**

**1815 Ponce de Leon Ave N.E., Atlanta, Ga. 30307**

**Karmen Hughes – (404)943-1070/[khughes@esng.easterseals.com](mailto:khughes@esng.easterseals.com)**

**Columbus, GA (Muscogee County)**

**Tuesday, September 30, 2008**

**TBD – To Be Determined**

**Augusta, GA (Richmond County)**

**Thursday, October 9, 2008 - 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**

**Warren Baptist Church**

**3203 Washington Road, Augusta, GA 30907**

**Sheila Thomas – (706) 667-9695 [stthomas@esega.org](mailto:stthomas@esega.org), Sheryl Irwin – (706) 729-2353/[sirwin@mail.mcg.edu](mailto:sirwin@mail.mcg.edu), Leigh Proctor - (706) 729-2353/[Esevaluator@aol.com](mailto:Esevaluator@aol.com)**

For more general information contact *Sherry Richardson* at [sherry@parenttoparentofga.org](mailto:sherry@parenttoparentofga.org) or 770-451-5484/800-229-2038.