

Putnam County Office for People with Disabilities  
Robert J. Bondi, County Executive  
Michael J. Piazza, Jr., Commissioner  
Medley J. Broege, Coordinator  
110 Old Route 6, Bldg. #3, Carmel, N.Y. 10512  
Ph: 845-228-5912, Fax: 845-228-6113, TTY: 845-228-2386  
Email: medley.broege@putnamcountyny.com



## ABILITIES NEWSLETTER

ABILITIES NEWSLETTER

Spring 2009

### You Are Invited To Attend The 15th Annual **PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATIVE FORUM**

Hear the community speak on issues facing people with disabilities

The following Federal, State and Local representatives *have been invited*:

US Senator Charles Schumer  
US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand  
US Congressman John Hall  
NYS Governor David A. Paterson  
NYS Senator Vincent Leibell  
NYS Assemblywoman Sandra Galef  
NYS Assemblyman Greg Ball  
Putnam County Executive Robert J. Bondi  
Putnam County Mental Health and Social Services Commissioner Michael J. Piazza, Jr.  
Putnam County Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler  
Putnam County Legislature, Health Committee Chairperson Sam Oliverio, Jr.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2009**

**8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

<b>8:00 – 9:00</b>	<b>Registration and Refreshments</b>
<b>9:00 – 10:30</b>	<b>Town Hall Meeting</b>
<b>10:45 – 12:00</b>	<b>Local Government Plan</b>

**DONALD B. SMITH GOVERNMENT CENTER**  
**Training & Operations Center, 110 Old Route 6, Carmel**

The facility is entirely accessible. Transportation assistance is available.

To **REGISTER TO SPEAK** or for **MORE INFORMATION**, please **CALL Medley Broege**  
Putnam County Office for People with Disabilities  
**845-228-5912, ext. 1019**

**Partners in planning this event:** Putnam County Office for People with Disabilities, Putnam County Coordinating Council for People with Disabilities, Putnam County Community Services Board, Putnam County Departments of Social Services, Mental Health & Youth Bureau, Putnam County Department of Health, Ability Beyond Disability, Careers for People with Disabilities, Green Chimneys, Hudson Valley Cerebral Palsy Association, Mental Health Association of Putnam, NAMI Putnam, PARC, Putnam Community Services of HRPC, Putnam Family and Community Services, Putnam Independent Living Services, Putnam Recreation Programs for the Handicapped, Taconic DDSO, The Friends Network.

## WORKFORCE INNOVATION IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARTICIPATES IN RESEARCH ON EDUCATION AND WORK EXPERIENCES OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Westchester Community College is participating in a research project, funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, to explore the educational and workforce experiences of people with disabilities in Westchester and Putnam counties and Southwestern Connecticut. Other participants include: Norwalk Community College, The Business Council of Fairfield County, and The WorkPlace, Inc., which administers the grant.

#### Among the issues to be explored:

- What are the most critical employment challenges facing people with disabilities, including both working-age adults and young people transitioning to the workforce or to college?
- What resources are available to help adults and young people with disabilities find meaningful careers?
- What gaps in the education, training, and employment of people with disabilities exist in our region? What additional resources would be most helpful to address those gaps?

The project is part of a national initiative called WIRED (Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development) which addresses the challenges of global competition by preparing America's workforce for high skill and high wage job opportunities. Locally, our regional initiative is called CT-NY Talent for Growth.

#### Surveys, Focus Groups, and Interviews

Researchers involved in the project are conducting surveys, focus groups, and interviews with:

- Agencies that provide vocational counseling, training, job placement, and job coaching for individuals with disabilities
- K-12 and college educators who work with and who are knowledgeable about students with disabilities (surveys have been sent to all area school principals and special education coordinators)
- Individuals with disabilities, including working-age adults and students

Focus groups will be held at Westchester Community College beginning the week of March 9<sup>th</sup> and at Putnam Independent Living Center in Carmel on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. For more information or to participate in focus groups, interviews, or surveys, contact Jill Casner-Lotto, Research Consultant, Westchester Community College at [jcasnerlotto@optonline.net](mailto:jcasnerlotto@optonline.net) or 914-576-6128.

A final report issued in June will provide information about the gaps in services and needs of people with disabilities in the education and workforce sectors in our region. The report will also include recommendations for improvements and provide the basis for devel-

## NEURO SUPPORT GROUP

MONDAY MARCH 16TH, 3-4 p.m.

Putnam Hospital Café Classroom

For Information Call 845-279-5711, ext. 2482

For patients and families living with Stroke/CVA, Brain Injury, Parkinson's Disease, Huntington's Disease

## PUTNAM COUNTY COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

**ALL ARE INVITED** to meetings of the Putnam County Coordinating Council for People with Disabilities. Created by an act of the Putnam County Legislature, the Council advocates for people with disabilities, identifying needs and offering guidance on issues they face.

*Join us for our regular monthly meetings at the County Office Building 40 Gleneida Avenue in Carmel.*

**April 6, 2009**

**May 4, 2009**

**June 1, 2009**

**July 6, 2009**

**August 3, 2009**

**September 14, 2009**

**October 5, 2009**

**November 2, 2009**

**December 7, 2009**

***Meetings begin promptly at 7pm.***

Call the Putnam County Office for People with Disabilities at 845-228-5912 for more information.

## AGENCY NEWS

### PUTNAM COUNTY SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY

The Putnam County Office for People with Disabilities maintains a Central Registry of persons with disabilities residing in Putnam County. It is a confidential database used for planning purposes to insure availability of services for Putnam County residents who have disabilities. Since 2007 the Office for People with Disabilities has been working with the Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services to collect information about special assistance a resident may need in the event of a 9-1-1 call from his/her address. The Office for People with Disabilities wants to help in the emergency preparedness effort by insuring that people with special needs are known to us.

The New York State Disaster Preparedness Commission recommends that counties maintain a registry of persons with disabilities to identify residents who would need special or additional assistance in a major emergency or disaster.

Putnam County through its Office for People with Disabilities, Bureau of Emergency Services, Department of Health and Department of Social Services is aware of many people who would require special assistance in an emergency. However, we believe there are many others who are not known to us. Of particular concern are people who live by themselves and do not have family to rely on.

If you or someone you know would need additional assistance in the event of a major disaster, please register with the Office for People with Disabilities at 845-228-5912.

Please note that registration is not a guarantee of assistance. However, it is a critical first step in understanding how many of our friends and neighbors may need extra help in an emergency, and provides valuable information in an emergency response effort.

**Presented by Putnam County Local Early Intervention Coordinating Council**

### PARENT & PROVIDER DAY Feeding Milestones and Strategies May 1, 2009 1:00-3:00 p.m.

**Donald B. Smith Government Center, Training & Operations Center, 110 Old Route 6, Carmel, NY 10512  
RSVP by April 24, 2009 to 845-228-2847**



### PARENT WORKSHOP Guardianship & Special Needs Trusts Presentation by Adrienne Arkontaky, Esq.

**Attend in person or by conference call  
RSVP Teddi Barry, 845-225-5650, x127**

**Wednesday, March 18th  
9:30-10:30 a.m.  
PARC CENTER**

PUTNAM INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES  
A Satellite of Westchester Independent Living Center  
1961 Route 6, Carmel, NY 10512

### Your Sensory-Language Connection for Learning

by Natalie Gallant  
Director

Lindamood-Bell Learning Center in Darien, CT

A discussion of the specific mental processes that underlie  
reading, comprehension and math

**Tuesday, March 10th, 2009  
6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Putnam Independent Living Services  
1961 Route 6, Carmel, NY 10512  
first floor conference room

For more information and to RSVP  
Jessica Baumann or Nanette Saturn  
845-228-7457

**NO COST ASSISTANCE WITH TAX PREPARATION****INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE CENTER****131 West Street, Danbury, CT 06810**

Walk-in or by appointment. Appointments must be made in person. Monday through Friday, 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Income must be less than \$42,000. They cannot assist you if you are self employed or are reporting the sale of stocks and bonds. Please bring photo ID, social security card and the social security cards of any dependents. **203-840-4195**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR****201 S. James Street, Peekskill, NY**

Assistance is provided TUESDAYS, starting at 10:00 a.m. and is based on income. Walk-ins are welcome. For information, call Tuesdays and talk to John. **914-737-3490**

**KENT LIBRARY****264 Route 52, Carmel, NY**

Mondays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon. Appointment required — only 3 appointments are available each day. **845-225-8585**

**PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING**

For persons 60 years and older. Call for times, locations and more information. **845-225-1034**

Putnam County Office for People with Disabilities  
Robert J. Bondi, County Executive  
Michael J. Piazza, Jr., Commissioner  
Medley J. Broege, Coordinator  
110 Old Route 6, Bldg. #3, Carmel, N.Y. 10512  
Ph: 845-228-5912, Fax: 845-228-6113, TTY: 845-228-2386  
Email: medley.broege@putnamcountyny.com

**PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATIVE FORUM****SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2009****DONALD B. SMITH GOV'T CENTER, 110 OLD ROUTE 6, CARMEL, NY**