

The Delaware Caregivers Support Coalition wants to hear
YOUR opinions about respite care services in Delaware!

Members of the public are invited to offer feedback to the Coalition regarding the proposed Delaware Centralized Respite Information Network.

The Delaware Caregivers Support Coalition has been charged to develop a centralized, single-point of entry, information and referral network for Respite Care. This work was done with a grant from the Commission on Community-based Alternatives for Individuals with Disabilities.

A summary of the plan is attached if you cannot attend a meeting.

Submit your comments:

- **In-person** at the public meetings listed below
- By **voice mail** message to (302) 831-3632 or (302) 831-4689 (TDD)
- By **e-mail** to ud-cds@udel.edu
- By **mail** to: Center for Disabilities Studies Attention: Respite Care Public Comment, 461 Wyoming Road Newark, DE 19711

Public Meetings

Please **RSVP** to (302) 831-3632 if attending in-person and/or if you need sign language accommodations for a meeting (at least 3 days prior).

November 6, 2007

6:00 to 7:00 pm

Mid-Delaware Office of The Arc of Delaware,
Federal and Lockerman Streets, Dover, DE

November 13, 2007

6:00 to 7:00 pm

Center for Disabilities Studies
461 Wyoming Road, Newark, DE 19716

Visit www.udel.edu/cds/ccba/respite.html for more information about the Commission on Community-Based Alternatives & the Caregiver Coalition's Respite activities.

Delaware Lifespan Respite Information Network

Many caregivers in Delaware have difficulty engaging respite services. This difficulty is created by a lack of centralized information to find respite services, an inadequate supply of service providers, a lack of quality care, and a lack of resources to pay for it. Many caregivers don't even know that there is help available for them.

A coalition of consumers, service providers, and advocates has developed a plan for a state-wide system in Delaware for respite across the life-span (for both children and adults) and disabilities. The system would include a central administration office responsible for oversight of the following functions; Information & Referral, Caregiver Training including consumer education, Public Relations to raise awareness, Provider Services including training and quality assurance, and Administrative Services such as planning, program evaluation, funding, and recordkeeping. Some of these functions such as Information & Referral and Public Relations could be provided through sub-contracts.

A three-year operational plan has been developed. The plan envisions that in the first year, the primary focus will be development of the system including hiring staff, establishing contractual relationships, and developing policies and procedures. The second year would focus on building capacity by recruiting and training additional respite care providers. In the third year, the focus would be on developing more difficult to find respite care such as emergency care, and would move the system to a 24-7 operation.

To date, with grant support from Delaware's Developmental Disabilities Council, a data base of respite care providers has been developed, and can be accessed on The Family & Workplace Connection's website (www.familyandworkplace.org). This database is the first step in making the state-wide plan a reality.

The overall system would be governed by an advisory board. Its members would represent various constituents of the system including consumers, service providers, state agencies, and advocacy groups.

The estimated total cost for the first three years of operation is \$435,600. Start-up funding is sought from foundations and corporations supplemented by existing respite funding in state agencies and private organizations.