

Marriage, health insurance, vocational rehabilitation, and chronic illness, all this and more in this issue of Accessibility for All.

# Accessibility for All

## - Disability and Health Program -

### Recent News

#### [Forced to Divorce: Americans with Disabilities Must Pick Marriage or Health Care](#)

A growing number of Americans with disabilities are facing the choice between marriage and health coverage. Medicaid, which many rely on for their coverage, has an eligibility cap that is based off of household, not individual, income level. This means that if they were to get married, many people with disabilities would no longer be eligible for Medicaid and would lose coverage.

#### [Lawsuit: Planet Fitness Denied Woman Membership Due to Disability](#)

A woman with a foot disability was denied a membership at a Planet Fitness in Tennessee and is filing a lawsuit to gain access. The manager who denied her membership said that her disability was a liability and specifically stated that if they were to allow her access, they would have to allow other people with disabilities too (something they didn't want to happen).

#### [80 Arrested In Nation's Capital At Disabilities Rights Protest](#)

Disability rights activists, part of the disability rights group ADAPT, were arrested during a demonstration on Capitol Hill. They were pressing for more access to



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### Upcoming Events

#### [Make 'm Smile](#)

**Saturday, June 1, 2019**  
7:30am-1:00pm Eastern Time

**Orlando, FL**

"Make 'm Smile is the BIGGEST party celebrating kids with special needs...our VIPs! This annual community festival is the first Saturday of June in Downtown Orlando for kids and adults with all types of special needs and their families! In 2018, Make 'm Smile hosted 45,000+ participants, including 3,000 VIPs! "

[Paving the Way "This is Me"](#)

**Sunday, June 30, 2019**  
10:00am-12:00pm

## [Disability is Not a Dirty Word; 'Handi-capable' Should Be Retired](#)

An article in a special issue of Rehabilitation Psychology discusses the sociocultural implications of the term "disability". "Decisions about language have important sociocultural meanings in the disability community, and erasure of the term 'disability' can evoke fear and frustration among those who claim a disabled identity and align with disability culture," the authors say.

## [Study Shows Adults With Disabilities Have Challenges With Insurance, Despite Improvements to ACA](#)

A qualitative study out of the University of Kansas has found challenges to utilizing health insurance for people with disabilities. Challenges include: information and understanding of coverage, out-of-pocket expenses, prescription medications, provider networks, and transportation.

## [Study Finds 'Huge Gaps' In Support For Job Seekers With Autism](#)

A study published in the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders has shown that the access and effectiveness of vocational rehabilitation agencies varied by state in terms of assisting job seekers with autism. "At the high end, 76 percent of Washington state residents with autism exited vocational rehabilitation services with a job compared to a low of 29 percent in Washington, D.C."

## [A Student's Disability Status Depends On Where They Go To](#)

"Join us for an inspirational morning celebrating adults with disabilities and their families, as they share their stories of breaking barriers, overcoming obstacles and paving the way to meaningful lives. A performance by the Exceptional Theater Company and a Q&A with guest speakers to follow. Light refreshments will be served. Free and open to the community. RSVP required to [events@jfsbroward.org](mailto:events@jfsbroward.org)."

**For more upcoming events, search through the [Agency for Persons with Disabilities \(APD\) Event Calendar!](#)**



## **Webinars & Applications**

[Taking Charge of My Health Care](#)

**Tuesday, June 11, 2019  
12:00pm-1:00pm PM**

"The Oregon Self-Advocacy Coalition, the Oregon Office on Disability and Health and the University Center of Excellence on Developmental Disabilities is excited to share their newly released, free on-line toolkit, called "Taking Charge of My Health Care"." Webinar is free, and will be live captioned

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A new study out of Portland State University suggests that the likelihood of a child being classified with an educational disability depends on the characteristics of their school and how distinctive they are from their peers. Dara Shifrer, the study's lead author and an assistant professor of sociology in PSU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, said disability classifications are inconsistent and subjective.

## Tips, Briefs, & Guides

### [17 Things I Do to Keep Doctor's Appointments From Taking Over My Life](#)

These tips can help streamline doctor's appointments, including avoiding booking appointments during rush hour, scheduling blood work online, and asking if you can email or call on the phone for follow-ups instead of going in for an appointment.

### [5 Tips for "Adulthood" with Autism](#)

This article gives tips to adults with autism, including managing sensory resources and managing a social calendar.

### [8 Things Not to Say to Someone with a Chronic Illness](#)

Managing a chronic illness is hard enough! If you happen to meet someone with a chronic illness, you can make things a little easier for them by avoiding some key phrases that they encounter a lot, like "You just need to be grateful, think positively and motivate yourself more" or "Have you tried...".

**Sincerely,**

**Florida Disability and Health Program**

Anna Costalas or call 301-588-8252 a minimum of five days in advance.

[The Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\) - Employment and Disclosure](#)

**Tuesday, July 23, 2019  
2:30pm-4:00pm EST**

This webinar is part three of an eight-part webinar series called "Advancing Equal Employment Opportunities and Creating Inclusive Workplaces". Part three is presented by Barry Whaley, Director of the Southeast ADA Center, and Pam Williamson, Assistant Director of the Southeast ADA Center.



### About the DHP

The Disability and Health Program (DHP) is funded through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Formerly, the Florida Office on Disability and Health, the DHP is housed under the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention in

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