

Doctors, COVID-19, and ID/DD, all this and more in this issue of Accessibility for All.

# Accessibility for All

## - Disability and Health Program -

### Recent News

#### [Many doctors have negative perceptions of patients with disabilities — and that impacts quality of care, study finds](#)

"More than 82% of American doctors say they believe patients with significant disabilities have a worse quality of life than people who don't have disabilities, according to a new study. Those negative perceptions can have big impacts on the quality of care patients with disabilities receive. Researchers at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital found that negative perceptions of patients with disabilities are widespread among physicians -- to a degree they say is "disturbing." Just 56.5% of doctors strongly agreed that they welcomed patients with disabilities into their practices, and only 40.7% of doctors surveyed reported feeling very confident about their ability to provide the same quality of care to patients with disabilities, according to the study published in the journal Health Affairs."

#### [People With Intellectual Disabilities Are Often Overlooked In Pandemic Response](#)

 [FRIEND ON FACEBOOK](#)

 [FORWARD TO A FRIEND](#)



### Upcoming Events and Opportunities

[The 23rd Annual Family Café](#)

**June 11th-13th, 2021  
Orlando, FL**

"Since 1998, The Annual Family Café has brought Floridians with all types of disabilities together for three days of information, training, and networking each June. At this time, we are planning on hosting an in-person event, and hoping that the coronavirus will be sufficiently contained that we will be able to do so. If circumstances dictate any changes to our plans, we will be sure to let everyone know right away! No matter the format, we will host The 23rd Annual Family Café this June!

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and developmental disabilities have a higher likelihood of dying from the virus than those without disabilities, likely because of a higher prevalence of preexisting conditions. While some high-profile outbreaks made the news, a lack of federal tracking means the population remains largely overlooked amid the pandemic."

## [Sexual Violence and the Disability Community](#)

"Sexual violence against disabled people is a silent epidemic, often overlooked both within and outside of reproductive health, rights, and justice circles.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics' 2009–2014 National Crime Victimization Survey, people with disabilities were more than three times more likely than nondisabled people to experience serious violent crime such as rape and sexual assault. In addition, having multiple disabilities can increase a person's risk of rape and sexual assault, and children with mental health or intellectual disabilities are almost five times more likely than their nondisabled peers to experience sexual abuse."

## [Hashtag Invites Disabled People To Claim Their Disabilities With Pride](#)

"In November 2020, disabled activists Karli Drew and Charis Hill started a new Twitter hashtag for and about disabled people: #BeingDisabledDoesDefineMe. Essentially, the hashtag's creators meant it to invite disabled people to express the seemingly counterintuitive opposite of a more familiar saying about disability, one which can seem like simple common sense: "My disability doesn't define me." Statements like this are especially common in media stories about disabled people, in which "doesn't let their disability define them" is shorthand for an interpretation of disability that is at the same time quite

its attendees with the resources it offers at the lowest cost possible. The Annual Family Café remains a FREE EVENT, with no registration cost for people with disabilities and their families. Only those attending in a professional capacity are asked to pay a \$200 registration fee. The Family Café is also proud to offer families limited Financial Assistance, which can provide for complimentary accommodations at the host hotel, the Hyatt Regency Orlando. Financial Assistance is distributed through a lottery process. To request Financial Assistance, make sure to check the appropriate box on the registration form."

### [Connecting Thru Music](#)

Our quarter 2 DCPG Spotlight is looking for more participants! This is a wonderful opportunity for any child with special needs. "Connecting Thru Music (CTM) 501-c3 is dedicated to providing music therapy for children with special needs, building a foundation of music therapy/music therapists throughout Northeast Florida and raising awareness about the efficacy, benefits and importance of music therapy and learning through music for children with special needs. If you are interested and would like more information about Connecting Thru Music, please contact Executive Director, Karen Demuth at

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for non-disabled observers, but for disabled people themselves."

## [When Does COVID-19 Become A Disability? 'Long-Haulers' Push For Answers, and Benefits](#)

"People who survive COVID-19 but have symptoms – sometimes debilitating symptoms – many months later have been called "long-haulers". As scientists scramble to explain what is going on and figure out how to help, disability advocates are also scrambling: They are trying to figure out whether long-haulers will qualify for disability benefits. Disability advocates and lawmakers are calling on the Social Security Administration or SSA to study the issue, update their policies and offer guidance for applicants."

## [Purple Alert Could Join Amber And Silver, To Aid Florida Missing Adults With Developmental Disabilities](#)

"The state already has programs like Silver Alert, which cover adults who have dementia and Alzheimer's, and the Amber Alert for children.

If an adult with a developmental disability gets lost, law enforcement could send out a Purple Alert. That's under a proposal that just passed its first House committee stop. The Purple Alert would be used for adults with certain conditions like brain injuries or autism. Rep. Joseph Casello (D-Boynton Beach) says the Purple Alert could help families."

## [The Counseling not Criminalization in Schools Act](#)

"Over the last 50 years, our nation's public schools have become sites for increased criminalization and surveillance of young people, particularly Black, Native American and Latinx students, immigrant students, students with disabilities, LGBTQ+ students and other

Connecting Thru Music.com (visit our virtual music library) and Facebook / Instagram Connecting Thru Music."

[Sensory Inclusive Organization: Jacksonville Zoo](#)

"Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens partnered with KultureCity, which works to support people with special needs, to become certified as a sensory inclusive organization. That means the Northside family favorite will be more accommodating for people with autism, post-traumatic stress disorder and other similar conditions. The certification involved zoo staff being trained on how to recognize and help people with sensory needs." This provides an inclusive opportunity for PWD with sensory needs!



## **Webinars & Applications**

[COVID-19 – Its Impact on Direct Support Professionals](#)

**Tuesday, March 16th, 2021  
4:00pm-5:00pm EST**

"This webinar is jointly hosted by AAIDD and the AAIDD Direct Support Professional Interest Network.

Presenter: Amy Hewitt,

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to subsidize the placement of police in schools, resulting in more than 46,000 school resource officers (SROs) patrolling the halls of K-12 schools throughout the nation. At the same time, 90% of K-12 students throughout the nation attend a school that fails to meet adequate student to counselor, school nurse and social worker ratios. A growing body of research has not found any evidence that school police make schools safer. When police officers have a presence in schools, students are more likely to have their learning interrupted, more likely to be subjected to physical restraint and interrogation, and more likely to be referred to law enforcement and funneled into the school to confinement pathway. Rep. Pressley, Senator Murphy, Rep. Omar and Senator Warren's Counseling not Criminalization in Schools Act will help reduce the over policing and criminalization of our nation's students."

## DCPG

### Partner Spotlight

#### Rudd Disability Solutions

Congratulations to our longtime DCPG partner Christinne Rudd for starting her business Rudd Disability Solutions!

"Rudd Disability Solutions provides corporate and government trainings, webinars and other resources to increase inclusion of people with disabilities. Rudd Disability Solutions maintains a Facebook group for people with disabilities to connect and have a place to share questions and concerns. It also provides support to members so they can navigate life with a disability. Rudd Disability Solutions provides interactive webinars on self-advocacy for healthcare needs, hurricane preparedness, parenting with a disability. Rudd Disability Solutions provides accessibility training on utilizing assistance technology in order to maximize a person's independence. Our blog has the latest updates on best practices for inclusion in the

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) provide long term services and supports to people with intellectual disabilities in a wide variety of settings – individual/family homes, community programs, worksites, group homes, and larger facilities. These workers have many critically important roles. Throughout the pandemic they have risked their lives to deliver needed supports to people and often were put in the situation of potentially infecting their own families due to their work. Despite their importance, in most states this group of employees is not clearly identified as essential workers. This webinar will share new research findings from the University of Minnesota's Research and Training Center on Community Living regarding a 6 month follow up study on the effects of COVID-19 on this important workforce and strategies that are helpful to best supporting them. Implications of the findings of this longitudinal study will be shared and discussed by participants."

#### [FDDC Dual Diagnosis Study Invitation for Proposals](#)

**Deadline: Monday, March 15th, 2021**

"The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc. is pleased to release Invitation for Proposal (IFP) 2021-CC-1000 Dual Diagnosis Study. Please see the IFP, Work Plan Template, and Scoring Rubric for details. This project seeks to conduct an

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benefits through various programs including Social Security applications and appeals, food stamps, and Fair Housing Discrimination. We are a Florida Bar certified CLE provider.

For more information contact our Founder, Christinne Rudd, at (407) 697-1297

[rudd.disabilitysolutions@gmail.com](mailto:rudd.disabilitysolutions@gmail.com).

[www.facebook.com/RuddDisabilitySolutions](https://www.facebook.com/RuddDisabilitySolutions). Follow us

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## Tips, Briefs, & Guides

### [The NCCSD Clearinghouse and Resource Library](#)

"Intersectionality of Identities with Disability. All of us have more than one identity and more than one way we experience systemic inequalities, so here are resources for people of different races, ethnicities, cultures, LGBTQI identities, and religions (listed in no particular order)."

### [Guidelines for Accessible COVID-19 Testing & Vaccination Sites](#)

The University of Michigan's Department of Family Medicine has this guide to making their COVID-19 response sites accessible to PWD. This can serve as an example to other sites wishing to increase the accessibility of their services.

### [It's Time To Stop Even Casually Misusing Disability Words](#)

This guide provides a rationale for updating our language with regards to disability. It also provides several tips for getting started with ensuring that your organization eliminates ableist language from its culture.

need to prevent unnecessary interventions, ensuring that an agency and stakeholder collaborative group provides oversight and convenes to plan the implementation of recommendations to improve service delivery for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and mental health (MH) diagnoses and/or in crisis."



### About the DHP

The Disability and Health Program (DHP) is funded through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 Tallahassee, FL with partnership from the University of Florida.

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This guide provides tips and several resources for PWD looking to get a mortgage, including specific tips for Veteran's with disabilities, PWD with bad credit, parents with a disabled child, and more.

## [The standby list for leftover COVID vaccine](#)

"Vaccination locations sometimes have unused, extra doses of COVID vaccine they must either use or throw out. We give providers like pharmacies or clinics with leftover doses a way to reach nearby people looking to get vaccinated on a moment's notice. No wasted vaccine. No hours-long lines. Verified providers."

**Sincerely,**

**Florida Disability and Health Program**

Disclaimer: These links are provided for informational purposes, not to solicit donations to an organization nor to promote one organization or resource over another.

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[Florida Office on Disability and Health](#)

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