

E-CONNECTOR



BULLETIN BOARD

Notes and Notices from Colorado Parents of Blind Children (CO-POBC)



Dear Reader:

Please contact us if you have an announcement you would like to tack up on our bulletin board, or if you would like to add a friend or family member to the e-mail list. Direct all communications to: copobc.newsletter@gmail.com, attention Julie Hunter, editor.



DVR DIRECTOR DEMOTED AFTER ONLY ONE YEAR

(Condensed from the [Blind Coloradan Blogspot](#))

One year nearly to the day after starting as Colorado DVR's new Director, Joelle Brouner was demoted on October 6. The move by DVR's umbrella agency, the Department of Human Services (DHS) triggered a flurry of angry and concerned e-mails from disability advocates, as well as the resignation of Josh Winkler as co-chair of DVR's State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) in protest. In his letter of resignation to Governor John Hickenlooper, Winkler wrote, "I will not serve on behalf of an administration that doesn't support the employment of people with disabilities in

professional jobs, including state government jobs."

Steve Anton, previously serving as a financial staffer in the Disability Determination unit, has been named as Interim Director. He has no background in Vocational Rehabilitation, but is a self-styled "numbers guy." Brouner, who has spent her career in Rehabilitation and has a refreshingly strong grasp of the program's intent as well as the Rehabilitation Services Administration's regulations and policies, has been moved to a newly created position as Director of Client Relations.

"Everybody's watching Colorado," an administrator of a neighboring state's VR program told us about Colorado's dramatic entry into what the Rehab Act calls "Order of Selection." No state VR program has so dramatically ended up with a waiting list, and no waiting list

has ever grown as large as Colorado's had. Despite the enormity of the problems, Brouner was slowly beginning to get the results. During her one-year tenure, though with a lot of drag from her DHS superiors, Brouner managed to open the waiting list which was in danger of becoming larger than DVR's active clients at the time (It was approaching 7000 names), and removed about 4000 of those names from the waiting list. Another 1000 or so names were removed this month after her demotion.

The Colorado Cross-disability Coalition (CCDC) chose Brouner as one of its annual ADA Access Award recipients for 2014. CCDC chose Brouner "for her commitment and efforts to fix the Colorado Vocational Rehabilitation Program ..."

The question is whether we can expect DHS to ever show itself capable of understanding, let alone administering, a successful vocational rehabilitation program in the state of Colorado. DHS has shown itself to be utterly clueless as to the purpose and nature of vocational rehabilitation and indifferent to the Coloradans with disabilities who apply looking for a hand up. We should expect what they have shown us so far – mismanagement, misdirection and obfuscation.



FAST SATURDAY SCHEDULE

(RSVP for all *FAST* Saturday activities to Brent Batron by phone 303-778-1130, ext. 222 or email bbatron@cocenter.org.

November 8–

FAST Saturday joins Super Science Saturday at NCAR

The theme this year is *Measuring Weather!* Learn more about this by: Exploring activity tables; Performing experiments with CSU's [Little Shop of Physics](#); See the Doppler on Wheels (DOW) in action; Learn how a weather drone works; Enjoy science demonstrations with the NCAR Wizards-- And more!

This event is held at the Mesa Lab located at 1850 Table Mesa Dr, Boulder, CO 80305. Transportation is available. Please RSVP by November 5th.

November 14 –

Shark Dissection with Terry Harrison 10 – 1 pm

We will be dissecting sharks at the Colorado Center for the Blind from 10 am - 1 pm with

direction from Terry Harrison, biology faculty member, from Arapahoe Community College. We are excited to provide this amazing day of science so that your child or your student will have the opportunity to participate in biology like never before.

Lunch will be provided for all participants. Space is limited so please register by November 10th. All blind and visually impaired middle and high school aged students are eligible to participate. Parents and teachers are also invited to join in and dissect a shark.

Every Saturday:

Goalball

Every Saturday we have a goalball practice at the Center in partnership with USABA and Rocky Mountain Goalball so come join us for the fun in learning this exciting sport! (Gavin, age 10, is currently the youngest player and he would love to have some other younger kids join him. If your child has some interest and would like to talk to Gavin about what it's like to play, call Brent and he will put the kids in touch with each other.)



GROCERY SHOPPING

In this day and age if you want to eat you have to grocery shop.! How do blind people manage this task independently? Watch this [Youtube video by Maureen Nietfeld](#) and see how she does it. Note that although a customer service person is pulling the cart, Maureen is in charge. She doesn't just hand a shopping list over to him. She tells him exactly what she wants and double checks that the correct item is being placed in the cart. Your child may not be old enough to grocery shop independently, but don't let him or her sit passively in the cart. There are lots of ways to engage kids in the shopping process that will help prepare them for the day when they are shopping for themselves. The article [Supermarketing](#), by Carol Castellano is full of great suggestions on ways to involve kids in a trip to the grocery store.



KEEPING IN TOUCH NEWSLETTER

Here is the link for finding current and archived copies of the Colorado Department of Education newsletter, [Keeping in Touch](#), edited by Tanni Anthony. This newsletter is for parents and service providers of blind/visually impaired children.



PRINT/BRILLE CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Beulah Reimer Legacy, (BRL) announces the 2014 BRL Holiday Reading Grab Bag. BRL chooses some of the most popular children's picture books and applies the Braille text on clear plastic overlays. The BRL Holiday Reading Grab Bag season runs from October 1 through January 3. For the bargain price of twenty dollars, BRL will select four print/Braille children's picture books for your child, based on information you provide regarding your child's reading level and interests.

To order your grab bag or to see all the wonderful reading adventures BRL has in store,

visit the website:
www.beulahreimerlegacy.com



CHILDREN'S THEATER

Phamaly Theatre Company
Presents

Rapunzel

November 14-16, 2014

(From the Phamaly website)
"Rapunzel is a witty, tongue-in-cheek, one hour musical retelling of a perennial favorite that gives us a possessive mother who happens to be a witch, a tentative young man who happens to be a prince, and a strong-willed but naïve young girl with the longest hair you're ever likely to come across. Designed with an appeal to young and adult audiences alike, the play has a contemporary moral about parent-child relationships, the challenges of growing up (for both children and adults), the joys of love, and challenges of being different."

Playing November 14-16 at the Pinnacle Performing Arts Center; 1001 W. 84th Ave., Denver. (Audio Described on Sunday, November 16). Tickets cost \$7.50

For more information or to purchase tickets, go to [Phamaly's website](#).