



CHOICES

A Newsletter about Self-Determination in Dane County written by individuals with developmental disabilities, for individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and supporters.

Vol. 17 No. 1 | Spring 2015

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Bear In Mind | 2 |
| Columnists | 3-4 |
| Informed and Involved | 5-6 |
| Events | 7 |
| Community Partners/ Opportunities | 8 |
| Recognitions | 9 |
| The "Oh Yeah's" | 10 |

Advocates Gather at the Capitol for Disability Advocacy Day

Jeffrey Johnson

Tuesday March 17th was Disability Advocacy Day, hosted by the Survival Coalition. There was a rally in the capital rotunda around 12:30. Self-advocates and advocacy organizations came to the capital to join in the rally. There were over 700 advocates at the capital for Disability Advocacy Day wearing blue t-shirts to show support from all around the state.



Advocates also went to visit their legislators and met up with their senators. Our group went to the capital to talk Fred Risser's staff, Terry Tuschen and met with Chris Taylor's staff, Adrienne Roach. People talked about long term care, educating students with disabilities, mental health, employment for people with disabilities, the long-term care workforce, transportation budget priorities, support for children with significant disabilities, and Medicaid.

Governor Scott Walker wants to make a lot of changes to long term care because he thinks it will save lots of money. One is that he wants to remove IRIS from the state budget; IRIS lets people self direct their services. Another is that he wants to use insurance companies to run long term care.

Advocates are working really hard to keep the IRIS program in the state budget and have a say in the changes to long term care. Before, I left, I asked Adrienne Roach if could schedule a time to meet with her for a follow up. She said she would be glad to meet up with me.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Call for Writers and Artists!

Are you interested in contributing an article or comic to Choices?

Please contact Angie Klemm, Editor:
klemm.angela@countyofdane.com

Bear in Mind...



Monica Bear is Dane County's
Community Services Manager for
Developmental Disabilities

As I write, March snow is flying. I am grateful that my next door neighbor revved up his snow blower for what I hope is the last time, and for the kindness he showed in clearing my sidewalk. With the final school quarter approaching, young adults leaving high school in June are starting to get hired by their future employers. While the County prepares to help

young adults transition to community services, state legislators are deliberating the governor's 2015-2017 biennial budget. The proposed budget represents the largest change to long term care in decades. Regardless of one's political affiliation, all who receive county funded services as a result of their developmental disability, physical disability or status as a frail elder should pay very close attention as these proposed changes will impact you.

In his 2015-2017 state budget, Gov. Walker has proposed to significantly alter Wisconsin's current long term care (LTC) system. By January 1, 2017 his budget would eliminate the "legacy waivers" that fund services in Dane County; replace the existing 8 homegrown, LTC regional managed care organizations (MCOs) which currently administer Family Care with 2-3 statewide, for profit insurance companies with health care and LTC rolled together; eliminate the IRIS self directed supports program; and eliminate the county-run Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs). The insurance companies would be awarded the contracts on a no-bid basis, and there would be no cap on their future profits (which would be taken from taxpayer dollars). The new statewide providers would have no obligation to contract with current brokers, supported living, or vocational providers regardless of individuals' preferences. Of the three other states on which the governor's proposal is modeled (California, Florida and Kansas), only one state (Kansas) has included people with developmental disabilities in the program, and that has only been since Feb., 2014. So there are no track records in these states to compare to Wisconsin.

In spite of historic and current differences in opinions about whether and how to implement Family Care and Iris in Dane County, a broad coalition of advocates for people with disabilities and older adults in Dane County agree that eliminating the "legacy waivers" (CIP and COP) in

eighteen months and transitioning everyone currently receiving services and on wait lists to 2-3 out-of-state health insurance companies with a primary emphasis on health care and would be problematic.

As of March 26, local family groups such as Lov-Dane, aging and physical disabilities advocates, Family Support and Resource Center, the ADRC board and the Developmental Disabilities Coalition all support the following resolution which they hope the County Board will take up:

Whereas Dane County pioneered the concept of self-directed supports in Wisconsin over 20 years ago in its services for people with developmental disabilities, and believes all its citizens who rely on publically funded long term care services should have access to quality services and the ability to make individual choices about those services; and

Whereas Dane County believes that local control in providing services to people with developmental disabilities, seniors and people with physical disabilities as well as service administration and delivery in Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC's), and preserving local jobs is essential for the citizens of Dane County; and

Whereas the Family Support Program has effectively supported children with disabilities and their families; and

Whereas Dane County has succeeded in providing quality services for people with developmental disabilities that surpass national standards using a system build on local, flexible services and using existing Medicaid waivers (CIP and COP);

Whereas Medicaid Personal Services are essential to individuals' health, work and participation in their community as part of their long term care services,

Be it resolved that the Dane County Board of Supervisors believes that changes to the Family Care and IRIS programs, the precipitous elimination of the CIP and COP waivers, changes as proposed to the Family Support Program, to Medicaid Personal Care services, and to the current ADRC model in the Governor's proposed budget would have dire consequences for people with developmental disabilities, children with disabilities and their families, people with physical disabilities, and older adults in Dane County.

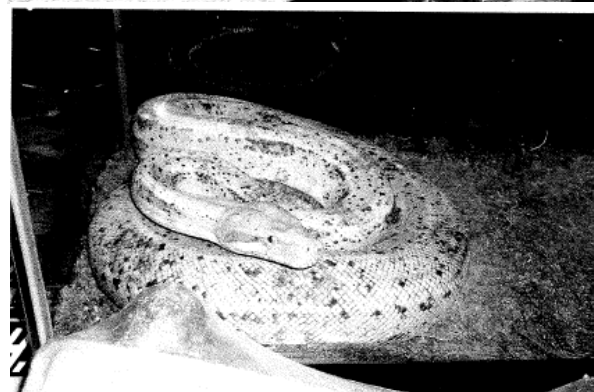
Continued on Page 5

Columnists

Dora's Pet Corner: Hanging with Jungle Carpet Pythons and Common Boas

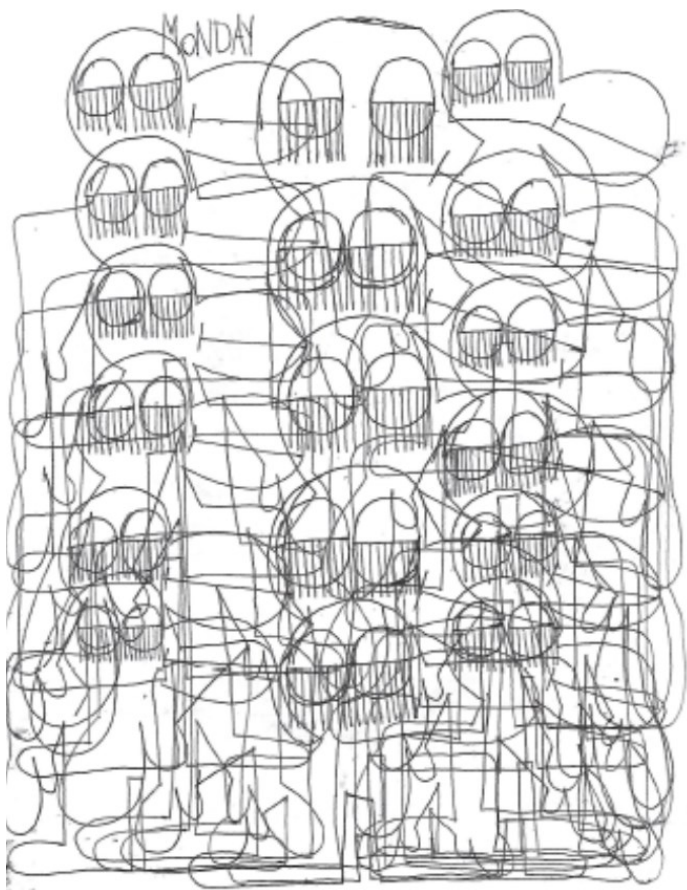
Dora Norland

For this issue, I had a chance to see some jungle carpet pythons at a reptile expo and sale. Carpet pythons are 6 feet 6 inches long (2 meters). There are several breeds of pythons. They are carpet, children's, pygmy, Burmese, reticulated, African rock, green tree, jungle carpet, diamond, west Papuan carpet, inland carpet, Darwin carpet, coastal carpet, Bredl's, southwestern carpet, and rough scaled. Female reticulated pythons can lay 30-100 eggs each about 2 feet(60 cm) long. I also had a chance to see a common boa snake at the reptile expo and sale. Common boa snake size is 13 feet (4 meters). There are several breeds of boas. They are common, emerald tree, rainbow, calabar, eyelash, dwarf, ground, banana, and round island keel-scaled. The banana boas are so called as they have been known to accidentally get transported in bunches of bananas.



COMICS

Bill Worthy



Film Review: Disc 3 of Connections (Series 1)

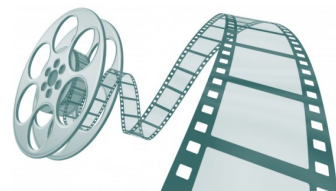
Greg Pesl

Connections is always a pleasure to watch, whether for the first time or the tenth. The two episodes on Disc 3 don't disappoint:

Episode 5, "The Wheel Of Fortune"--Who would think ancient astrology would have something in common with the modern factory system? This episode shows the steps in between--including medieval medicine, the telescope, mechanical clocks, steel-making, and the assembly line. You might even get a chuckle out of the mechanical alarm clock that was built from medieval plans.

Episode 6, "Thunder In The Skies"--See how a mini-Ice Age in medieval Europe leads to new ways to keep warm, a switch from wood to coal for fuel, the steam engine, and several other inventions which come together around 1900 to give us the internal combustion engine (and what might have been history's first powered flight, but wasn't).

If I don't say enough about what's in each episode, it's because I think you'd get more out of them if you watched them yourself.



Columnists

My Memories of Rosemary Johnson

Jeffrey Johnson

This was a really sad Christmas for myself and my family. My mom passed away on December 25 Christmas day at 3 am in the morning after a hard fight against brain cancer. It is really hard to lose someone so special to you that loves you a lot. It is very hard when you lose your mother. It was great to see the number of people that came to my mom's funeral on Wednesday December 31. My mom was a very nice and kind person. Nobody knows what I am going through and how much it hurts. I am really going to miss my Mom a lot. I am trying to tell you how much it hurts this a very sad time in my life. I hope some of you can relate to how I feel. When you lose someone real close to you it is very hard to get over. It is harder because she passed away Christmas day.

My Mom always advocated for me. My Mom and I enjoyed doing things to together. I remember my Mom and I both worked at the Special Olympics Brat fest at the Aliant Energy Center. I remember going gambling with my Mom and going to Madison Memorial boys' basketball games at Memorial High School together. I remember my mom coming to all my birthday party at the Nitty Gritty. We went to see my to nieces Emily Rose Potocki and Nicole Potocki in their dance recital at Middleton High School. I remember my mom watched me in the Fourth of July parade in my uncle Marv's race car in Oregon, Wisconsin. I have great memories of my mom coming to watch me bowl in the Special Olympics bowling tournaments at Bowl A Vard. I also remember going to the Middleton parade with her. It was special for me and for her to come to my church, Community of Christ, for my Baptism on November 28th 2010. As I look back I remember her giving me a birthday party in my apartment on the eastside. I also remember my mom helping me out when I had money problems. I remember spending thanksgiving and Christmas Eve with my mom. I couldn't ask for a better mom, she was the best. I have memories of her and I going to New Glarus for the William Tell play, shopping at the flea market and having lunch and ice



cream. I remember visiting my aunt Peggy on Easter in at her farm house in New Glarus. We visited the New Glarus apple orchard. We visited my aunt Peggy at her house in Verona for Thanksgiving. I have many great memories of my Mom and that is what I think about to help me deal with her death.

SPORTS

TJ Schloss



My name is T.J. Schloss and I made certain goals for myself this year. On New Year Day, the Badgers won the Outback Bowl. They won 34-31 in overtime. They were losing 31-28 with just one minute to go in the game. Barry Alvarez kept his team together. It was a miracle; the Badgers did not give up. Quarterback, Joel Stave, played great. God helped me cheer on the Badgers. Auburn did not make it easy. I stayed calm. The Badgers kicked a field goal. The same was tied at 31-31. God helped me stay even calmer. I was saying to myself, "Angel please help the Badgers win." The Badgers did win by kicking a field goal. The score was 34-31. Auburn got the ball, but the miracle happened, Auburn missed their field goal. The Badgers became the 2015 Outback Bowl champions. I was so happy.

I think of my best friend as an Angel. Her friendship even inspired me a lot more while I was cheering on Maria Sharapova during the Australian Open. I also follow and watch tennis. Maria Sharapova is an awesome tennis player. God helped me cheer her on. She lost to Serena Williams in the championship match. I still think she is a champion because she played hard. My best friend and Angel inspired me to keep cheering her on. Being a true fan is special.

Bear in Mind...continued from page 2

Be it further resolved that the Dane County Board of Supervisors opposes changes to the Family Care and IRIS programs, the precipitous elimination of the CIP and COP waivers, changes as proposed to the Family Support Program, to Medicaid Personal Care services, and to the current ADRC model contained in the Governor's proposed budget.

Between now and June, the news will report much about the governors long-term care budget. While many details remain unknown, the proposed changes are complicated, controversial, and will alter how you receive support. Now is the time to share your thoughts with your elected officials. Clicking on <http://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/> will help you find your legislator and their contact information.

Below are links to more information on the proposed 2015-2017 budget:

State budget: <http://www.doa.state.wi.us/Divisions/Budget-and-Finance/Biennial-Budget/201517-Executive-Budget/>

Disability Rights Wisconsin at www.disabilityrightswi.org

Wisconsin Board of People with Developmental Disabilities at www.wi-bpdd.org

Survival coalition at <http://www.survivalcoalitionwi.org/>

[State Budget Analysis](#)

INFORMED & INVOLVED

Advocacy Groups in Wisconsin

Jeffrey Johnson & Angie Klemm

Advocacy can happen individually, in groups, or a combination of both. Advocacy can include many different activities to support or make recommendations on particular issues or policies. Advocacy can also involve educating people about policies or laws. Here are some groups in Wisconsin who advocate, educate, and collaborate around disability issues. You can get involved, too. Every voice matters.

Disability Advocates Wisconsin Network (DAWN)

DAWN focuses on the most important issues affecting all people with disabilities. The DAWN Network is a statewide grassroots cross-disability network of people who care about disability issues. DAWN supports legislative change and works with programs and systems affecting people with all disabilities. The Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities funds DAWN through the state budget as part of the state plan on developmental disabilities. DAWN works with people with disabilities on issues that matter to them. DAWN includes people with disabilities, family members, friends, and service providers. The way to join is go to their web site www.dawninfo.org and register.

Disability Rights, WI (DRW)

Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW) is a private non-profit organization and statewide grassroots advocacy

organization. It was founded in 1977. DRW helps people have access to services through advocacy. The organization serves people with developmental disabilities, people with mental illness, people with physical or sensory disabilities and people with traumatic brain injuries. DRW works with abuse, neglect and patient rights, discrimination in employment and housing, long term care, and disability benefits. DRW can be contacted by calling 608-267-0214 or 1-800-928-8778 or through their website at www.disabilityrightswi.org.

Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (WBPDD)

WBPDD was created to advocate on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities, foster welcoming and inclusive communities, and improve disability services. The mission of the board is to foster independence, productivity, and integration of people with developmental disabilities in Wisconsin. The WBPDD board meets every other month in Madison, co-sponsors two annual statewide conferences, and provides trainings throughout Wisconsin. You can go to their website, www.wibpdd.org, to get informed on policies and projects and find resources. You can also find information on upcoming trainings and events and connect with WBPDD on social media, through emails, and by contacting staff members directly.

People First

People First Wisconsin is a statewide grassroots non-profit self-advocacy organization developed and run by people with disabilities, especially intellectual disabilities. People First Wisconsin has local chapters in Milwaukee, Racine, Waukesha, Grafton, Madison, Stoughton, Richland Center, Beaver Dam, Appleton, Menasha, Oshkosh, West Bend, Eau Claire, Minocqua, Merrill, and Ashland. Cindy Bentley is the Executive Director for People First Wisconsin, Jason Endres is the President, Jenifer Kuhr is the secretary, and Josh Gretebeck in charge of the budget. I am the backup voting board member for Dane County. People First Wisconsin meets quarterly in Stevens Point. We help people with disabilities speak up for themselves we also help advocate for the ones that can't advocate for themselves. People with and without disabilities can join People First Wisconsin by coming to a People First Meeting.

People First of Dane County is an organization of people with disabilities. They work together to learn about issues that interest them. The advisors and mem-

bers want new members to join the group. The People First group has invited different speakers to speak on different topics. Elections were just completed on December 16th to get new officers for the group. Starting this year, the group just moved to the Madison Central Library (201 W. Mifflin St.) for their meetings. People First of Dane County meets on the third Tuesday of each month from 6-7:15pm. Please join us at the library for an upcoming meeting! Contact Stefanie Primm, 608-219-8178, with questions.

Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

Survival Coalition works with local organizations, coalitions, consumers, advocates, and families throughout Wisconsin. The coalition focuses on changing and improving policies and practices that support people with disabilities to be full and equal participants in community life. They work with state and federal agencies to advocate for resources, policies, programs, and practices that support their Vision. You can go to www.survivalcoalitionwi.org for policy, practice, and membership information.

People with Disabilities Should Vote

Jeffrey Johnson

The reason why someone with a disability would want to vote is because it will give a voice into who is in office. If people with disabilities don't vote, their voice and concerns will not be heard. People with disabilities can get involved by helping and volunteering at one of the campaign offices in Madison of the candidate they support.



In order to vote, a person must be a U.S. citizen. A person also must be 18 years old. Also, they must be a Wisconsin resident who has lived at the same address for 28 days in a row before Election Day.

A person with a disability can lose their right to vote. The only person who can take away the right to vote is by a judge. The person loses the right to vote when a guardian is appointed. Nobody thought about letting the person with a disability keeping the right to vote. A person with a guardian can ask the court to restore their right to vote.

If a person doesn't have a place of residence or could be in a homeless shelter, they can register at the polls on Election Day. If you don't know how to register, you can write or call the city clerk's office in your city, town, or village. People can also find your polling place by going to <http://myvote.wi.gov>.

There is more than one way you can vote. States are making it more accessible for people to vote. No matter what your impairment, polling stations will assist in voting. Absentee ballots must be done through the municipal clerk. This must be done 5:00 pm the Thursday before the election. When you are finished voting they will ask you to sign the voters book. There are two types of election in Wisconsin. Depending on who's up for election, it will be either a non-partisan or a partisan election. All polling places in Wisconsin are required to have an accessible voter's machine.

I am trying to set an example on how important voting is for people with disabilities. I plan to vote in all the future elections in Wisconsin. I hope all of you will do the same and vote!

INFOSHARE CONFERENCE



The audience enjoying Monkey Business Improv Group.



Art Workshop with Molly Linn-Miller.



Vendors and Exhibitors

Jeffrey Johnson

The Waisman Community Outreach Center had their InfoShare Conference about Humor and Finding Joy in Everyday life on Tuesday March 3rd, 2015 at the Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall in Madison. The Registration and continental Breakfast opened at 8:30 AM.

InfoShare is a gathering of people with developmental disabilities, friends and family, and support staff. This year, it was a place of learning and sharing humor. There were many things to help keep us entertained. From 9:15 to 9:45, there was a performance by Encore Performing Arts. They did a skit about humor and happiness. Then, from 9:45 to 10:45, Monkey Business Improv Group played some games and worked with the audience to give them ideas. From 11:00 to 12:00 the breakout sessions began. Laughter Yoga was about acting and laughing. Betsy Kennedy was the instructor and she made it fun. The next breakout session was called Improv Class with Monkey Business Performers. The last workshop before lunch was an Art Workshop with Molly Linn Miller. At lunch time, Ricardo Vasques, the Marimba Man, played for all of us. After lunch from 12:45 to 1:30 there was a Comedy Show with Mitch Henck. He is a radio and TV personality and comedian. There was a lot of good entertainment and some really good breakout sessions. At the end of the day we had an open mic and door prizes. I thought that InfoShare was fun and educational for all that attended.



Laughter Yoga with Betsy Kennedy.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS/OPPORTUNITIES

Parent and Caregiver Education (PACE)

Jeffrey Johnson



This program used to be called Parent-to-Parent and the name was changed to Parent and Caregiver Education (PACE), according to Jane Meyer, the Program Director of the Epilepsy Foundation Heart of Wisconsin. Jane, along with Paul Yochum, Executive Director of The Arc-Dane County, produce and provide the seminar topics for PACE. Working together with Dane County, several seminar topics were provided in 2014.

The PACE Program is focused on parents and caregivers and adults giving care to people with disabilities. They give seminars on special needs trusts and also social security disability insurance. They also give seminars on how to communicate when dealing with doctors, teachers, siblings, and parents. They also provide good information to those who care for people with disabilities. The PACE program helps caregivers have more knowledge. They offer resources to caregivers about information and organizations that can help with their needs. They bring speakers in that are the experts in these areas that are needed for the seminars. In 2014, Dane County Department of Human Services wanted to provide families with more options for financial planning. The County worked with Paul and Jane, through PACE, to work with younger parents to help provide financial programs on special needs trust, wills and power of attorney. Through county funding they have also expanded how often they can offer the programs and the number of topics. Now instead of two times a year, it is four times a year.

The reason why financial planning is important for the future of people with disabilities is to make sure that there is money available for living needs. Also, budgets are continually getting cut. They try to provide a secure future for the person with a disability. The families help start the financial planning for people with disabilities when the disability happens or as soon as possible. Seminars provide a networking opportunity to meet new people and learn of new organizations and what may be a good benefit for caregivers. If you, or someone you know, are interested in being placed on the PACE seminar contact list, contact either:

Jane @ 442-5555 or janemeyer@wisc.edu

Paul @ 833-1199 or arc dane@chorus.net

Recognitions

Duncan McNelly Retires

Jeffrey Johnson

Duncan McNelly retired from the developmental disability system at the end of 2014. He was a support broker at Avenues to Community from 2013 to retirement. Before that, he worked at ARC Wisconsin from 2005 to 2012 as a Support Broker Director. He also worked for the Waisman Outreach Center as the Training Manager. Before working in Wisconsin, Duncan worked in Maine in DD services from 1982 to 1993 as a case worker and supervisor.

Duncan got involved in the DD system through an internship while he was in college at the Waisman Center in 1976. There, he met Don Anderson who taught him about the DD System. The Waisman Center was built in the 70's and Duncan saw what the DD system was like. This is where he saw the biggest changes start. During the 70's, institutions were still in full swing.

While in college Duncan worked in the juvenile court system as a counselor, probation and parole, juvenile detention center, and at the Waisman Center. Duncan received his Bachelors and Master's degree from University of Wisconsin Madison in Social Work.

After many years of hard work in different areas of the developmental disability system, Duncan felt it was time to retire. He would like to spend more time with family and in Florida, but still wants to be involved. He's thinking of volunteering or starting a new business. Also he has thought about getting involved in social and political issues.

Thank you for all of your work and commitment to Dane County, Duncan!



Now is the time to share your thoughts with
your elected officials. Clicking on
<http://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/> will help you find your
legislator and their contact information.

CHOICES Newsletter



The University of Wisconsin-Madison
Waisman Center
Room A 109
1500 Highland Avenue
Madison WI 53705

...And the “Oh, Yeah’s...”

CHOICES Newsletter

is published quarterly to provide information to consumers, families, guardians, and service providers about Self-Determination Services in Dane County.

The Next Issue of CHOICES

will be out in July 2015. Contact the editor with ideas for articles before May 15. Articles due by June 10, 2014 or until the issue is full.

To Place a Connections Ad:

Submit Connections Ads to: Angela Klemm, Editor, 1202 Northport Drive Madison, WI 53704 or klemm.angela@countyofdane.com. We will run your ad for at least 3 issues unless you tell us otherwise.

Announce a Transition:

Tell us about a new job, an Engagement, a marriage, a new place to live, or say goodbye to someone who has passed away.

Choices is on the COW Website?!

Did you know that Choices newsletter has a fun color version that you can view online??
<http://cow.waisman.wisc.edu/publications.html>

CHOICES by e-mail

Prefer to reduce paper coming in the mail? Choices newsletter is now available electronically via e-mail. If you would prefer to receive a PDF or link, please e-mail Angela Klemm:
Klemm.angela@countyofdane.com

Web versions do not include Connections ads or Transitions information.

Contributors to this issue:

Dora Norland, TJ Schloss, Greg Pesl, Billy Worthy, Jeffrey Johnson, Monica Bear and Rachel Weingarten.



Please send your stories, comments and suggestions

Contributions, comments and suggestions are encouraged and may be directed to Angela Klemm, Editor

Angela Klemm, Editor

The Waisman Center
1202 Northport Drive
Madison WI 53704
Telephone: (608) 242-6473
Fax: (608) 242-6531
klemm.angela@countyofdane.com