
Booster Newsletter

"WE DO SO THEY CAN"

BOOSTER ORGANIZATION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

What's going on in the Legislative Session

The first deadline has passed for this legislative session. If bills were not voted out of committee, they cannot be considered this year. Among some of the bills of interest to people with disabilities are the following.

BILLS STILL ALIVE

The "Work Without Worry" bill was voted out of committee unanimously. It creates a new Medicaid Buy-In program, which allows individuals with disabilities to pay for Medicaid insurance coverage and earn up to 400% of the federal poverty level. "Work Without Worry" does not count a spouse's income toward the 400% salary cap and eliminates all asset limits except a home valued at no more than \$400,000. This bill may have to go to the House Appropriations Committee before it goes to the floor for debate.

House and Senate Education Committees decided to rework the Governor's Special Education/ AEA changes. The House and Senate have different plans to move forward. Most advocates say that the House plan is better because it slows down the changes and gathers stakeholders together to take a deeper look at the current system. Department of Education control over the system is included in both bills.

Two bills would restructure the state's regional behavioral health system and move regional disability services into the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) system. Instead of 13 mental health and disability services regions,

the state will have 7 behavioral districts that manage funding for mental health, substance use, addiction, and tobacco prevention and treatment. The State would also expand the number of ADRCs to manage aging and disability services, including services for those with a chronic mental illness.

A bill directs the Iowa Natural Resources Commission to look for ways to make Iowa's state parks and recreation areas more accessible to people with disabilities. The Department also will post accessible options in each park on its website and in its brochures.

BILLS THAT DIDN'T MAKE THE CUT

Bills that did not make it out of committee involved the following issues:

- Would have allowed family members to receive Medicaid reimbursement for services under the Consumer Choices Option (CCO).
- Would have ended HCBS waiting lists.
- Would have made all HCBS waiver benefits the same as the ID waiver.

The next deadline is later in March. After that, if bills have not progressed, they cannot be considered for the remainder of this session.

Much more information can be found by clicking links at empoweringabilities.org under "Get Involved" and "Legislative Information".

"All advocacy at its core is
an exercise in empathy."

Anonymous

THIS MONTH

INSERVICE

Hickory Grove and Brady St. inservice day is Tuesday, March 12th. Daily Discovery Services will be closed for participants that day.

BOOSTER MEETING

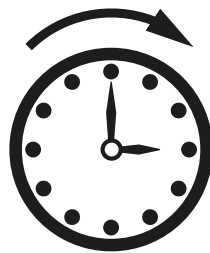
The next Booster meeting will take place Tuesday, March 19th at 1 PM at the Hickory Grove Road location.

thank you

Thank you to the Boosters and volunteers for creating a special night for everyone at the Valentine's Day dance. The dance was a huge success with many memories made!

TIME CHANGE

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 10th. Clocks should be set one hour AHEAD.



BOWLING REMINDER

Bowling is now on Sunday evenings from 5:30-7:30 PM. To eat dinner, please arrive between 4-4:30 PM. If you are not eating dinner, please arrive by 5 PM.



Day services are open on March 29th, Good Friday!

UPCOMING EVENTS

HANDS Golf Outing

Crow Valley Golf Club
03 June 2024

\$225 per golfer/\$900 per foursome

Registration Includes:

- Green fees and cart
- Golfer gift
- On-course beverages
- Cocktail party with heavy appetizers after golf
- Lunch on the course
- Pin events
- Scoring prizes



REGISTRATION OPENS SOON!

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, August 24th

Scavenger Hunt

\$30 per person

Up to 6 person teams

Includes: shirt, food and beverage, the event, and a whole lot of fun!

More details to come.

If you are interested in supporting the HANDS Golf Outing or the Empowering Abilities Scavenger Hunt through a sponsorship, contact: Lexi Keppy
563-391-4834
lexikeppy@empoweringabilities.org

DDAM: A Month of Awareness

March serves as more than just a seasonal transition; it's a dedicated time to acknowledge and raise awareness about developmental disabilities. Originating in the 1980s, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (DDAM) emerged from the efforts of advocates and organizations striving to shed light on the rights and needs of individuals who experience developmental disabilities. It's a month devoted to celebrating their uniqueness and contributions while advocating for inclusion, understanding, and support within the community.

How you can help promote DDAM!

- Contact legislators to advocate.
- Invite people to take a tour of Empowering Abilities.
- Invite someone from Empowering Abilities to speak to a group you may be involved in.
- Volunteer for Booster activities and events.
- Participate in or become a sponsor for the HANDS Golf Outing or Scavenger Hunt that raises money to support people with developmental disabilities.
- Encourage businesses to partner with Enterprises that provides work for adults with disabilities.

"Disability should never disqualify anyone from accessing every aspect of life."

- Emma Thompson

WEAR
ORANGE

Other Ways To Support DDAM!

Booster Fundraiser

If you love Pampered Chef and supporting a great organization, then you can do both! The Boosters are hosting a fundraiser where people can purchase Pampered Chef products and the proceeds will be donated back to the Boosters. It's a WIN WIN!

ACT SOON!

The availability to purchase will be from March 1st to the 31st!



Go to:

<https://www.pamperedchef.com/party/boosters0301>
or scan the QR code to order.

St. Patrick's Day Shirts (Pick-up only)

Short Sleeve	Long Sleeve	Hoodies/Crew
SM-XL \$10	SM-XL \$15	SM-XL \$28
2X \$11	2X \$16	2X \$30
3X \$12	3X \$17	3X \$32
4X \$13		

The shirt is orange with "Prone to Shenanigans & Malarkey" on the front and a shamrock behind the quote.



Check our website for full design.

Order on our website or via email:
www.empoweringabilities.org/store or
alexisdykstra@empoweringabilities.org
Must order by March 6th.



EMPOWERING ABILITIES

Empowering Abilities
3402 Hickory Grove Road
Davenport, IA 52806
<http://empoweringabilities.org>

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Rock Island IL
PERMIT 15

The Cities Spring Classic (Formally the Easter Egg Scramble)

Mark your calendar for **April 20th** and join the fun at Brady Street Stadium for The Cities ° Spring Classic, an empowering REGIONAL celebration of running for all.

Register for the
Community 5K
Kids Run
Corporate 4X4 relay.

Come and cheer on Adaptive Athletes as they take their 'victory lap' around the stadium.

Best of all, a portion of the proceeds from this field day of fitness will go to

Empowering Abilities!

To register go to thecities.run.



Time and Cost

5K- 8:30 AM, \$40



Kids 1/4 or 1/2 Mile Fun Run- 10AM, \$20

Adaptive Athletes' Race- 10:30 AM, FREE

Corporate Relay- 11 AM, \$400 for team of 4.

Don't forget to stay for the after-race activities! Live music, food, and beverages.

Go to thecities.run or contact bdoerrfeld@yahoo.com for more information.