

# Disability e-news



(picture of Hurricane)

## June 2013

### Federal Front

#### **ADA Settlement Agreement with DeCamp Bus Lines (New Jersey) –**

The Justice Department announced that it has reached a settlement agreement with DeCamp Bus Lines to ensure that bus transportation is provided on equal terms to people with disabilities. They violated the Americans with Disabilities Act by requiring that passengers with disabilities provide 48 hours of advance notice to secure a wheelchair accessible bus. The agreement requires DeCamp to comply with all ADA requirements for accessible service and not exclude persons with disabilities from its transportation services. Source: [www.ada.gov](http://www.ada.gov)

**Special Education Could Face \$2 billion in Cuts** – Preliminary figures from the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations indicate that education programs (IDEA) could be slashed by nearly 20 percent for the fiscal year beginning October 1, partly as a result of the sequester, the spending cuts that took effect in March.

#### **Labor Department Announces Theme for National Disability**

**Employment Awareness Month 2013** - The theme will be, “Because We Are EQUAL to the Task”. The theme reflects the fact that people with disabilities have the education, training, experience and esire needed to succeed in the workplace. Source: [www.disability.gov](http://www.disability.gov)

Veterans Crises Line – A toll free, confidential resource that connects Veterans in crises and their families and friends with a qualified, caring VA responder. Veterans and loved ones can call **1-800-273-825** and **press 1**, chat online at [www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net)\*, or send a text message to **838255** to receive free, confidential support 24/7. Service members and friends can call and text the Veterans Crises Line numbers and can chat online at [www.militarycrisisline.net](http://www.militarycrisisline.net). Source: [www.mentalhealth.va.gov](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov)

### **Access Board Forms Advisory Committee on Rail Vehicle**

**Accessibility** - The U.S. Access Board has organized an advisory committee as part of its review and update of the ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Transportation Vehicles. The Rail Vehicles Access Advisory Committee will develop consensus recommendations for the Board's use in updating sections of the guidelines that cover vehicles of fixed guide way systems, including rapid, light, commuter, intercity, and high speed rail. These [guidelines](#), which were originally published in 1991, serve as the basis for standards that apply to new or remanufactured vehicles required to be accessible under the ADA. The committee's work will not extend to portions of the guidelines that address buses and vans, which the Board is already in the process of updating. Source: [www.access-board.gov](http://www.access-board.gov)

### **State Front**

### **Governor Rick Scott Signs 36 Bills into Law**

*On May 30, 2013, in [News Releases](#), by Staff*

Governor Rick Scott signed the following bills into law today: HB 21 - The bill requires the Department of Education to create a uniform, statewide photo identification badge signifying that a non-instructional contractor meets certain background screening and other requirements. CS/SB 56 - The bill updates the protocols of the Department of Health

and medical examiners when [...] For other bill action, see link that follows: <http://www.flgov.com/bill-action/>

**Florida’s Medicaid Leaves Out Many** – Florida’s program covers few adults other than the disabled. Florida Medicaid covers parents of children on Medicaid only if their incomes are 20% of the poverty level or below – under \$4,000 for a family of three. Childless adults are not covered at all. Adults who have an income below the poverty level will not qualify for the Affordable Care Act’s online marketplace where insurance will be subsidized on a sliding scale. Source:

[Http://www.health.usf.edu/post/left-out-fl-s-poorest-uninsured](http://www.health.usf.edu/post/left-out-fl-s-poorest-uninsured)

**UF&Shands is now UF Health** – The University of Florida Academic Health Center is now the University of Florida Health. These changes mean a new name for patient care practices and hospitals. At UF Health psychiatric services include addiction, eating disorders, depression, pain, weight management and adult and child/adolescent psychiatry. Source: Discovery to Recovery at UF Newsletter

### **Local Front**

**Orange County Emergency Management Prepares for Hurricane Season with Expo, Saturday – June 1** – Approximately 60 vendors including Orange County Fire Rescue, 9-1-1, 3-1-1, 2-1-1, Neighborhoods Revitalization, Parks & Recreation, Public Works, and Aging and Disabilities offices. Keith Richards, WFTV will be there to talk about the forthcoming hurricane season. Games to win an emergency radio or emergency kit plus other special drawing prizes will be held. The event is being held at the Central Florida Fairgrounds in the Commercial Hall from 9am – 5pm. A schedule of informative presentations can be found below. See you there!

### **4603 W. Colonial Drive**

10am – 10:35am	Window/Door Hurricane Preparation		<b>Home Depot</b>
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10:40 – 10:55am	Property Insurance	Ann Vasquez	<b>All State Insurance</b>
11am – 11:15am	Debris Ready	Ralphetta Aker	<b>Stormwater Management</b>
11:20 – 11:45am	Disaster Wildlife	Kerri Dickey	<b>Tibet-Butler Preserve</b>
11:50am – 12:05pm	Hurricane Forecast	Brian Shields, WFTV	<b>Channel 9 Meteorologist</b>
12:10 – 12:45pm	CPR & Basic First Aid	Genevieve Latham	<b>O.C. Fire Rescue</b>
12:50 – 1:05pm	<b>Lunch Break</b>		
1:10 – 1:25pm	CERT Demonstration	Dave Waite & Wedgefield CERT	<b>CERT</b>
1:30 - 1:45pm	STROKE...call 9-1-1	Sherrie LaBarre	<b>Fire Rescue EMS Division</b>
1:50 – 2:05pm	Family to Go Kit	Jim Herborn	<b>Avalon CERT</b>
2:10 – 2:25pm	3-1-1 Citizens Information Line	Brandy Davis	<b>O.C. Safety</b>
2:30 – 2:45pm	5-1-1 Evacuation Video	Christie Hyde	<b>Global 5</b>
2:50 – 3:05pm	Special Needs/Sheltering Services	Samme Ripley	<b>O.C. ADA/Disabilities</b>
3:10 – 3:25pm	2-1-1 Social Services	Josette Von Birgelen	<b>United Ways</b>
3:30 – 3:45pm	Elderly Care	Mimi Reggentin	<b>Office on Aging</b>
3:50 – 4:05pm	Cover Your Assets	Toni Zufelt	<b>CYA Home</b>

			<b>Inventory</b>
4:10 – 5:00pm	SeaWorld Ambassadors	Tony Moore	<b>Citizen Corps Council</b>

**MetroPlan Orlando Partners with UCF** – MetroPlan Orlando is partnering with the University of Central Florida to conduct a survey about Central Florida's transportation issues, and would like your input! The statistically-valid research helps them keep a pulse on community opinion and is crucial to their public involvement efforts as the transportation planning organization for Central Florida.

They want to know what residents think about the region's transportation system and funding options. A survey can be found below. Survey answers will help MetroPlan Orlando set priorities for the area. The survey, which is administered by the UCF Institute for Social and Behavioral Sciences, takes less than 10 minutes to complete. You must be 18 years of age or older to participate.

Participation is completely voluntary and confidential. Click on the survey [here](#) it is available until June 9, 2013. Source: [www.metroplanorlando.com](http://www.metroplanorlando.com)

**LYNX Preparing for the Hurricane Season** - With the hurricane season upon us through Nov. 30, LYNX would like to remind the community that all LYNX transportation services will be provided as scheduled until sustained winds reach 35 mph on the ground or there is flooding.

At that point LYNX services (fixed route, LYMMO, NeighborLink and Road Rangers) will be pulled off the road for safety reasons.

The period beginning 12 hours before sustained winds are expected to reach 35 mph, ACCESS LYNX will ONLY be providing life sustaining medical trips.

LYNX staff will monitor the effects of the storm and will keep the community up-to-date as the storm passes through the area via:

[golynx.com](http://golynx.com), [@lynxbusorlando](https://www.facebook.com/golynx), LYNX Customer Service (407) 841-LYNX (5969)

## **Disabilities/Healthcare/Other**

**Tech Giant to Recruit Workers with Autism** – The Germany based software giant SAP will recruit individuals with developmental disorders for jobs as software testers, programmers and data quality assurance specialists. SAP conducted a pilot program in India with six workers on the spectrum employed as software tests which resulted in improved productivity. Another pilot is underway in Ireland and plans are in the works for the employment effort to expand to the United States, Canada and Germany this year. [www.disabilityscoop.com](http://www.disabilityscoop.com)

**Dumbing Us Down** – Smartphones allow us to listen to music, check our e-mail, browse the internet and track our daily calorie intake, but new research out of the University of Texas at Dallas says multi-tasking rewires the brain, robs us of frontal lobe brainpower and reduces our ability to make good decisions.

**Better think twice before that walk in the city** – A walk down a busy city sidewalk by individuals showed worse memory, poor attention, and learning problems. So why does walking in the city make us dumber? In a large scale study by the University of Michigan found that people who walk through the city had worse memory, poor attention and learning patterns. The reason: stress. Stressful situations can reduce the number of connections between neurons in the brain and can impair your ability to manage stressful events. On the brighter side, behavioral therapy such as meditation or yoga can help repair the damage. Source: [www.living.msn.com](http://www.living.msn.com)

**Alternative Therapies for High Blood Pressure** – A study from the American Heart Association says alternative approaches to lowering blood pressure, such as isometric hand grip exercise and resistance or strength training are effective at reducing high blood pressure. While all three types of therapies reduced blood pressure, certain ones were more effective than others. Isometric hand grip exercises were able to lower systolic and diastolic blood pressure by 10% after four weeks of doing the exercises, walking programs and device guided slow breathing resulted in smaller drops in blood pressure. Source: <http://newsroom.heart.org/news/alternative-therapies-may-help-lower-blood-pressure>

**Say What Again! The Invisible Hearing Aid** – Hearing loss is the third most common physical condition after heart disease and arthritis. The hearing device uses the eardrum and native hearing bones to sense sound energy. The energy is sent to the inner ear for interpretation, creating a clearer natural sound. The patient can wear it in the shower, throughout the night and wear it in the swimming pool. Cost is not cheap – about \$35,000 per ear and is not covered by insurance. Source: Seniors Health Channel

Orange County Office of Disability Concerns – ADA  
Disability Advisory Board  
Family Services Department  
Citizen Resource & Outreach  
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