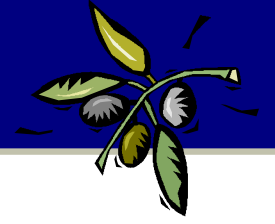


DDAC MONTHLY



Developmental Disability Action Committee - Serving Etowah, Jackson, and Marshall Counties
Group email: ddacgroup@yahoo.com Visit us on the web at <http://ddac.web.officelive.com>

112 and Still Institutionalized

Frank Calloway was born July 2, 1896. This year, he celebrated his 112th birthday...from his home at the Alice Kidd Nursing Home at the "historic" Bryce Hospital. Mr. Calloway has been housed by the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation since 1952. Mr. Calloway is an artist and has had several of his drawing displayed in various states. Ironically, Rebecca Hoefburger, founder of the American Visionary Art Museum (AVAM) in Baltimore, Maryland, stated following a visit with Mr. Calloway that, "she had never seen the level of conscious care in any other mental health facility [as that being] provided by the staff at Alice Kidd." Most likely, she also is not familiar with the Wyatt v. Stickney case that centered around Bryce either. But for Mr. Calloway, congratulations on a long life and the recognition of your artwork. Mr. Calloway is expected to have some of his artwork displayed at the AVAM in October, 2008. Maybe living in the institution isn't that bad after all.

1st Annual Alabama Developmental Disabilities Network Conference

The first Alabama Developmental Disabilities Network Conference will be held August 21-22 in Tuscaloosa at the Bryant Conference Center. The conference theme is United We Stand, we will highlight practices that promotes the inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of life. The

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

112 and Still Institutionalized	1
1 st Annual Alabama Developmental...	1
Autism Radio	1
Games for Your Brain	2
Spotlight: Lissencephaly	2
Upcoming Events	3

conference is designed to provide information for self advocates, family members, professionals in the disabilities field; community entities and educational staff. Keynote speakers will be Dale DiLeo, Clay Dyer and Al Conduluci. Please make plans now to attend the conference. We look forward to seeing you in August. More information, including an agenda will be available soon.

For more information contact the DD Council at:
1 (800) 232-2158 or (334) 242-3972.

Autism Radio

From www.autismone.org, there is now an Autism One Radio, available 24/7 featuring weekly and monthly programs along with special lectures and talks concerning autism and research. Autism One is a nonprofit organization 501(c)(3) started by a small group of parents of children with autism to address three areas: education, advocacy, and fundraising.



"Gee, I wonder where he picked up this behavior?"

Games for Your Brain

FROM LAST MONTH:

A certain number consists of two digits. The number is equal to five times the sum of its digits. If you add 9 to the number, the order of its digits is reversed. What is the number?

45

Rearrange the following letters to give the name of a popular movie:

IF TUNES DO SO MUCH The Sound of Music

	2	5				1	3	
3			1		2			4
7								8
	4		9	2	3		6	
			8		1			
	9		5	4	7		1	
4								2
2			3		6			7
	6	7				3	9	

Spotlight: Lissencephaly

Lissencephaly, which literally means smooth brain, is a rare brain formation disorder characterized by the lack of normal convolutions (folds) in the brain. It is caused by defective neuronal migration, the process in which nerve cells move from their place of origin to their permanent location. It is a form of cephalic disorder. The surface of a normal brain is formed by a complex series of folds and grooves. The folds are called gyri or convolutions, and the grooves are called sulci. In children with lissencephaly, the normal convolutions are absent or only partly formed, making the surface of the brain smooth. Terms such as 'agyria' (no gyri) or 'pachygyria' (broad gyri) are used to describe the appearance of the surface of the brain. Symptoms of the disorder may include unusual facial appearance, difficulty swallowing, failure to thrive, and severe psychomotor retardation. Anomalies of the hands, fingers, or toes, muscle spasms, and seizures may also occur. It can be diagnosed in vitro with MRI imaging. While a diagnosis of Lissencephaly is usually made at birth or soon after, CVS is currently available for some Lissecephaly gene variants prenatally. However for those remaining, the specific gene mutations have not yet been identified. No prenatal test is available for this group. Complex ultrasounds performed routinely during pregnancy may indicate the presence of cerebral abnormality, but this method of diagnosis is not reliable, and an absence of abnormal cerebral pathology should

only inspire cautious optimism at best. Following the birth of an infant a diagnosis may be made or confirmed, by ultrasound, computed tomography (CT), or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Causes of lissencephaly can include viral infections of the uterus or the fetus during the first trimester, or insufficient blood supply to the fetal brain early in pregnancy. There are also a number of genetic causes of lissencephaly, including mutation of the reelin gene (on chromosome 7), as well as other genes on the X chromosome and on chromosome 17. Genetic counseling is usually offered if there is a risk of lissencephaly, and genetic testing, such as amniocentesis, can detect some, but not all lissencephaly mutations during pregnancy. Treatment for those with lissencephaly is symptomatic and depends on the severity and locations of the brain malformations. Supportive care may be needed to help with comfort and nursing needs. Seizures may be controlled with medication and hydrocephalus may require shunting. If feeding becomes difficult, a gastrostomy tube may be considered. Many individuals show no significant development beyond a 3–5-month-old level. Some may have near-normal development and intelligence. Many will die before the age of 2, but with modern medications and care, some children live into their teens.

DDAC
Developmental
Disability Action
Committee

Chairman:
Jessica Farmer

Vice Chairman:
Malisa Taylor

Secretary:
Dietrich Schafer

HRC Chairman:
Michele Porter

BRC Chairman:
David Nichols

Upcoming Events

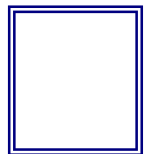
August 2nd: 2nd Annual Rett
Syndrome Conference at the
Children’s Hospital in Birmingham

August 16th: 11th Annual
FROG Affair in Birmingham
(WorkPlay)

August 20th: DDAC at

August 21st – 22nd: 1st Annual
Alabama Developmental Disabilities
Network Conference in Tuscaloosa

DDAC
c/o Jeremy Mallett
319 Padenreich Avenue
Gadsden, AL 35903



Customer
Address
City, State Zip Code