Making a Difference Together
Victoria Special Education Parent Academy and Resource Fair

Saturday, May 4, 2013
8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
First United Methodist Church Victoria
407 N. Bridge St, Victoria, TX

Sponsored by: Partners Resource Network – TEAM Project,
Gulf Bend Center and Gold Sponsor - First Victoria Bank

THIS IS A FREE EVENT FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS BUT PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

The ACADEMY will include four breakout sessions on a wide variety of topics. Seating is limited. Pre-registration is required to attend the breakout sessions.

The RESOURCE FAIR will feature a variety of local and state agencies and service providers.

Breakout Session Topics Will Include
A Good Life Doesn’t Just Happen! Blending Dreams & Teams to Plan for Your Child’s Adult Future
Special Education Law and the Rights of Parents under IDEA
How Behavior Develops and Our Role as Parents
Resources Every Parent Should Know About
The Basics of Effective Advocacy
Living with the ADHD Child
Who’s Driving the Bus?
The ABC’s of ABA
The Basics of Sleep
Life Beyond High School
The Texas Autism Supplement
Is Your Child a Target of Bullying?
From School to Work with DARS Assistance
(See full session descriptions on the next page)

Parent Academy Schedule

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<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration and Exhibits Open</td>
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<td>9:00 – 10:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Session 1</td>
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<td>10:15 – 10:45 a.m.</td>
<td>30 min. Break - Exhibits Open</td>
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<td>10:45 – 12:00 noon</td>
<td>Session 2</td>
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<td>Lunch Break and Door Prize Drawings</td>
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<td>Session 3</td>
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<td>3:00 – 4:15 p.m.</td>
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TO PRE-REGISTER GO TO http://victoriaparentacademy.eventbrite.com/
TO REGISTER BY PHONE, CALL BRENDA NELSON at 979-616-0393.
Breakout Session Descriptions

Session 1: 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

101 – A Good Life Doesn’t Just Happen! Blending Dreams & Teams to Plan for Your Child’s Adult Future
Ensuring a good life for our children with disabilities, chronic illness and other health care needs requires effective planning. Utilizing Al Etmanaki’s book, A Good Life, this presentation provides a basic understanding of the steps required to plan effectively and will assist participants in starting the planning process by using a planning worksheet and opportunities during the session to share their fears, vision and ideas.
Presenter: Jeanine Pinner, Training & Outreach Coordinator, Texas Parent to Parent
(One session only, this presentation does not repeat)

102 – How Behavior Develops and Our Role as Parents
Learn the four basic principles of behavior development and steps we can take to guide our children to behave in a more positive way. Behavior reinforcement and consequences will be discussed.
Presenter: Wendy Holder, LPC, LCDC; Reclamation Counseling Center
(This presentation will repeat in session 2)

103 – From School to Work with DARS Assistance
DARS is the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, a state agency that provides support and services to adults with disabilities. This presentation will provide an overview of the post-secondary vocational services offered by DARS, including: the Vocational Rehabilitation Process, Transition Planning, Eligibility, Services Offered, Getting to Work and a discussion on the myths that create barriers to a better and more productive life. Questions and Answers will be an important facet of the presentation.
Presenter: Jeremy Martin, Area Manager, Victoria DARS Office
(This presentation will repeat in session 2)

104 – Special Education Law and the Rights of Parents under IDEA
This presentation will provide a general overview of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and other Special Education Law provisions and practices in the exercise of the rights of parents and students.
Presenter: Luis Escheverria, South Texas Regional Staff Attorney, Disability Rights Texas
(This presentation will repeat in sessions 2 and 3)

105 – Living with the ADHD Child
This session will address the characteristics of ADHD. In addition, we will explore how ADHD is diagnosed, treated and accommodated for in educational settings. Other disorders that often co-exist with ADHD will also be discussed. Participants will receive some simple rules to live by when raising a child with ADHD.
Presenter: Brenda O’Bannion, Director of Student Support, Region III ESC
(This presentation will repeat in session 2)

Session 2: 10:45 – 12:00 noon

201 – The Basics of Effective Advocacy
Gain a better understanding of the basic characteristics and skills of an effective advocate and resources that will help you continue to develop and enhance your advocacy skills. Leave with a terrific advocacy planning tool that will help make your advocacy efforts easier and more effective.
Presenter: Jeanine Pinner, Training & Outreach Coordinator, Texas Parent to Parent
(One session only, this presentation does not repeat)

202 - How Behavior Develops and Our Role as Parents
Learn the four basic principles of behavior development and steps we can take to guide our children to behave in a more positive way. Behavior reinforcement and consequences will be discussed.
Presenter: Wendy Holder, LPC, LCDC; Reclamation Counseling Center
(This presentation is a repeat of session 1)

203 – From School to Work with DARS Assistance
DARS is the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, a state agency that provides support and services to adults with disabilities. This presentation will provide an overview of the post-secondary vocational services offered by DARS, including: the Vocational Rehabilitation Process, Transition Planning, Eligibility, Services Offered, Getting to Work and a discussion on the myths that create barriers to a better and more productive life. Questions and Answers will be an important facet of the presentation.
Presenter: Jeremy Martin, Area Manager, Victoria DARS Office
(This presentation does not repeat)
204 – Special Education Law and the Rights of Parents under IDEA
This presentation will provide a general overview of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and other Special Education Law provisions and practices in the exercise of the rights of parents and students.
Presenter: Luis Escheverria, South Texas Regional Staff Attorney, Disability Rights Texas
(This presentation will repeat in session 3)

205 – Living with the ADHD Child
This session will address the characteristics of ADHD. In addition, we will explore how ADHD is diagnosed, treated and accommodated for in educational settings. Other disorders that often co-exist with ADHD will also be discussed. Participants will receive some simple rules to live by when raising a child with ADHD.
Presenter: Brenda O’Bannon, Director of Student Support, Region III ESC
(This presentation does not repeat)

Session 3: 1:30 – 2:45 pm

301 – Who’s Driving the Bus?
Picture your child’s life as a “bus.” Who’s driving? Is it you or your child? Where is the bus going? Who chose the route, the destination, the speed? Who are the passengers? As parents, educators and service providers, we sometimes get so used to making decisions and plans for our kids that we don’t always include them in making plans and decisions for their own lives. Join this session to gain a better understanding of ways to put our children in the “driver’s seat” to live the lives they choose for themselves.
Presenter: Jeanine Pinner, Training & Outreach Coordinator, Texas Parent to Parent
(One session only, this presentation does not repeat)

302 – The Basics of Sleep
Sleep disorders in children and adolescents are common. Studies have shown that poor sleep quality and/or quantity in children are associated with a host of problems, including academic, behavioral, developmental and social difficulties, weight abnormalities and other health problems. Practical solutions will be discussed.
Presenter: Theresa Cochron, RPSGT, RRT; Premier Sleep Disorders Center
(One session only, this presentation does not repeat)

303 – Life Beyond High School
This presentation will provide an overview of the services offered by Gulf Bend Center to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities who have or will soon age-out and/or graduate from high school. The goal of the presentation is to inform parents/caregivers of options and to generate thoughts about what they envision life after high school to be for their loved one. Participants will be encouraged to begin planning early and laying the foundation for a support system that will ease the transition from high school to the next phase of life. The Supported Employment and Day Habilitation programs will be discussed.
Presenter: Megan Tuttle, Director of Consumer Support Services, Gulf Bend Center
(This presentation repeats in Session 4)

304 – Special Education Law and the Rights of Parents under IDEA
This presentation will provide a general overview of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and other Special Education Law provisions and practices in the exercise of the rights of parents and students.
Presenter: Luis Escheverria, South Texas Regional Staff Attorney, Disability Rights Texas
(This presentation is a repeat of session 1 and 2)

305 – Texas Autism Supplement
This presentation will introduce the eleven strategies that must be considered for educational programming for students with autism in Texas public schools. Participants will be provided with tools & tables for individualized development of these eleven strategies.
Presenter: Brenda Nelson, Regional Coordinator, Partners Resource Network – TEAM Project
(One session only, this presentation does not repeat)

Session 4: 3:00 – 4:15 pm

401 – Resources Every Parent Should Know About
This presentation provides an overview of the major resources that assist families of children with disabilities, chronic illness, and special health care needs. Gain a basic understanding of the state funding system and non-governmental organizations and walk away with a handout of useful contact information. Resource information will include: Medicaid Waiver Programs, SSI/Medicaid, State Agencies, MHMR Centers, Educational Services, Medical Services & Insurance, Poverty Assistance, Non-Profits, National Organizations.
Presenter: Jeanine Pinner, Training & Outreach Coordinator, Texas Parent to Parent
(One session only, this presentation does not repeat)
402 – The ABC’s of ABA
This presentation will explain basic principles regarding Applied Behavior Analysis, including methods to assist in behavioral change. This workshop could benefit parents and anyone working with individuals with autism, developmental disabilities, and individuals with behavior challenges.
Presenter: Christie Soliz, M.Ed, BCBA
(One session only, this presentation does not repeat)

403 – Life Beyond High School
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Presenter: Megan Tuttle, Director of Consumer Support Services, Gulf Bend Center
(This presentation is a repeat of session 3)

404 – Is Your Child a Target of Bullying?
This presentation will provide participants with a practical understanding of what bullying is and the impact it can have on children with disabilities. We will learn about the different types of bullying, intervention strategies and the role that adults can play in the prevention of bullying.
Presenter: Brenda Nelson, Regional Coordinator, Partners Resource Network – TEAM Project
(One session only, this presentation does not repeat)