

# Family Support

INFORMATION AND REFERRALS



## FAMILY SUPPORT NEWS

SUMMER 2009

### THANKS TO OUR LEGISLATORS!

All of us at Imagine! would like to express our sincere appreciation for the hard work and actions of the Colorado State Joint Budget Committee this year. Senators Moe Keller, Al White, and Abel Tapia, along with Representatives Mark Ferrandino, Jack Pommer, and Don Marostica demonstrated a great commitment toward protecting Colorado citizens with developmental disabilities.

In a terrible budget year, with multiple rounds of cuts to many programs, developmental disability service providers and community centered programs were spared cuts time and time again. We owe this committee a debt of gratitude.

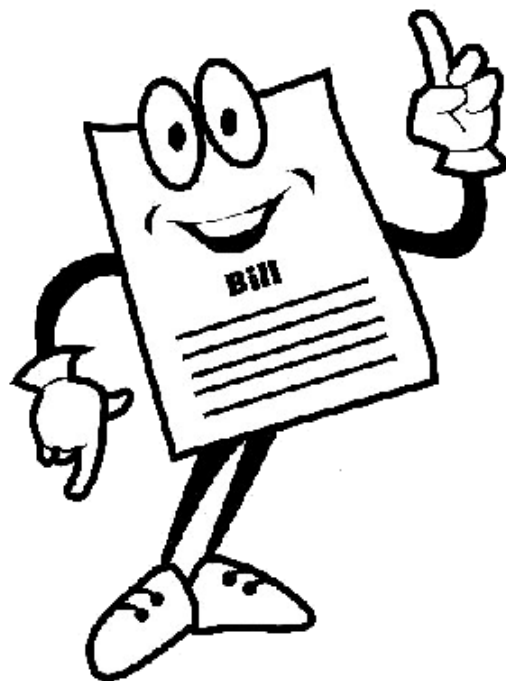
In addition, we would like to thank Senator Brandon Shaffer and Representative Dianne Primavera for their sponsorship of two bills that ensured that early intervention services and treatment of autism are provided for by insurance companies and health plans.

One bill requires private health benefit plans in Colorado to fund covered children ages birth to three with significant delays in development that are eligible for Colorado's early intervention program. This bill was signed into law by Governor Ritter on May 2, 2009.

The other mandates that private health benefit plans in Colorado fund treatment of autism by paying for Applied Behavior Analysis and expanded funding for occupational therapies, physical therapies, and speech therapies. This bill was signed into law by Governor Ritter on June 2, 2009.

Early intervention and treatment of autism will reduce costs to Colorado taxpayers in the long run. Early intervention has been shown to reduce costs of treatment by as much as two thirds over the lifetime of an individual.

*Despite the success achieved in the past legislative session, there are system changes looming in the funding and delivery of services that will have an impact on our community and people who receive services from Imagine!. For more information regarding these changes, please see page 5.*



## BOULDER COUNTY NETWORK OF CARE LAUNCHED

**BoulderCounty** help  
Linking you to community resources



In an effort to meet community goals and strategies identified in the Boulder County

Human Services Strategic Plan, Boulder County has launched a countywide comprehensive and enhanced online service

directory.

On March 30, four Network of Care modules: Seniors & People with Disabilities; Behavioral Health & Wellness; Children, Youth, and Families; and the Resource Book were made available to the public. These four modules are accessible via

one website:

[www.bouldercountyhelp.org](http://www.bouldercountyhelp.org)

Included in the site are a comprehensive service directory; an easy to use library; a political advocacy tool that provides a way to follow current legislation and contact elected officials; and community message boards.

## MEET THE NEWEST MEMBER OF IMAGINE!'S FAMILY SUPPORT TEAM: AMANDA HILDEBRANT



Imagine!'s Family Support department is delighted to welcome Amanda Hildebrant to its team.

Amanda will be the Family Support Navigator, serving as a family advocate for people in the Family Support Program through Imagine!. She will be providing assistance to families to help them find resources and will help coordinate contacts through local agencies to support children who have a developmental disability or delay.

Amanda is bilingual in English and Spanish, so she will provide support and assistance for English and Spanish speaking families who are working with the Family Support team.

Amanda was born in Massachusetts, but grew up mostly in the Twin Cities area in Minnesota. She lived in Montevideo, Uruguay for a few years after graduating from the University of Wyoming with Bachelors degrees in Social Work and Spanish.

Amanda moved to Colorado in March of 2008 and has worked at Imagine since April of 2008.

Before joining Imagine!, Amanda served an internship at Public Health in Cheyenne Wyoming, worked in Montevideo in Human Resources at an international call center, and then did some work at the US embassy in Montevideo.

Amanda will be replacing Alissa Karges, who is missed and wished all the best. You may contact Amanda at (303) 457-5641.



# EXCEPTIONAL FAMILIES CONNECTOR

*SUPPORTING FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH  
SPECIAL NEEDS*

## BOWLING PARTY A SUCCESS

We had another successful Bowling Party at Splitz in Broomfield this year! More than 150 people came together to bowl, eat pizza, and simply have a great time! Thanks to everyone who attended. This continues to be one of our biggest events of the year and we are so happy to see all of the kiddos having such a great time. We hope to continue this tradition next year, so we'll see you at the lanes!



### FAMILIAS EXCEPCIONALES GRUPO EN ESPAÑOL

Somos familias que nos reunimos para compartir y charlar sobre temas que nos ayudarán con el crecimiento y desarrollo de nuestros niños/as con necesidades especiales. Tenemos un lazo de amistad, de apoyo y de compañerismo que no solamente se muestra en nuestras reuniones mensuales, sino en caso de enfermedad o necesidad. Nuestras familias se mantienen en constante comunicación, y velamos unos por otros y por nuestros niño/as.

Nuestro grupo en Español se reúne los primeros viernes de cada mes, a las 6:30 pm, en la Primera Iglesia Luterana (First Evangelical Lutheran Church), esquina de Terry y 3ª Av., Longmont. Se ofrece cuidado de niños y compartimos una deliciosa cena. Esperamos que hayan otras familias interesadas en unirse y participar.



### EXCEPTIONAL FAMILIES SPANISH GROUP

We are families that get together to share and chat about subjects that will help us raise our children with special needs. We have developed a kind of friendship, support, and fellowship that not only is shown in our monthly meetings, but also in cases of illness or necessity. Our families keep in constant communication, and we look after one another and our children.

Our group meets the first Friday of every month at 6:30 PM, at First Evangelical Lutheran Church (Terry & 3ª Ave., in Longmont).

We offer childcare and a delicious meal.

We hope that other families will join and participate!



# EXCEPTIONAL FAMILIES CONNECTOR



## SUMMER PLAYGROUPS

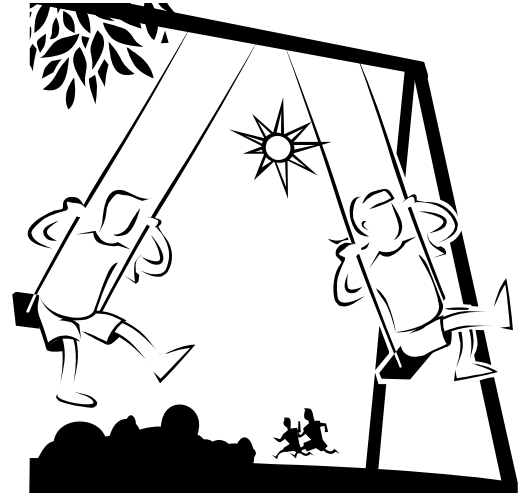
Let's have some summer fun together! This year, Exceptional Families will be hosting parks play dates throughout the summer. All ages are welcome at the park play dates. If you are planning to attend a park date please RSVP to [exceptionalfamilies@yahoo.com](mailto:exceptionalfamilies@yahoo.com) or (303) 441-1555 X 92243 so we know whom to look for! If you need directions to a park or you are interested in hosting a park play date, please email us at [exceptionalfamilies@yahoo.com](mailto:exceptionalfamilies@yahoo.com). We look forward to seeing you there!

**June 9 – 10:00–11:00 AM – Midway Park, Broomfield**

**June 24 – 9:00–10:00 AM – Creekside Park, Longmont**

**July 9 – 10:00–11:00 AM – Thompson Park, Longmont**

**July 21 – 10:00–11:00 AM – Martin Park, Boulder**



## SUMMER POOL PARTY

This year our summer pool party will be on Saturday, July 25, 6:30–8:30 PM at the Spruce Pool in Boulder. Admission is completely free, and light drinks and snacks will be served. We have been having such a great time at the last two pool parties, and our group keeps growing, so we thought we would move into a bigger pool that will accommodate all kids, big and small, old and young! If you plan to attend the pool party please RSVP to [exceptionalfamilies@yahoo.com](mailto:exceptionalfamilies@yahoo.com) or (303) 441-1555 X 92243. It will be a great time for everyone!



## MOM'S NIGHT OUT

We have hosted some very successful Mom's Nights Out this Spring, and we would like to continue that momentum through the summer. If you are interested in joining us for a fun time please RSVP to [exceptionalfamilies@yahoo.com](mailto:exceptionalfamilies@yahoo.com) or (303) 441-1555 X 92243. Exceptional Families will provide appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages for those gathered. We look forward to seeing you there!

**June 18<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM Dickens Tavern – Longmont**

**July 16<sup>th</sup> – CB & Pott's – Broomfield**

**August 13<sup>th</sup> – Sol Azteca – Boulder**

## ACCESSING THE LATEST NEWS ON WAIVER CHANGES

You may be aware that the Colorado Department of Human Services Division for Developmental Disabilities is making changes to the following Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) programs, including the HCBS-DD (Comprehensive Services), HCBS-SLS (Supported Living Services for Adults), and HCBS-CES (Children's Extensive Support) waivers. These changes, which will go in effect July 1, have been in the planning stage for more than a year, and are not related to the current economic downturn.

If your family member or loved one does not receive funding for any of the above waivers, these changes won't have an immediate impact on his or her services.

Please visit the What's New section of both the Division for Developmental Disabilities ([www.cdhs.state.co.us](http://www.cdhs.state.co.us)) and the Imagine! ([www.imaginecolorado.org](http://www.imaginecolorado.org)) websites to get information about these changes. Information will be updated as soon as it becomes available.

In the meantime, the State is urging interested parties to use a dedicated email address ([DevelopmentDisabilities.FAQ@state.co.us](mailto:DevelopmentDisabilities.FAQ@state.co.us)) to communicate any questions, comments, or concerns they may have. If you prefer, you may also call the Division for Developmental Disabilities' Roberta Aceves at (303) 866-7030.

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## STAY CONNECTED TO FAMILY SUPPORT

We want to make sure that we keep you up to date on all the latest news and information coming out of Imagine!'s Family Support department.

Therefore, we are inviting you to send an email to [gscott@imaginecolorado.org](mailto:gscott@imaginecolorado.org) with your name in the subject box, and your email address and the name of your family member or loved one receiving services in the body of the email. That's all we need to ensure that we have your most current email address in our database. That way, we'll be sure to keep you current on the resources, activities, and events that are available to families receiving support from us.



Help us keep in touch!

**Family Support News**  
is the newsletter of Imagine!'s

**Family Support Department**

1400 Dixon Street

Lafayette, CO 80026-2790

Phone: (303) 665-7789

Fax: (303) 665-2648

[www.imaginecolorado.org](http://www.imaginecolorado.org)

Jan Rasmussen, Family Services Director

**THE MISSION OF IMAGINE! IS TO CREATE  
AND OFFER INNOVATIVE SUPPORTS TO  
PEOPLE OF ALL AGES WITH COGNITIVE,  
DEVELOPMENTAL, PHYSICAL, AND HEALTH  
RELATED NEEDS SO THEY MAY LIVE  
FULFILLING LIVES OF INDEPENDENCE AND  
QUALITY IN THEIR HOMES AND  
COMMUNITIES.**

**Imagine!**  
1400 Dixon Street  
Lafayette, CO 80026-2790

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

Boulder County  
Launches Network of  
Care.

**Inside on Page 2.**

NONPROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**  
BOULDER, CO  
PERMIT NO. 926

Watch me  
achieve.



# Family Support

INFORMATION AND REFERRALS

BELIEVING IN THE POTENTIAL OF ALL  
**Imagine!**  
*Innovative Resources For Cognitive and Physical Challenges*

[www.imaginecolorado.org](http://www.imaginecolorado.org)