

NEWS FROM PATHFINDER

By Melissa Fortson & Carole Moore-Slater

Tennessee Disability Pathfinder has phone, Web, and print resources in English and Spanish to connect the Tennessee disability community with service providers. Referral services, free of cost, are provided to persons with disabilities, family members, service providers, and advocates. Pathfinder is a joint project of the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development.

BILINGUAL RESOURCE DATABASE NOW AVAILABLE

A bilingual resource database listing services for the Hispanic community in Davidson County is now available on the Pathfinder Web site. A partnership between Tennessee Disability Pathfinder, the Mental Health Association of Tennessee, and Nashville Metropolitan Social Services, the database provides reliable information about disability, mental health and social services in English and Spanish. All agencies included in this database have bilingual staff, and database entries will be updated regularly. To access the database, visit www.familypathfinder.org (click on Pathfinder En Español option).

HISPANIC OUTREACH PROJECT OUTCOMES

The Hispanic Outreach Grant, a highly successful one-year project funded through the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities, ended in January 2006 (the project continues as part of the Pathfinder program). The targeted location for this information and referral program for Hispanic individuals with disabilities and their families is the Woodbine Community Organization in Southeast Nashville, an area with a large number of Hispanic residents. An Hispanic Outreach Worker with Pathfinder has an office located in the Woodbine Community Center. The purpose of the project is to assist underserved Hispanic individuals with disabilities and their families by

increasing knowledge of available disability services and community supports while improving access to available programs. Outcomes included:

A total of 177 Hispanic individuals with disabilities were identified in a 12 month period. In contrast, during the 2.5 years before Project Conexión, the Bilingual Social Worker at Pathfinder identified a total of 80 Hispanic clients with disabilities statewide. A case management approach is a necessity with the Hispanic population due to language barriers and legal status of individuals needing services.

Pathfinder partnered with the Mental Health Association of Middle Tennessee and Metro Social Services to develop a new Nashville area Hispanic Community Database in English and Spanish that is available on the Pathfinder Web site. The focus of this database is disability services and social services that have bilingual staff available. This database links to the Pathfinder Web site at www.familypathfinder.org

The Hispanic Outreach Project sponsored disability training in the Hispanic community, including the "Power of Communication" workshop in April 2005 and "Disability Services in the Nashville Hispanic Community" forum in December 2005. Both workshops trained agency representatives to communicate effectively with clients with disabilities and their families and with other agencies, offered an opportunity for networking among agencies, and provided information on disability-related services available in Spanish in Davidson County. Both workshops received very strong evaluations from participants.

STAY CONNECTED WITH PATHFINDER
Pathfinder publishes The Pathfinder, an e-newsletter contain-

ing information about program activities and other disability-related resources in Tennessee. Past issues of the publication are archived on the Pathfinder Web site (under Pathfinder Features, click on "The Pathfinder: News from Tennessee Disability Pathfinder.") To receive future news from Tennessee Disability Pathfinder via e-mail, please contact us at tnpathfinder@vanderbilt.edu.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Tennessee Disability Pathfinder
(615) 322-8529 (Nashville area)
(800) 640-4636 (toll-free, English & Español)
(800) 273-9595 (TTY)
www.familypathfinder.org
tnpathfinder@vanderbilt.edu

DISABILITY SERVICES & SUPPORTS DIRECTORY NOW ONLY \$10

The 2004-2005 Tennessee Disability Services & Supports Directory, published by the Tennessee Disability Pathfinder Office, is a source of information regarding state and local programs and services. The newest edition is available by geographic region (East, Middle, and West Tennessee). Order forms are available online at <http://kc.vanderbilt.edu/devents/order.html>.

Melissa Fortson is disability resource specialist with Tennessee Disability Pathfinder at the Vanderbilt Kennedy Family Outreach Center.

Carole Moore-Slater is program director of Tennessee Disability Pathfinder at the Vanderbilt Kennedy Family Outreach Center.

TENNESSEE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



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