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Public sessions for Healthy Delawareans with Disabilities: A Plan for Action

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The Center for Disabilities Studies (CDS) at the University of Delaware is hosting a public session in each Delaware county the last week of October to give Delawareans the opportunity to learn about Healthy Delawareans with Disabilities: A Plan for Action. This strategic plan was developed by CDS and its partners to provide a blueprint for legislators, policymakers, state agencies, community organizations, and individuals with disabilities and their family members about how to improve the health and well being of Delawareans with disabilities.

The Sussex County public session will be held Monday, October 27, from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at the Milford Public Library, 11 S.E. Front Street, Milford. The New Castle County public session is scheduled for Tuesday, October 28 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at the Center for Disabilities Studies, 461 Wyoming Road, Newark. The Kent County public session will take place Thursday, October 30 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at the Dover Public Library, 45 South State Street, Dover. All facilities are accessible.

Center for Disabilities Studies staff members Ilka K. Riddle, Ph.D., and Eileen Sparling, Ed.M. will present the strategic plan at each public session. They will answer questions and accept comments and suggestions from audience members. Public input and feedback are essential to making this plan effective and targeted to the specific needs of Delaware citizens living with a disability. Individuals who would like to review the plan prior to the public sessions will find it online at www.GoHDWD.org after October 6, 2008. Comments about the plan will be accepted online until December 1, 2008 at the [GoHDWD.org](http://www.GoHDWD.org) website, by email to sparling@udel.edu, by phone to 302.831.8802, or in writing to Healthy Delawareans with Disabilities, Center for Disabilities Studies, 461 Wyoming Road, Newark DE 19716.

Reservations are required to attend the public sessions and should be made by 4:30 pm on Wednesday, October 22 to Mary Thomas, Center for Disabilities Studies, at 302.831-2940 or maryt@udel.edu. Please indicate if you require accommodations (e.g. sign-language interpreter, large print text) and every effort will be made to meet your needs. Healthy Delawareans with Disabilities: A Plan for Action will be made available in alternate formats (large print, on CD ROM) upon request.

Funding to develop and implement a plan for Delaware on how to improve health and well being for individuals with disabilities and prevent secondary health conditions was provided by the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. With the nation facing many health issues, such as obesity, high blood pressure, and asthma, it is important to provide opportunities for everyone, including individuals with disabilities, to live healthy and active lives.

The mission of the Center for Disabilities Studies is to enhance the lives of individuals and families in Delaware through

education, prevention, service, and research related to disabilities. We promote independence and productivity so individuals and families can fully participate in the life of the community.
