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# NATIONAL FEDERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES

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*Providing Services to People with Intellectual Disability*

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**Welcome to National Federation Newsletter  
Issue 35 - Spring 2012**



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## **National Federation of Voluntary Bodies meets with Minister Kathleen Lynch to discuss impact of Budget 2012**

On Tuesday, 27th March, 2012, our Chairperson, Christy Lynch and Chief Executive, Brian O'Donnell, met with Minister Kathleen Lynch and senior Department of Health Officials to discuss the impact of Budget 2012.

The National Federation representation emphasised the fact that every effort is being made by our members across the country to maintain essential services to families and individuals with disabilities, despite the fact that they have suffered very extensive cuts in budgets over recent years and at the same time, have not only kept services open, but indeed responded to more people with increased provision. We pointed out that the announcement in Budget 2012 indicated a cut of 1.7% with additional efficiency savings of up to 2% to be agreed on an agency by agency basis with the HSE. However, this is not the approach which is being adopted to date and in effect the 3.7% cut has been imposed on all agencies across the country. In response, the Minister and her officials stated that they had received assurances from the HSE that the 2% efficiencies would be dealt with on an agency by agency basis and that local HSE managers would engage with the agencies in this process.

The National Federation also highlighted additional unfunded budgetary pressures including changes in VAT, PRSI and transport costs, which were putting further financial burdens on the agencies. There was now real concern in the sector that much of the good work which had been done over the past decade in putting in place high quality services would be undone and there was dismay that some agencies have no choice but to move back towards more institutional practices, having larger groups together with less staff.

Minister Lynch talked about the need to have better information about the numbers of people receiving services, where they are located, age profiles, the services they are receiving and the amount of money that is attached to each service. She expressed her hope that publication of the Value for Money Review, together with the data contained in the National Intellectual Disability Database would allow for a more forensic interrogation of services and what they are costing.

With regard to demographic pressures in 2012, the National Federation highlighted the fact that some agencies are in a better position to respond than others, that rehabilitative training funding which has been maintained is helping with some to respond to the needs of young people graduating from

schools, but that the group who are most likely to be negatively impacted are those with very high medical needs requiring high levels of support or those with significant challenging behaviour.

The Minister indicated her understanding of this problem and requested that we would meet again very soon in order to discuss ways in which this issue might be addressed. The follow up meeting was subsequently arranged for Wednesday, 25th April, 2012. It was also agreed that the Department of Health would engage with the HSE with regard to the 2% efficiency savings and how this was to be addressed with agencies.

## **“Allocating Resources – How can we get it right?”**

Allocating resources in a fair and equitable manner has historically been and remains to this day a stubbornly difficult nut to crack. The reasons for this are varied and often complex, but a significant contributing factor is no doubt the absence of a sophisticated services costing methodology. This deficit will become even more accentuated in the context of the new disability policy which envisages a greater emphasis on individualised funding and personalised budgets. The new way of doing business envisages a greater focus on Commissioning, Tendering and Procurement of services and a proper services costing methodology is a very necessary prerequisite before such an approach can be introduced.



Panel Discussion: Christy Lynch, KARE; Eithne Fitzgerald, NDA, Cate Hartigan, HSE; Nigel Deane, Brothers of Charity UK; Sue Lloyd-Selby, Welsh Assembly; Mary DePaor, Parent.

Mindful of these challenges the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies organised a very successful two day event in the Tullamore Court Hotel on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2012, which examined in detail work in this country and in the UK on service costings. The quality of presentations by all of our speakers was of the highest possible order. A very interesting outcome was the agreement by a number of Federation Member Organisations to pilot the work presented by St Michael’s House on their in-house costing methodology in their own organisation and we await the outcome of this exercise with much interest.

Presentations from this event are available to download at [www.fedvol.ie](http://www.fedvol.ie)

## Disability Stakeholders Group

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies is a member of the Disability Stakeholders Group (DSG) which was established to play a part in overseeing implementation of the National Disability Strategy. At its meeting on 5th March, 2012, the Disability Stakeholders Group concluded that the National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan requires not only the identification of priority actions, but also agreeing delivery processes as follows:

- **Cross-government working.** Much of difficulty in implementing the National Disability Strategy relates to the fact that more than one Department or agency is typically responsible for delivering key actions. Leadership from Ministers and senior officials is required to embed a culture of cross-government working in Government Departments. The National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan needs to dovetail with other Government strategies. Appropriate cross-referencing with the revised National Children's Strategy and the Positive Ageing Strategy should, for example, be considered.
- **Mainstreaming.** Government Departments and their agencies need to understand that all of their customers are potentially people with disabilities. Significant progress has been made in some areas but not all in this regard. Improving services for the citizen, including those with disabilities, to achieve efficiency and ease of use is particularly relevant to the Public Service Transformation agenda. Strategy statements and business plans for Government Departments and agencies need to be disability proofed.
- **Local level implementation.** National policy decisions will not translate into efficient frontline services to people with disabilities unless accountability for local level delivery is considered. Consideration for how local networks of people with disabilities can be facilitated, and in some cases supported, to engage with local level implementation should form part of the Implementation Plan.
- **Partnership and Engagement.** Disability organisations and people with disabilities need to be included in developing policies and plans which affect the lives of people with disabilities. The development and implementation of National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan should afford people with disabilities and their families opportunities to engage directly with officials at national and local level over the lifetime for the plan. The Implementation Plan should also indicate where different types of responses, to those currently provided, are required of disabilities service providers.
- **Ownership.** A weakness of the previous National Disability Strategy Monitoring process was that it was not clear who was responsible for delivering what actions by when. The National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan should make it very clear who is responsible for delivering what actions.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation.** Consideration for how it will be judged that the National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan commitments have been delivered and that they have been effective should be included in the Implementation Plan. Progress on implementing the National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan will need to be monitored against a suite of agreed indicators.

## Sharing Innovative Learning Seminar entitled “Doing things the Rights Way”

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies hosted a Sharing Innovative Learning (SIL) event entitled “**Doing things the Rights Way**” on Wednesday 21st March 2012. This SIL event gave the opportunity to hear from National Federation of Voluntary Bodies member organisations who have already established Rights Committees over the past 5 years. The members involved on the Committees shared the learning of the benefits and challenges of this process. The initial purpose for many of the Rights Review Committees was to monitor Rights restrictions, but the role of the committees varies across organisations. Specific issues that were addressed on the day:

- Promoting rights awareness within organisations
- Differentiating between therapeutic interventions and rights restrictions
- The benefit of external involvement on the Committee
- Early stages to later challenges in the Committees life
- Ensuring appropriate referrals to rights Committees and
- Changing mind-sets.



The day began by setting the scene in legal context of access to justice and equal recognition before the law under the CRPD (Convention on the rights of people with disabilities) .

The feedback from the delegates was extremely positive with many stating that the day was informative and well structured and provided them with the information required on how to go about setting up rights committees in their own organisation. Many organisations are on the cusp of setting up Rights Committees, and so the event was timely and useful. Participants were appreciative of the generosity of the presenters in showing how their committees worked and of offering to make available their policy documents to others. It was a valuable networking event.

Presentations from this event are available to download at [www.fedvol.ie](http://www.fedvol.ie)



The panel discussion at the Sharing Innovative Learning Event “Doing things the Rights Way” : Maria Walls NFVB, Eilionoir Flynn CDLP, Christina Doody SJOG, Maura O’ Loughlin Sunbeam, Connie O’ Regan Western Care and John Leinster, Brothers of Charity Galway.

## Inclusive Research Network

In 2008 the Inclusive Research Network (IRN) was set up by the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies in partnership with the National Institute of Intellectual Disability (NIID) in order to implement the National Federation's Research Strategy 2008-2013. The Research strategy contained a list of topics to be researched including the following.

- Living Options
- Relationships
- Money
- Ageing

Shortly after the IRN was set up training was provided to members on how to conduct interviews. The training involved How to listen & How to ask questions. After this training had been completed in early 2009 the first research project Living Options was commenced which involved interviews being carried out by 16 co-researchers with intellectual disabilities around the country. The Living Options Report was published in late 2009.

In 2010 a second research Project was commenced which was on Relationships & Supports. This research project was started after focus group training was completed in 2009. The Relationships & Supports Project involved 16 focus groups which took place during August and September 2010. The Report on Relationships & Support Study was published in early 2011. Presentations on both research projects have been made at many conferences both in Ireland and internationally.

In early 2012 a steering committee was set up by the IRN to direct the work of the IRN going forward. In the setting up of the Steering Group it was the aim of the National Federation & the National institute for intellectual Disability to hand over the running of the IRN to it's members and for the above mentioned organisations to remain in the background in a supporting role. The IRN membership have identified a number of topics which they wish to research.



IRN Steering Group Meeting taking place in offices of National Federation of Voluntary Bodies February 2012.

In recent weeks a meeting of the new Steering Group was chaired by Brian Donohoe who was acting as Chairperson of the IRN on an interim basis until someone is elected to take on the post on a more permanent basis. There will 4 other positions to be decided including Secretary, Vice Secretary, Public Relations Officer & Treasurer. Brian Donohoe and Ruth Costello also agreed to organise the next meeting of the IRN Steering Group which will be chaired by Kathleen McMeel of the Brothers of Charity Limerick.

**Article written by Brian Donohoe National Federation of Voluntary Bodies**

## Progressing Disability Services for Children & Young People

The Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People (PDSCYP) programme continues to be rolled out across the country reconfiguring of children's services. The Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People National Co-ordinating Group which is chaired by Breda Crehan-Roche last met on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2012. A significant number of sub committees have been set up to address the areas of: access to services, team composition, training and development, Education and Health interface, communications, protocols and implementation, standards and performance reporting and Electronic Client Records Systems. The four Regional Implementation Groups (RIGS) have been established and the Local Implementation Groups (LIGS) are in the process of being set up.

To support this process the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies PDSCYP Reference Group are meeting on a quarterly basis under the chairpersonship of John O'Dea. Maria Walls represents the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies on the National Co-ordinating Group and Connie O' Regan, Ruth Connolly, Anna Shakespeare and Maria Walls have participated on the sub committees listed above. There is a growing commitment to family centred practice and the standards and performance reporting sub group are looking at family centred approach within an outcomes framework. At the last Reference Group meeting Professor Roy Mc Conkey made a stimulating and challenging presentation to the group on Trends in Family support entitled "Family Centred Services; An impossible dream?" his presentation is available from [mary.barett@fedvol.ie](mailto:mary.barett@fedvol.ie).



Prof. Roy McConkey



Members of the Reference Group

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## New Legal Capacity Bill expected shortly

Ireland is on the cusp of major reform in our legal capacity law, which has been encouraged by Ireland's signing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. To ratify this Convention it is recognised that Ireland needs to comply with Article 12 of the Convention on Equal Recognition before the Law. The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies made a submission to the Oireachtas in August 2011 on the Legal Capacity Legislation on decision making and to the Law Reform Commission on the Criminal Sexual Offences Act in January 2012 which also has relevance to decision making.



In August 2011 the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies joined the coalition of interested organisation to seek progressive legal capacity legislation that is compliant with the Convention on the

Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The previous draft of the 2008 Mental Capacity legislation is currently being revised. The key changes being sought are:

- Focus on legal capacity and not mental capacity;
- Is based on the will and preferences of the person and not a best interest principle – this is challenging but essential;
- Need to develop strong supported decision making frameworks that include a wide range of strategies and give legal authority to circles of support or chosen support people;
- Use of tribunals and not courts.

Two events were held to focus on progressive legal capacity legislation:

- 30th November 2011 - **Getting it Right: Capacity Legislation and the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities** see <http://www.amnesty.ie/content/getting-it-right> and
- 3rd April 2012 - **Looking globally, legislating locally: the Irish legal capacity bill** see <http://www.amnesty.ie/content/looking-globally-legislating-locally>

The coalition have agreed a list of principles on which it is seeking that the next draft of the legislation is based. The headlines of the principles are available below, and the full details of the Principles are available from [maria.walls@fedvol.ie](mailto:maria.walls@fedvol.ie). It is expected that the Legal Capacity Bill will be released in May 2012.

## **Principles and Key Issues for Legal Capacity Legislation**

### Preamble

These principles aim to reflect the spirit and values of the new capacity law, which is replacing law dating from 1871. Everyone should be presumed to have the capability to make decisions. The main focus of the new law must be to support people to make their own decisions. The new law must include three different levels of support: (i) The first level is where a person has the ability to make decisions with only minimal support e.g. easy to read information. (ii) The second level is 'supported decision-making', where a person is supported by someone they trust to make a decision, and (iii) the third level is 'facilitated decision-making', this is used as a last resort where the person's will and preferences are not known. Here, a representative has to determine what the person would want, based on what they know about that person and on their best understanding of their wishes.

Principle 1 - All human rights apply to all people equally – without discrimination on the basis of disability. This includes everyone's right to make choices and decisions about their life.

Principle 2 - The values and principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities must be reflected in the capacity law.

Principle 3 - All adults have a right to make decisions for themselves and to exercise their rights ('legal capacity') and must be given the supports they need to be able to make decisions.

Principle 4 - People who need support to make decisions have a right to be provided with that support by the State. For example, advocate supports should be recognised and assist the person in understanding options and expressing their will and preferences.

Principle 5 - The law should allow people to plan in advance and have such decisions protected in law. There should be awareness raising and education around the option to make plans in advance.

Principle 6 - A person retains their fundamental rights e.g. to vote, marry, etc, even if they are getting support to make a decision or someone else is making a decision for them.

Principle 7 - Strict safeguards must be in place to protect the human rights of people who are supported in making decisions, or who have someone making a decision for them.

Principle 8 - Decisions made by someone else for a person is a last resort when all supports have been considered (facilitated decision making). It should only apply for specific decisions and for the length of time necessary for that purpose.

Principle 9 - All information, processes and procedures must be easy to understand, must have the person at the centre of the process, and must meet that person's individual needs. This means that a court-based system which determines capacity is not appropriate.

Principle 10 - When somebody else is being appointed as a decision-maker for a person ('facilitated decision-making'), the person should have the opportunity to take part in the process and be fully represented, keeping in mind that a facilitated decision-maker should only be appointed where the will and preference of the individual is not known.

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## Member Organisation News



### **WALK Community & Voluntary Organisation the first to attain PQASSO Level 2 in Ireland**

WALK (formerly known as Walkinstown Association) celebrates being the first and only organisation in Ireland to be awarded PQASSO at Level 2, an internationally recognised Quality Award. This award complements WALK's other quality systems including achievements of the highest quality standard in providing community based services using the internationally recognised human rights based approach, by the Council on Quality and Leadership; and the National Human Resources Standard, Excellence Through People. The achievement of these awards confirms WALK as a first class, leading organisation in the community and voluntary sector that is firmly committed to the provision of high quality human services.

Attaining the PQASSO Level 2 award also highlights WALK as a service that not only has the person at the centre of all its activities but also highlights WALK as an organisation that proactively demonstrates good governance and provision of quality assured services in advance of the impending legislation and HIQA standards. Facing into a future where growth and renewal are essential for organisational survival, WALK has every confidence that the energy and commitment of all organisation members will combine to bring it through the challenging times ahead. The tremendous work and effort taken to embed systems wholly in to the organisation in an effort to achieve this award demonstrates WALK's commitment to deliver the highest quality services.

It was noted by the peer review team for the PQASSO award that their time spent at WALK proved to be a very enjoyable and inspiring occasion for its members.



Linda Kavanagh & Timothy Chaney

The PQASSO system offers a flexible approach to quality and was designed specifically for and by the voluntary and community sector.



## Supported Employment Awards for STEP



STEP (part of Saint John of God Community Services Limited) received two awards at the recent IASE (Irish Association of Supported Employment) Awards ceremony in Dublin. STEP was voted Supported Employment Organisation of the Year while STEP Job Coach, Shirley Conlon, won the Job Coach of the Year

Award.

Covering the South Dublin region, STEP works to achieve employment for adults with mild intellectual disability by providing career planning, work options, education and continuous learning. It currently has 6 full time Job Coaches working with 95 individuals who are all currently in employment.

The IASE National Best Practice in Supported Employment Awards recognise the contribution of individuals and organisations in making equal employment opportunities a reality for people with a disability in Ireland. The Awards were presented by Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton, Deputy Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Dermot Lacey, Mark Pollock and Patron of IASE, Sean Gallagher.



**Left to right:** Mary O'Halloran - STEP Employment Support Services Team Manager, Sean Gallagher – Patron of IASE, Shirley Conlon - STEP (Job Coach of the Year), Kevin Moran - KARE (Employee of the Year), Minister Joan Burton, Teresa Mallon - National Chairperson of IASE, Yvette Ebbs, Bill

Speaking at the Awards, Minister Burton said: "It gives me great pleasure to share this occasion with exceptional people with disabilities, mentors and organisations who are proving that people with disabilities should have equal opportunity to have a job. I especially want to congratulate all of the finalists for these awards and, of course, the deserving winners who have shown determination and dedication in breaking down barriers to employment for people with disabilities."

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## Yasmin and I

My name is Cavan. I am a very active and outgoing 12 year old boy, with a big love for traditional Irish music. I can sing along to all the favourites from the Dubliners to Christy Moore. Like all Tipperary people, I have a great love of hurling and the 2010 All Ireland Final is a weekly fixture on the DVD list in my home. I now know, by heart, when to cheer on Eoin Kelly or Lar Corbett for scoring. I also love animals.

I live in Tir na nÓg, which is a few miles outside Clonmel town, where I share life with some friends. I have autism. I sometimes can have behaviours which hold me back in my daily life. However, as I love animals, my support workers and my family discussed if having a dog might possibly benefit me. They contacted the Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind as they offer assistance dogs and companion dogs to both children and adults with special needs or disabilities. These dogs provide companionship and can have a therapeutic impact helping to improve the quality of life for the child/family.

An application was made on my behalf for a companion dog. YES ! My application was successful and Yasmin burst into my life in December 2011, changing it completely. I now smile and talk more because of Yasmin. I love to see her when I come in from school, and give her a big smile. My support workers and my family can see how happy Yasmin makes me. Yasmin is helping me to become friends with others. Recently some of my school friends visited Tir na nÓg and I was very proud to introduce Yasmin to them. We had great fun playing with her in the garden. I, with my friends in Tir na nÓg, enjoy bringing Yasmin on her walks in the woods, the playground, or the beach. Sometimes I find it difficult to be around people in the community but on these walks Yasmin has become a great icebreaker, with people of all ages stopping to say hello. I now, more often than not, am happy to wave hello back, and answer questions asked of me. Yasmin has helped me to interact, to play and to take turns with others. She is not only a great companion to me but she is also a companion to my friends who share my home in Tir na nÓg. She is loved by other people who use the Brothers of Charity Services in South Tipperary, who regularly call to Tir na nÓg to say hello or bring her for a walk.



Cavan and Yasmin

My support workers and family say that it is clear to see that Yasmin has been a very positive and beneficial addition to my life. They see the genuine friendship we have struck up with each other, a friendship that, I hope, will remain for many years to come. Yasmin's arrival has been a wonderful experience for me, for my friends who share my life in Tir na nÓg, and for my support workers who also love her.

Yasmin is not a remedy for all the difficulties posed by a disability. However she has proven to provide the physical and psychological support needed to somewhat improve my daily life by providing joy and comfort. After all, sometimes it is nice to have someone to hold and talk to. To date Yasmin is the first companion dog to be placed within a residential support setting in Ireland. The Irish Guide Dogs have been of immense support and assistance throughout Yasmin's transition period. I would particularly like to thank Olive O'Sullivan who helped me learn how to look after and care for Yasmin.

*Cavan*



### WALK with the Irish Cancer Society on Daffodil Day

WALK teamed up with the Irish Cancer Society for their Annual Daffodil Day on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2012. The Irish Cancer Society was celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> birthday and the staff and service users at WALK wanted to add to the sense of celebration around the streets of Dublin City Centre. WALK renovated an old traditional Irish turf cart for this special occasion, filled it with fresh yellow daffodils and harnessed it to Eeyore the donkey. The donkey and turf cart was located next to St. Stephen's Green Shopping Centre from 11am - 4pm on Daffodil Day.



The day was a great success as WALK service users and staff got busy selling fresh daffodils. The donkey and turf cart was a major attraction to shoppers and tourists and indeed to the many children and parents who stopped by to say hello to Eeyore. The Irish Cancer Society provided street entertainment which added to the excitement of the day.

WALK service users and staff support the Irish Cancer Society because people with disabilities and their families are also affected by cancer. This was a unique opportunity

for people with disabilities to support a worthy cause and give something back to the community. WALK raised €605 for the Irish Cancer Society on Daffodil Day.

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### Special Schools Report Launched

NABMSE (National Association of Boards of Management of Special Education) recently launched a report titled *“Why are post 12 year old students with special education needs seeking to move from mainstream education to special schools?”* The report was researched and produced by Dr. Aine Kelly PhD and Catherine Devitt MSocSC of the Research Department at Saint John of God Hospitaller Services. The Executive Summary Report is available on [www.nabmse.org](http://www.nabmse.org). The full report is available from Saint John of God Information and Library Services at Saint John of God Hospital, Stillorgan, Dublin.



From left: Sr. Marie Carroll, NABMSE Chairperson, Brigid McManus - General Secretary, Department of Education and Skills, and Dr. Aine Kelly - Research Department, Saint John of God Hospitaller Services.

# Events for your diary

## Living & Life Choices Conference



Brothers of Charity Services Roscommon is holding the 'Living and Life Choices' Conference:

**Date:** Monday 23rd April, 2012. Time: 10am—4pm.

**At:** The Property Registration Authority Offices, Golf Links Road, Roscommon.

**What's it about?** Community Living Options for people with a Disability: Rights & Entitlements

**Who should Attend?** People who have a disability, family members, support workers, interested professionals and agencies.

**Speakers:**

Keynote: Mike Wright—Keyring UK.

Roscommon County Council, Citizens Information Service, Co-Action Cork, Brothers of Charity Services Roscommon, Roscara Social Housing and StepIn Supported Living Networks.

**Contact:** John on 087-7772545 or Daniella on 090-6628500

**Email:** [training@roscommon.brothersofcharity.ie](mailto:training@roscommon.brothersofcharity.ie)

**Fee:** €10 per person—Lunch will be provided



NUI Galway  
OÉ Gaillimh

## Contemporary Housing Issues in a Changing Europe (International Conference, Galway)

This research conference will host one dedicated stream of research papers on housing, independent living and the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Mike Wright, a main speaker and founder and director of Keyring Housing Association, will outline the development of best practice in the organisation of independent living housing arrangements.

**When:** *Friday 20th and Saturday 21st April 2012, Áras Moyola, NUI Galway.*  
**Registration:** <http://www.conference.ie/Conferences/index.asp?Conference=135>



## **The Responsibility & Challenge of Leadership**

Training Event Presented by Dr. Michael Kendrick

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2012, 11am – 4pm

Temple Gate Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT **Mary Rowan**, Brothers of Charity Services Clare, Banner House, Clare Road, Ennis. Tel 087 6829230, email [maryrowan@clare.brothersofcharity.ie](mailto:maryrowan@clare.brothersofcharity.ie)

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### *Examining Theory & Practice in Inclusive Education*

A One Day Conference in Trinity College Dublin

25<sup>th</sup> April 2012

This conference will offer an opportunity to explore and critique both current and historical theories in relation to educational inclusion.

To book your free place, contact Valerie Kelly: [kellyva@tcd.ie](mailto:kellyva@tcd.ie) or 01-8963942

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## **Stop Bullying Workshop**

For people with intellectual disability

**Friday 27rd April 2012**

**10.30am to 3.30pm**

National Institute of Intellectual Disability

4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 3 College Green Street, Dublin.

To book a place: Email: [ANTIBU@imx1.tcd.ie](mailto:ANTIBU@imx1.tcd.ie)

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## Angelman Syndrome Conference – 13 May 2012

The first Conference for Angelman Syndrome in Ireland will take place on **Sunday May 13th 2012** in the Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin. The conference is designed for families, caregivers, service providers and medical professionals who care for or provide support to those with Angelman Syndrome.

Angelman Syndrome is a neuro-genetic disorder of Chromosome 15 that causes severe intellectual and developmental delays. It affects about 1 in 20,000-25,000 people that means there are approximately 250-350 people with AS in Ireland.

BOOK ONLINE: [www.eventelephant.com/angelman](http://www.eventelephant.com/angelman) Adult Family Member = 25 euro  
Child (under 16) = 10 euro Person with AS = Free Student = 25 euro Professional = 60 euro  
(CME approval for CPD credits pending)

Please email [admin@angelman.ie](mailto:admin@angelman.ie) or call Sarah on 086 045 0111 if you require further information.

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### *Open Information Sessions in Dublin, Cork and Galway*

You are invited to an upcoming information event where you can explore the adult education opportunities that are available to staff and managers working, or currently seeking work, in the non-profit/human services sector.

**Galway: Tuesday, May 15th, 2012**  
**Cork: Friday, May 18th, 2012**  
**Dublin: Wednesday, May 23rd, 2012**

- **What are the expected qualifications for someone working in the non-profit/human services sector today?**
- **Are Continuous Professional Development (CPD) modules available to the sector, and can past-pupils update their qualifications with newly developed accredited CPD modules?**
- **What are the choices open to you regarding blended learning? What is it exactly?**
- **What is available in your region?**

Please feel free to come along and enjoy some discussions around the current options open to you in your area regarding accredited Applied Social Studies and Applied Management courses, and accredited CPD modules.

Please contact Conor Murray on (01) 2988544 or [cmurray@opentrainingcollege.com](mailto:cmurray@opentrainingcollege.com) or <http://www.opentrainingcollege.com/site/2011/02/open-information-sessions-in-dublin-cork-and-galway-march-28th-29th-next/>

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Full details available on [www.irishperformingarts.ie](http://www.irishperformingarts.ie) or email [eurosong@cope-foundation.ie](mailto:eurosong@cope-foundation.ie)

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## 4<sup>th</sup> International Summer School

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities  
– How to Use it

18<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2012

**Centre for Disability Law & Policy, National University of Ireland,  
Galway, Republic of Ireland**

*School Directors: Professor Gerard Quinn (NUI Galway, Ireland) & Professor Michael Stein (Harvard Project on Disability)*

*With opening address by President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins*

Registration and Programme: [http://www.nuigalway.ie/cdlp/summer\\_school/2012/welcome.html](http://www.nuigalway.ie/cdlp/summer_school/2012/welcome.html)

# M.Sc. in Disability Studies

Application details are available at [www.tcd.ie/Graduate\\_Studies/](http://www.tcd.ie/Graduate_Studies/)

## Further information

**Ms. Ailish Kennedy**

Telephone: +353-1-896 3885

Email: [akenned@tcd.ie](mailto:akenned@tcd.ie)

[www.tcd.ie/niid/master\\_dis\\_study.php](http://www.tcd.ie/niid/master_dis_study.php)

*The M.Sc. in Disability Studies at Trinity College Dublin is listed in the Irish Aid Fellowship Training Programme for study in Ireland for 2012-13 [www.icosirl.ie/eng/irish\\_aid\\_fellowship](http://www.icosirl.ie/eng/irish_aid_fellowship).*

**Application deadline: June 30th 2012**

# Website and Resources

## VHI Corporate Solutions – Employee Assistance Programme (EAP):



VHI Corporate Solutions - EAP have issued a promotional flyer for March 2012, which focuses on healthy eating and nutrition for both you and your family.

You only have one body, so it's important to look after it. The benefits of eating healthily and leading a healthy lifestyle go beyond weight; good nutrition has a direct impact on our emotional health and overall levels of happiness. For children, school age is the perfect time to learn about healthy food, bodies and activity. Children of this age learn quickly and are also influenced by what they see their friends and family eating.

Let your EAP help by providing information and tips on eating well, nutrition for kids, incorporating exercise into daily life, looking after your mental health and improving your work life balance. If you would like more information please see contact details below.

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The Open Training College, established in 1992, offers:

- vital training opportunities to support staff in preparation for the implementation of the HIQA Standards.
- a selection of 3 skills workshop levels suited to your organisation's needs, delivered regionally or within your organisation.
- customised training packages for special project teams, quality management teams and Boards of Management.

All training staff have commenced their careers on the frontline in disability services. The Open Training College is the only training provider in the market focused solely on the Standards as they apply to disability settings.

To learn more about what the College can offer you, or to reserve your place at our upcoming workshops, please call the HIQA Training line (01 – 2990558) or email [hiqa.otc@smh.ie](mailto:hiqa.otc@smh.ie)



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