



Five Things to Know for Mid-December

Research: Developmental Disabilities On the Rise

An increasing number of American children have developmental disabilities, the Center for Disease Control says. Between 2014 and 2016, the prevalence of developmental disabilities among kids ages 3 to 17 increased from 5.76 percent to 6.99 percent, according to the agency, which said the rise stems from an uptick in children diagnosed with a developmental delay other than autism or intellectual disability. Parents were asked if they had ever been told by a doctor or health professional that their child had intellectual disability, autism or any other developmental delay. Reported rates of autism and intellectual disability remained relatively stable, the report found, even as the overall incidence of developmental disabilities climbed. <https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2017/11/29/cdc-disabilities-rise/24468/>

Children's Health: CA Could Lose \$2.7B in Funding

Nearly two months after Congress missed its deadline to renew funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), California is just a few weeks away from exhausting its reserves, and doesn't yet have a plan to replace the \$2.7 billion in federal support it stands to lose. CHIP provides Medi-Cal coverage for children whose parents make too much to qualify for the program. The cutoff point is 266 percent of the federal poverty level, or about \$65,000 for a family of four. California officials project the state will run out of money for the program around the end of the year. Even if it does, California is legally obligated to continue providing coverage for almost all of the children who qualify. Last year 2 million California children received health care through CHIP. Since the federal government funds 90 percent of the \$3 billion program, Gov. Jerry Brown and the state Legislature would have to find new sources for the money elsewhere in the budget. <https://preview.tinyurl.com/y92pxflv>

Webinar: Inequities in Service Access

Parents of children and youth with special health care needs often spend countless hours trying to understand, navigate, and access services for their kids. This free webinar, on Jan. 24 from noon- 1 pm, will discuss research on inequalities in access to and quality of services in educational, medical, and social service systems as well as current policies that are intended to reduce these service disparities. <https://preview.tinyurl.com/y9raugnk>

Save the Date: Involved Exceptional Parents Day Conference 2018

Finding Our Balance will be held on March 17, 2018 at the Handlery Hotel in San Diego. The full day conference focuses on education and support for families of children with special needs. Workshops are offered in English and Spanish. For more information: Sandy Bishop (English) at 858-576-2966 or Sonia Griffin (Spanish) at 619-336-6687. <http://www.iepday.org/>

Holiday Wishes

Thank you for another year of readership and interest in Community News. This holiday season, may your walls know joy, may every room hold laughter and every window open to great possibility.