

Press Release

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Department of Community Services



PUBLIC SAFETY

“Ensuring a Safe Harford”

EDUCATION

“Preparing Now, Building for the Future”

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

“Governing Smarter”

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

“Growing and Sustaining Harford’s Prosperity”

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

“Protecting Our Environment”

QUALITY LIVING

“Safeguarding What is Important to Harford County Citizens”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 21, 2010

Media Contact: Mary Chance, Director at 410-638-3389

Conference for Teens and Young Adults with Special Needs

Biennial Expo for Transitioning Youth – March 20, 2010

(Bel Air, MD) - - Harford County will once again host the biennial Expo for Transitioning Youth, set for Saturday, March 20, 2010 from 8:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the New Life Center, Mountain Christian Church, Mountain Road in Joppa.

The Expo for Transitioning Youth is a free conference for teens and young adults with special needs facing the challenges and opportunities of transition to adulthood.

A sampling of conference workshops includes: “Picture Yourself in College,” a presentation on services available through Harford Community College’s Disabilities Support Services; “So You Want to Drive,” information on obtaining a driver’s license in Maryland when specific medical conditions are present; and “Applying for Federal Jobs,” information on navigating through the Federal job application process. Along with these are workshops on summer internships (paid and volunteer); and how to apply for Social Security benefits and work without losing benefits. Additionally, young people with special needs, their families, educators and other professionals will have the opportunity meet with representatives of vendors, agencies, organizations and support groups.

“This conference addresses the issues that face young people with special needs as they transition to adulthood,” explained Helene Dubay, Chairperson of the Expo Planning Committee. “Regardless of their specific challenge, learning disabilities, visual impairment, mobility issues, etc., these young people have questions about how they’re going to achieve their goals. Our conference will help them to develop a plan for the future, using available community resources that they may not know exist.”

Registration for the free conference, as well as the full listing of conference workshops, is available online at <http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/disabilities/expo.html>. For more information, or to request disability-related accommodations, contact Sharon Grzanka, Disabilities Coordinator at 410-638-3373 voice/TTY or via email at disability@harfordcountymd.gov

Sponsors of the 2010 Expo for Transitioning Youth are: the Harford County Department of Community Services (Commission on Disabilities and Local Management Board); the Harford County Public Schools Office of Special Education; the Arc Northern Chesapeake Region; Abilities Network; the Bel Air Office of the Division of Rehabilitation Services; and the Office on Mental Health.

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The Harford County Commission on Disabilities was established in 1995 to serve as the voice of the disability community in Harford County. Members are appointed by the county Executive, with the approval of the County Council.

The Harford County Department of Community Services was established in 1979 via Executive Order and works daily to meet the needs of our seniors, youth, persons with disabilities and those struggling to overcome addiction. The Department works with federal, state, and local and private agencies to ensure our county continues to evolve and remains dedicated to providing the best possible services for our citizens and community.

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“Preserving Harford’s past; promoting Harford’s future”